

# **BOWNESS ON SOLWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk: Peter Streatfeild

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bowness on Solway Parish Council held on **WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024** in The Lindow Hall, Bowness on Solway at 7.00 pm.

## **Present**

Chair: Pauline Hinks

Councillors: James Graham (Vice Chair), Marian Carruthers, John Harrington, & John Wills

Cumberland Councillor: Tony Markley

Clerk: Peter Streatfeild

Seven members of the public.

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

There were no apologies. There were no declarations of interest.

## **2. Minutes**

2.1 The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were accepted and **approved** unanimously after removing the word 'Christmas' in paragraph 5.1 community reports to read "the Warm Space Community Lunch in the Lindow Hall ... was well received and enjoyed by many."

2.2 The minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 were accepted and **approved** unanimously.

## **3. Reports**

3.1 Report on action by members of the Council.

There were no reports.

3.2 Report from the Clerk.

There was no report from the Clerk.

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

A participant stated that the footpaths, signage, and styles around Port Carlisle were in poor condition and/or overgrown, namely footpaths 214007 from the chapel to Brackenrigg Farm, Hadrian's Wall path 214006 to 214206, and lonning 214027.

Some clarification about the D-Day 80 commemoration was requested – it was explained that all councils, public bodies and community organisations are being encouraged to commemorate or celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day beach landings in Normandy on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 evening to enable the public to pay 'tribute' to those who sacrificed their lives for the country's freedom. More information is available on the website [www.d-day80beacons.co.uk](http://www.d-day80beacons.co.uk)

To the question why more Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) were not being installed it was pointed out that the rules/regulations around the erection of SIDs had been considerably tightened since the initial installations and no more would be allowed by the 'new' Cumberland Council.

3.4 Report from Cumberland Councillor Markley

Councillor Markley briefly reported that £171 million has been allocated to the Highways Department for road repairs over the next seven years and £18 million had been spent during the year on resurfacing and repairs of potholes. He has made an appeal to Cumberland Council for continued funding of the buses to Silloth and Bowness on Solway but emphasised the buses need to be used. Council was reminded that the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner is taking place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 and the Lindow Hall will be the local polling station in Bowness. He acknowledged there had been some reports that the 'new' Cumberland Council was not working as well as the 'old' Allerdale Council, but he stated it was improving. It was noted that the next Fells and Solway Community Panel meeting is to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

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

4.1 Correspondence from a resident regarding planning application FUL/2024/0020.

The correspondent had reminded the parish council there needs to be a “fully consulted flood risk assessment” at Rogersceugh before work is to be conducted. The Clerk is to investigate the matter.

#### 4.2 Correspondence from NALC regarding Council e-mail addresses.

The Clerk reported that the government was encouraging all councils to move to gov.uk domains (<https://www.gov.uk/>) so that they may conduct their business safely, more securely and efficiently. The Clerk was asked to investigate further the cost implications in using a gov.uk domain.

#### 4.3 Notification regarding 2024 Big Lunch 1-2 June 2024.

The Chair noted that a Big Lunch had been hosted in Drumburgh and other parts of the parish in the past. The Clerk was requested to encourage local organisations within the parish to host Big Lunches over the weekend of 1-2 June 2024.

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

#### 5.1 To receive community reports.

Councillor Hinks, representing the Lindow Hall, reported that the main hall roof had dropped a few inches which needed urgent repairs which Cumberland Council had approved in principle due to its emergency. The cost is expected to be between £15,000 to £20,000 because the structural engineer has recommended a roof redesign. The Hall Committee will be looking for some financial support from the Parish Council and others to complete the repairs. This was **noted**. Councillor Markley stated that Cumberland Council could give match funding for the community asset, which hosts Health and Wellbeing activities such as yoga and warm space programmes, if the Parish Council also supports it financially.

Cumberland Councillor Markley left at 7.30pm.

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

The Chair reported that the Highways Department has approved the placement of two SIDs on the two approach roads to Anthorn with a warning that no more would be permitted as the ones already approved contradict the existing rules and regulations. It was reiterated that the maintenance of the SIDs is the responsibility of the Parish Council. After some discussion, the purchase of the second SID from M/s Pandora was **approved** unanimously. The Clerk was asked to purchase the SID and find out when the two posts will be erected on the two approach roads.

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

The Clerk reported that he had received communication from the Highways Department stating that the finger posts would be refurbished over the next three years as part of an ongoing county programme.

#### 5.4 Re-opening of Glasson Park/Work to be carried out and procedures to put in place.

It was reported that the path was being cleaned by a group of people under the PayBack Scheme of the Probationary Services. As a question had been raised by the supervisor regarding Public Liability the Clerk is to submit a copy of the certificate to Councillor Carruthers for the supervisor concerned. To the question raised about the purchase of equipment for the workers' use the Clerk reported that the Council could not provide equipment to a Government department/service.

It was reported that the aim was to re-open the park in time for the Easter holidays so M/s Dean Little had been asked to ensure the tree works in and surrounding the park are carried out. This was unanimously **approved**. It was also noted that the safety notices had to be renewed and a weekly check rota be set up which Councillor Hinks was working on.

#### 5.5 Update on parking ‘obstructions’ in Drumburgh at T-Junction to/from Drumburgh Moss.

The Chair stated that she had reported the matter to Ms Amber Sykes of the Highways Department as there was no response after reporting the matter on the Portal. She also stated the worsening erosion at Easton Bridge T-junction. The Clerk said that he had also reported the Easton Bridge erosion to Ms Sykes.

#### 5.6 Update on Fells and Solway Community Panel – to note the next meeting is 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

The next meeting date was **noted**. The Clerk reported that the Panel membership details, minutes and proceedings can be accessed through the Cumberland County portal/website.

#### 5.7 Update on participation in D-Day80 celebrations 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

The Clerk reported that he had responses about holding D-Day80 celebrations from Glendale Park and St Michael's Church Bowness.

#### 5.8 Update on notice to recruit Councillors.

The Chair reported that only one person had applied to join the Parish Council. The application was shared with all present and after some discussion it was **approved** unanimously to co-opt Ian Hutchinson, a resident of Bowness on Solway parish, for the duration of the current term of the Council.

#### 5.9 Review of Parish assets.

The Clerk reported that he was informed by a CALC Officer that all asset values on the assets register must be entered at cost price without any depreciation until their disposal or destruction. The Clerk was requested to make further enquiries.

#### 5.10 Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting.

The Chair noted that the next ordinary meeting of the parish council will be held after the Annual General Meeting in May 2024 which would normally be held on the second Wednesday of the Month, i.e. 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024, so she proposed the meeting be postponed until 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 thus allowing extra time to prepare for the presentation of the annual accounts which was unanimously **approved**.

She further proposed the Annual Meeting begin 15 minutes later than usual, i.e. 6.45pm, as business is normally over within 15 minutes which was **approved** unanimously.

#### 5.11 Arrangements/requirements for 2023/24 Parish Council Audit.

The Chair reminded the members present that the finances and maintenance of the accounts, although kept and written by the clerk, were the responsibility of the whole council. This was noted and it was agreed that the Chair would check and finalise the accounts with the Clerk.

#### 5.12 Maintenance of Notice Boards.

The Clerk reported that he had recently cleaned the notice boards as many of them were dirty and he noticed one of the posts on the Fingland notice board needed to be replaced. It was unanimously **approved** that the post be replaced.

### 6. Finance Information

6.1.1 To Approve the monthly accounts and bank statements ending 31<sup>st</sup> January and 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Unanimously **approved** and signed by the Chair.

6.1.2 To Note the reimbursement of £59.99 towards the annual Microsoft subscription paid to the Clerk. **Noted**.

6.1.3 To Note the payment of £188.00 to M/s Rocket Sites towards annual website hosting. **Noted**.

6.1.4 To Note pay of Clerk increased according to CALC suggestions to Level 6, £12.42 per hour with effect from April 2023. **Noted**.

6.1.5 To Note the Clerk's monthly salary of £388.42pm paid for January 2024 and £754.92 (including arrears following pay increase since April 2023) for February 2024. **Noted**.

6.1.6 To Note the HMRC monthly PAYE payments of £97.20pm for January 2024 and £182.60 (including arrears following pay increase since April 2023) for February 2024. **Noted**.

6.1.7 To Note £150.00 donation paid to the Friends of Kirkbride Surgery towards the Health & Wellbeing Event to be held in March 2024. **Noted**.

6.1.8 To Note the payment of £396.00 to Community Heartbeat Trust for annual support of two defibrillators. **Noted**.

#### Payment authorisations

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

Expenses totalling £114.71 (towards laptop maintenance with @HomePC £29.00, postage £7.35, mileage £38.16 and telephone £40.20) were **approved** unanimously.

6.2.2 Invoice from Thorpe Trees.

The Clerk reported that he had not yet received an invoice from Thorpe Trees. It was

unanimously **approved** to take it off the next agenda.

## 7. Highways

There were no further matters to report.

## 8. Planning

### 8.1 Applications outstanding with Cumberland Council

### 8.2 Applications decided by Cumberland Council (To Note)

8.2.1 FUL/2023/0157 – Proposal to erect a replacement concrete slurry tank with a flexible cover at Drumburgh Castle, Drumburgh. Approved on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 with three conditions. **Noted.**

8.2.2 FUL/2023/0247 – Proposal to erect a general-purpose crop store at Campfield Farm, Bowness on Solway. Approved on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 with two conditions. **Noted.**

8.2.3 VAR/2023/0038. Applicant: Park Holidays (UK) Ltd. Proposal: Variation to condition 7 (foul drainage) on approved application FUL/2020/0252 to change to a pre-occupation/Use condition rather than pre-commencement. Location: Glendale Holiday Park, Port Carlisle, Wigton CA7 5DJ. Approved on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 with 18 conditions. **Noted.**

8.2.4 FUL/2023/0276 - Applicant: Mr Wilson. Proposal: To roof over an existing cattle feeding area with steel framed lean-to structure. Location: Marsh House, Easton Village, Easton CA7 5DL. Approved on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 with two conditions. **Noted.**

### 8.3 Applications for discussion at this meeting

8.3.1 FUL/2024/0020 – Proposal for the Restoration and habitat creation works to restore the raised bog ecosystem. Creation of a network of cell bunding to retain water and rewet the surface, blocking drainage ditches and clearing scrub that dries the peat on Land at Solway And Duddon Mosses, Anthorn to Whitrigg, Kirkbride, CA7 5BB by Cumbria Wildlife Trust.

It was reported that notification had been received from the Planning Department about revised plans. Unfortunately, at the time of the meeting they were not available on the portal. It was unanimously **decided** to postpone the matter until details were available and then hold an extraordinary meeting as the response date is early April.

8.3.2 HOU/2024/0022 – The Re-submission of application HOU/2020/0050 for alterations to include new porch, garage & sewage treatment plant at Railway Cottage, Drumburgh, Wigton CA7 5DW.

It was noted that the application had been originally submitted in March 2020. There were **no objections** to the latest submission.

### 8.4 Applications discussed under standing orders

8.4.1 FUL/2024/0019 - Proposal: Part change of use from agriculture to community area and erection of building at The Grange and Attached Outbuildings, Drumburgh, Wigton CA7 5DW.

There were no objections from the Councillors. **Noted.**

## 9. Documents received for comment

There were no documents for comment.

## 10. Any items of information

10.1 Brought by members.

There were no items for comment.

10.2 Brought by the clerk.

The Clerk reported that he had received an email regarding the purchase of a sapling from the Sycamore Gap tree for Hadrian's Wall. This will be discussed at the next council meeting.

## 11. Date of next meeting

Please note the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 as agreed earlier.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.