

# **BOWNESS ON SOLWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk: Peter Streatfeild

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Minutes of the General Meeting of Bowness on Solway Parish Council  
held at 7.00pm on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023** in The Lindow Hall, Bowness on Solway.

## **PRESENT**

Chair: Pauline Hinks

Councillors: James Graham (Vice Chair), Marian Carruthers, John Harrington, Carol Mark and John Wills

Clerk: Peter Streatfeild

Four members of the public

### **1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest.**

There were apologies from Cumberland Councillor Tony Markley sent through the Chair as he had another engagement. There were no declarations of interest.

### **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were accepted and **approved** unanimously.

### **3. Report on action taken**

3.1 Report on action by members of the Council  
None

3.2 Report from the Clerk  
There was no report.

3.4 Report from Cumberland Councillor Markley  
The Chair conveyed that the Parish Council should have received an invitation to attend the next Community Panel meeting. The Clerk reported that he had not received any communication nor an invitation about the Panel meetings.

3.3 Public participation (at the Chairman's discretion)  
As the Director/Treasurer and other representatives of the Bowness Community Group (BCG) were present it was agreed to take up agenda item 8.3.1 regarding the placing of information boards in Bowness on Solway.

### **8.3 Applications for discussion at this meeting**

8.3.1 ADV/2022/0007 - Application for Advertisement Consent for information boards at various locations in Bowness on Solway by the Bowness Community Group (BCG):  
Point A West End of Village; Point B Peartree Farm – Wall; Point C The Banks Path - West Entrance; Point D The Banks Path - East Entrance; Point E East End of Village

Amendment: Amended Details Display Board Visuals 8-8-2023, Amended Details Religion and its mark 8-8-2023 and Amended Details From Romans to Present Times History Panel 8-8-2023

The Director/Treasurer of BCG clarified that there was basically no change to the information boards since the last submission in November 2022 apart from a clarification and confirmation of the sizes (841mm x 594mm) and the **removal** of the board at Point A West End of Village. On questioning who would be responsible for maintaining the boards the Director replied that BCG would maintain the signs.

There being no further discussion the Chair proposed the Council approve the amendments which was unanimously **approved**.

#### **4. To review correspondence received and take any appropriate action**

4.1 Correspondence received from Peter Leech regarding the demolition of Rogersceugh.

The Clerk reported that Peter Leech had requested the Parish Council to write a letter of complaint to Beccy Speight of RSPB about the demolition. As Peter Leech was absent the Councillors could not understand his reasoning in making a complaint some two and a half years after her explanation to him for the demolition. After some discussion it was decided that the Clerk write to Beccy Speight and dispute the veracity of the first paragraph of her letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to Peter Leech.

4.2 Letter from Lynn Gauntlett regarding her retirement from doing PAYE. To note that she will continue to do audits.

It was **noted** that Ms Gauntlett of P L Gauntlett Accounts Ltd. will no longer be responsible for administering the council's PAYE but will continue to do the internal audits.

#### **5. New business/Follow-on business**

5.1 To receive community reports:

5.1.1 Update from The Lindow Hall regarding the heating system.

Councillor Hinks reported that the heating system was up and running and a balance of £7,245.20 had been returned to the Council.

5.2 Update on Pandora Technologies Ltd Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) installation for Anthorn.

Councillors Hinks and Carruthers reported that they had to restart the process of seeking permission to install a SID in Anthorn after the formation of the new unitary Cumberland Council which is now with the Highways Department.

5.3 Update on concerns about the culverts & railings at Bowness Hall Farm.

The Clerk reported that work is currently being done. Councillor Wills said the Highways Department were doing a good job.

5.4 Update on maintenance of metal fingerposts in the Parish

The Clerk reported the matter is being investigated by the Highways Department.

5.5 Update on possible electric vehicle (EV) charging points in the Parish.

The Clerk reported that there were no suitable parking spaces in public areas as previously thought.

5.6 Update on changes to bank account signatories.

Councillor Harrington reported that despite going to HSBC in Carlisle the bank sent him back with another form to be completed! The Clerk reported that he and Councillor Harrington will pursue the matter with HSBC.

5.7 Update on letter of objection sent to Cumbria Wildlife Trust regarding proposed peatland restoration around Rogersceugh Drumlin on Bowness Common SSSI.

The Chair read the joint response received from David Blackledge, Sites Manager - Cumbria Coast Reserves, Emma Austin, Senior Reserves Manager - Natural England, David Oatway, Nature Recovery Lead Advisor - Protected Sites (Responsible Officer for Bowness Common SSSI) and Tom Lemmey, Peatland Conservation Officer. After much discussion it was unanimously decided that the Clerk should reply to Mr Lemmey and indicate that the Parish Council notes the content of the letter which does not refer to their objections to the proposed peatland restoration around Rogersceugh Drumlin which remain. He is to inform him that the Council is supportive of measures which will slow down climate change but not at the expense of destroying the local environment. It was noted that similar work done in the Glendale area had destroyed the land and left heaps of rubbish allowing thistles and ragwort (which is meant to be kept in control) to propagate and spread unhindered.

5.8 Update on the Glasson Community Association and Play Area.

The Chair reported that she had signed the terms and conditions letter of Cartmell Shepherd to work on behalf of the Parish Council in rescinding the lease for the Glasson Play Area from the Glasson Community Association (GCA) but to date there had been no further communication from either the GCA or their solicitor, M/s Bendles of Wigton. The chair will contact the Trustees of the GCA and request an update.

5.9 Update on 'right turn' signage for heavy/long vehicles leaving Glendale Holiday Park.

The Clerk reported that he had not yet written to the proprietors of the Park but will do so before the next meeting.

5.10 Update on Glasson village pump.

The Clerk reported that Andrew Davidson had done little work on the village pump since the last meeting as he had been concentrating on his drive and garden, but he assured the Parish Council he would keep them updated.

5.11 Update on parking 'obstructions' in Drumburgh at T-Junction to/from Drumburgh Moss.

Councillor Hinks reported that the Highways Department had inspected the site and agreed to repaint the markings to restrict parking on the junction.

5.12 Safety concerns raised by Bowness on Solway School regarding arrival and departure of pupils.

The Chair reported that she, Councillor Carruthers and the Clerk had met Cumberland Councillor Tony Markley at the School and discussed the school's concerns. Councillor Markley reported that there is nothing that the Parish Council can do because it is a matter for the Highways Department and school authorities to sort out.

5.13 To Note the formation of Community Panels covering Bowness on Solway Parish known as the Fells and Solway Panel. **Noted.**

The Clerk further reported that the Fells and Solway Panel consists of councillors from Silloth (Tony Markley – Chair), Wigton (Elaine Lynch – Vice Chair), Cummersdale (Trevor Allison), Bolton Low Houses (Mike Johnson), Aspatria (Kevin Thurlow) with Rose Blaney as the Support Officer. The eight Cumberland Community Panels are to be supported by Network Panels to be made up of partners, residents, businesses and third sector organisations. They will help shape and guide the panel's investment plan. He reiterated that the Parish Council had not received any invitation to attend any meetings.

5.14 To consider using Arwel Davies to administer Council's PAYE following the retirement of M/s P L Gauntlett Accounts Ltd after 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

The Clerk reported that the current fees for administering PAYE (£40.00) will remain the same if Arwel Davies is approved in place of M/s P L Gauntlett Accounts Ltd. It was **approved** unanimously to use Arwel Davies to administer the PAYE.

## 6. Finance Information

6.1.1 To Approve the monthly accounts and bank statements ending 31<sup>st</sup> July and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023. **Approved.**

6.1.2 To Note the Clerk's expenses of £165.40 reimbursed towards telephone & internet usage April to June (£43.62), postal expenses (£31.80) and paper (3 reams) and printer cartridges (£89.98). **Noted.**

6.1.3 To Note the Clerk's monthly salary paid for July and August 2023 (£388.42 pcm) **Noted.**

6.1.4 To Note the HMRC monthly PAYE payments (£97.20 pcm) paid for July and August 2023. **Noted.**

6.1.5 To Note £1,200 grant paid to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) (see minute 6.1.5 of 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023) towards the cost of cutting the churchyard grass was returned. **Noted.**  
To Note that another cheque for £1,200 was issued in lieu to the PCC Churchyard Manager, S Hinks, at the request of the PCC. **Noted.**

6.1.6 To note payment to I Rumney for grass cutting April to August - £1,756.00. **Noted.**

## Payment authorisations

6.2.1 To Authorise the reimbursement of the Clerk's expenses.

The Clerk claimed £186.58 towards mileage (289.5 miles @ 0.45 per mile covering March to September 2023) £130.28, postage £50.30 and envelopes £6.00. **Approved** unanimously.

6.2.1 To Authorise reimbursement to P Hinks (Chair) £50.00 paid to Cartmell Shepherd, Solicitors in connection with the Deed of Surrender for Glasson Community Association. **Approved** unanimously.

## 7. Highways

7.1 To Note many potholes repaired and several roads resurfaced. **Noted.**

The Clerk reported that an amount of £254,000 had been spent on resurfacing 15,415 square meters in the Anthorn area alone. He also reported that the repairs of the dropped sign at Longcroft and the road edge subsidence at the Easton T-junction on the marsh road have been assigned to Highways Teams.

## **8. Planning**

### **8.1 Applications outstanding with Cumberland Council**

### **8.2 Applications decided by Cumberland Council**

8.2.1 FUL/2022/0243 – Slurry Tower. Millrigg Farm, Millrigg, Kirkbride – Application approved on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. **Noted.**

### **8.3 Applications for discussion at this meeting**

Discussed after public participation, see above.

### **8.4 Applications discussed under standing orders**

It was **Noted** that there were no applications for discussion.

## **9. Documents received for comment**

### **9.1 CALC Circulars**

The Clerk reminded the Councillors that the CALC AGM was being held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

## **10. Any items of information**

### **10.1 Brought by members.**

The Chair reminded members that grass cutting tenders will need to be advertised for next year.

It was reported that dog muck was evident along Rogersceugh Lane. Councillor Harrington was requested to report the matter to the Dog Warden

### **10.2 Brought by the Clerk**

The Clerk reported three matters:

1. that the external auditor, M/s Moore, had questioned the validity of two deposit accounts.
2. On 11th August, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero announced a new £10 million fund to support local communities across England in setting up local energy projects.
3. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is inviting interested organisations to register expressions of interest for its Community Automated External Defibrillators (AED) Fund, aimed at increasing the number of AEDs in public places.

Points 1 & 2 are to be brought to the next meeting but not point 3 as the parish has enough defibrillators in place at present.

## **11. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023** at 7.00pm in The Lindow Hall, Bowness on Solway. **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DAY AND DATE.**

The Meeting closed at 9.00pm.