

## **BOWNESS ON SOLWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk: Peter Streatfeild

Email [clerk.bowness@outlook.com](mailto:clerk.bowness@outlook.com)

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Bowness on Solway Parish Council held on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023** in The Lindow Hall, Bowness on Solway at 7.00 pm.

### **PRESENT**

Chair: Pauline Hinks

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

Cumberland Councillor: Tony Markley

Clerk: Peter Streatfeild

Eight members of the public

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

There were no apologies.

Councillor Hinks declared an interest in point 4.3 regarding the 70Plus Club. Councillor Carruthers declared an interest in point 5.6 regarding Glasson Play Area and GCA.

### **2. Minutes**

2.1 The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were accepted and **approved** unanimously.

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

3.1 Report on action by members of the Council.

Councillor Harrington reported that the Longcroft sign had been re-erected. **Noted.**

3.2 Report from the clerk.

There was no report.

3.3 Public participation (at the Chairman's discretion).

The chair announced that public participation would be allowed as and when their interests/concerns are covered by the points on the agenda below.

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

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

Letters have been received from Mr Leech and a response to the Council from Ms Beccy Speight, Chief Executive of RSPB about the demolition of Rogersceugh Farmhouse and Buildings. Councillor Carruthers asked Mr Leech what he was trying to achieve. Mr Leech explained that having spent many years investigating the demolition, he thought RSPB (the owner), Natural England, and Cumberland Council (the successors to Allerdale Council) should be brought to account for the demolition. As he could not do this on his own, he sought the support of the public and the Parish Council. It was explained that the Parish Council could not support Mr Leech financially. It was put to Mr Leech that he should go away and find out how he achieves the next step and report back to the Council. Possibly he should call a public meeting to gauge the support he would get from the public. Mr Leech stated the relevant Planning Authority reference is DEM/2020/0004.

Cumberland Councillor Tony Markley arrived.

4.2 E-mail received from Barry Maxey regarding the 93/93A bus service.

Following the e-mail received from Mr Maxey the Clerk had written to Public Transport at Cumberland Council to clarify the situation regarding the bus service. A response had been received from Mr Mark Hodgkiss, Scheduled Bus Service Officer, Sustainable Transport and Highways/Thriving Places, Cumberland Council, regarding Mr B Maxey's concern over the rumoured closure of the 93/93A Carlisle to Bowness on Solway bus service. The response was assuring the Council that the bus service is on a list for consideration by Cumberland Councillors for some of the BSIP+ (Bus Service Improvement Plan plus) funding from the Department of Transport to support local bus services until

April 2025. However, Stagecoach has indicated the 93/93A route is still under review. It is noted there must be a 90 days' notice of any plan to withdraw or substantially reduce the route.

Mr Maxey, being a local business proprietor, reiterated that many local people, and tourists/visitors to the start/end of Hadrian's Wall, rely on the bus service. It was noted that the bus service had been reduced and the public do not want it reduced any further.

Councillor Markley reported that he will represent the Parish concerns about the 93/93A and other bus services to/from Bowness and will apply for funding when Cumberland Council meet to discuss the disbursement of funds for public bus services. He reiterated that the £2 bus fares had been extended until April 2025 but the public must use the service or lose it. He also reported there was an acute shortage of drivers for Heavy Goods and Public Service Vehicles which added extra pressure on Stagecoach to keep all their services functioning. He requested he be copied into correspondence with Stagecoach and/or Cumberland Council.

#### 4.3 Letter of thanks from the 70Plus Club Plus and request for donation.

As the Chair had declared an interest the Vice Chair read a letter of thanks for past financial support from the Council and a request for further support for this year. After some discussion Councillor Wills proposed a donation of £500 be given which was seconded by Councillor Mark. This was **approved unanimously**.

#### 4.4 To note external auditor's report and actions to be taken.

The Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer reported that the major concerns of the external auditor M/s Moore were the methodology of recording the Council's fixed assets, maintaining two 'reserve accounts' and some minor accounting procedures on the 2022/23 AGAR report.

After some discussion it was **noted** that the assets belong to the community and therefore have no monetary value to the Parish Council so, as advised by auditors in the past, all new assets were valued at a nominal amount of £1 each. The RFO was requested to get advice from CALC and others.

Regarding the two reserve accounts the RFO is to verify if Council can 'legally' maintain both. Regarding the AGAR accounting the RFO assured the Council it would be improved.

#### 3.4 Report from Cumberland Councillor Markley.

Councillor Markley reported:

the designation AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) was being changed to 'National Landscapes' so he and Ms Naomi Kay will be attending a meeting in London about it;

the Fells and Solway Community Panel and Community Network had met to encourage local participation in the planning and development of local areas. The next meeting is on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 2.00pm in Silloth where some monies would be available so any application for funding need to be submitted immediately;

the Scrutiny Committee scrutinises funds coming into Cumbria and their proper usage.

Cumberland Councillor Tony Markley left at this point.

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

#### 5.1 To receive community reports.

Mr Bill Knowles, a Director and Treasurer of the Bowness Community Group, reported: Cumberland Council's approval to erect information boards in Bowness had been received; the Rowing Group have regularly rowed the skiff and anyone interested will be welcomed; the Film Club regularly shows films in Lindow Hall, Bowness, The Bower, Port Carlisle and in the Chapel, Port Carlisle. Despite membership licensing rules of the Club films are open to non-members for an admission fee;

an Auction of Promises will be in Port Carlisle on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023. **Noted.**

Councillors Hinks and Carruthers reported that the 'Warm Spot Lunch' held on the third Wednesday of the month in Lindow Hall worked well. The next date is 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023. **Noted.**

#### 5.2 Update on Pandora Technologies Ltd Speed Indicator Devices installation for Anthorn.

The Chair reported that the 'new' authority, Cumberland Council, had withdrawn the permission to erect a Speed Indicator Device (SID) in Anthorn granted by its predecessor, Allerdale Borough Council, because the application/erection does not fulfil the necessary criteria. She stated that she and Councillor Carruthers were pursuing the matter because a SID had already been purchased. **Noted.**

#### 5.3 Update on maintenance of metal fingerposts in the Parish.

The Clerk reported that he is pursuing the matter however he had discovered there is a plan to maintain/improve all finger posts in Cumbria. Councillors reported that the finger posts at Easton Bridge and Bowness were being cleaned. **Noted.**

5.4 Update on changes to HSBC bank account signatories and Other Banking Matters

The RFO reported that he and Councillor Harrington had been to HSBC Carlisle to resolve the issue regarding the replacement of a signatory and were assured by Ms Ellen Renwick on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 that the matter had been resolved. Councillor Carruthers reported that she had been sent another form by Ms Ellen Renwick which the Council signatories had to complete as the first one had been the wrong form given by the bank. It was **decided** that the authorised members complete the banking mandate/form brought by Councillor Carruthers and the Clerk should return with it to HSBC Carlisle and rectify the issue again.

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

The reply from Tom Lemmey, Peatland Conservation Officer, and others was **NOTED.**

5.6 Update on the Glasson Community Association and Play Area. To authorise tree works to allow park to open.

The legal documents have not yet been received from the Solicitors therefore no action can be taken regarding taking control of the play area or tree works. An extraordinary meeting will be called to discuss further developments, including the tree works quote once we hear from our solicitor. It was **noted** that the recent RoSPA safety report does not indicate the play area should be closed.

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

The Clerk reported that he had written to Park Homes and the manager of the Park had indicated a willingness to erect a sign but he needed the Park's Head Office approval. **Noted.**

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

Councillor Hinks reported no work had been done and we are still receiving complaints so she will report it through the portal again.

5.9 Update on the Fells and Solway Community Panel covering Bowness on Solway Parish.

As reported by Councillor Markley above the next Panel meeting is on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

5.10 New Government fund to boost local growth and energy security from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to support local communities in setting up local energy projects.

The Clerk reminded Council that the Department of Energy Security had set up a fund to help urban and rural communities to support the development of local renewable energy projects proposed, designed and owned by local people including:

- small-scale wind farms and rooftop solar partnerships
- battery storage
- rural heat networks
- electric vehicle charging points
- fuel poverty alleviation schemes.

5.11 To approve grass cutting specification for 2024 and agree to submit tenders.

It was unanimously decided to use the same grass cutting specifications as previous years and request 'grass mowing' businesses to submit tenders for one/two years, 2024/25 and 2025/26.

5.12 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – to agree donation.

The Clerk reported that the Council poppy wreath for the Remembrance Sunday service had been received. A donation of £200.00 to the Royal British Legion Poppy was unanimously **approved.**

## 6. Finance Information

6.1.1 To Approve the monthly accounts and bank statements ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023. **Approved** and signed by the Chair.

- 6.1.2 To Note the reimbursement to P Hinks (Chair) of £50.00 paid to Cartmell Shepherd, Solicitors in connection with the Deed of Surrender for Glasson Community Association. **Noted.**
- 6.1.3 To Note Clerk's expenses of £186.58 towards mileage (£130.28 for 289.5 miles @0.45p per mile for March to September 2023), postage (£50.30) and envelopes (£6.00). **Noted.**
- 6.1.4 To Note annual support charges of £396.00 paid to Community Heartbeat Trust for Old Anthorn and Easton defibrillators. **Noted.**
- 6.1.5 To Note the Clerk's monthly salary paid for September (£388.62 pcm) and October 2023 (£388.62 pcm). **Noted.**
- 6.1.6 To Note the HMRC monthly PAYE payments (£97.00) paid for September and October. **Noted.**
- 6.1.7 To Note £378.00 paid to Moore for the 2022-2023 external audit. **Noted.**
- 6.1.8 To agree financial budget for 2024/25 and set precept.  
Despite presenting a deficit budget (-£8,316) the RFO proposed no increase in the precept (£18,784). The budget and precept amount were unanimously **approved.**
- 6.1.9 To note repayment of unspent grant from the Lindow Hall - £7,245.20. **Noted.**
- 6.1.10 To note the receipt of £3,485 VAT refunds. **Noted.**

### Payment authorisations

- 6.2.1 To Authorise the reimbursement of the Clerk's expenses.  
Expenses totalling £240.70 (towards telephone £40.20, 6 ink cartridges £140.97 & mileage £59.53 for 132.3 miles @ 0.45ppm) were **authorised.**
- 6.2.2 To authorise payment for grass cutting – Ian Rumney - £3,512.00. **Authorised.**
- 6.2.3 To authorise payment to The Lindow Hall for room hire - £84.00. **Authorised.**

### 7. Highways

No matters to report.

### 8. Planning

#### 8.1 Applications outstanding with Cumberland Council

- 8.1.1 FUL/2023/0157 – Proposal to erect a replacement concrete slurry tank with a flexible cover at Drumburgh Castle, Drumburgh. Under consultation. **Noted.**
- 8.1.2 CAT/2023/0029 – Proposal to pollard an ash tree in the back garden of Hillcrest, Bowness on Solway. Under consultation. **Noted.**
- 8.1.3 CAT/2023/0030 – Proposal to remove height of young ash trees on the terrace, crown lift a sycamore on the shore/garden border, remove height from ash tree on shore/garden border and remove a large ash tree from the garden at Maia, Bowness on Solway. Under consultation. **Noted.**
- 8.1.4 FUL/2023/0201 – Proposal to put a roof over an existing muck midden at Marsh House, Easton Village. **Noted.**

#### 8.2 Applications decided by Cumberland Council

8.2.1 ADV/2022/0007 – the Amended Application for Advertisement Consent for information boards at various locations in Bowness on Solway by the Bowness Community Group: 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. Permission was granted for a period of five years on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023. **Noted.**

#### 8.3 Applications for discussion at this meeting

8.3.1 None.

#### 8.4 Applications discussed under standing orders

- 8.4.1 FUL/2023/0157 – Proposal to erect a replacement concrete slurry tank with a flexible cover at Drumburgh Castle, Drumburgh. There were no objections from the Councillors. **Noted.**
- 8.4.2 CAT/2023/0029 – Proposal to pollard an ash tree in the back garden of Hillcrest, Bowness on Solway. There were no objections from the Councillors. **Noted.**

8.4.3 CAT/2023/0030 – Proposal to remove height of young ash trees on the terrace, crown lift a sycamore on the shore/garden border, remove height from ash tree on shore/garden border and remove a large ash tree from the garden at Maia, Bowness on Solway. There were no objections from the Councillors. **Noted.**

8.4.4 FUL/2023/0201 – Proposal to put a roof over an existing muck midden at Marsh House, Easton Village. There were no objections from the Councillors. **Noted.**

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

9.1 CALC Circulars.  
There were no circulars for comment.

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

10.1 Brought by members.  
There were no matters reported.

10.2 Brought by the Clerk.  
The Clerk reported a proposal from Bruno Peek, Pageant-master, D-Day 80 to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day landings on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024. To be brought to the next Council meeting.

11. **Date of next meeting** – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024.