

# **BOWNESS ON SOLWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk: Peter Streatfeild

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Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Bowness on Solway Parish Council held on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 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, Ian Hutchinson & John Wills

Clerk: Peter Streatfeild

Two members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest.  
All councillors were present. There were no declarations of interest.  
The Chair welcome new Councillor, Ian Hutchinson who signed the declaration of Acceptance of Office.
2. To suspend the standing order for this meeting only.  
All Councillors unanimously agree to suspend the standing order for the meeting.
3. Re-consultation on planning application - Reference No: FUL/2024/0020  
Applicant: Tom Lemmey Cumbria Wildlife Trust. Proposal: 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. Location: Land at Solway And Duddon Mosses, Anthorn to Whitrigg, Kirkbride, CA7 5BB.  
After a long discussion it was **unanimously decided to object** to Cumbria Wildlife Trust's proposal to restore the raised bog ecosystem and related works under it's "Peatland Restoration Plan 2023" at Rogersceugh on account of the observations as noted below:
  1. There is still insufficient information regarding the flooding of the area in question as the hydrological/flood risk report has not been submitted;
  2. There are no ongoing maintenance proposals nor budgets for the same once the 'restoration works' have been completed;
  3. There do not seem to be any reports nor mention of the successes, if any, of similar works in other peat areas such as Drumburgh, Glasson and Wedholme Flow Mosses;
  4. There was no ecological impact survey on the environmental improvement and/or damage done on the other peat areas impacted by similar works;
  5. Whilst the England Peat Action Plan states that peatland restoration work will "seek to protect the historic environment of peatlands" it has been noted that there has been minimal to no supervision of similar works in other peat areas so can Cumbria Wildlife Trust guarantee that there will be proper supervision of works at Rogersceugh? This is important since the "Historic Assessment Report" from Salford University has stated that some damage could be caused so they suggest "Palaeoenvironmental samples or cores should be taken in peat deposits that are to be disturbed by the work. These samples can then be used to analyse the historic environment. .... In the event that remains are identified, an archaeologist will record the remains or create a new exclusion zone";
  6. In the Cumbria Wildlife Trust's 2023 "Rogersceugh Peatland Restoration Plan" proposal they state "Healthy peatlands are the most significant terrestrial habitat in their role in sequestering atmospheric carbon and its long-term storage.....Vegetated raised bog will provide habitat for a range of fauna and flora, including ground nesting birds." but no follow up survey nor report has been forthcoming on the areas mentioned above to substantiate these claims. In fact, it has been reported that plants like the sundew,

cotton grass and asphodelus have disappeared and there is no significant growth of sphagnum moss either;

7. The proposal mentions “the installation of (15) monitoring stations (to) provide a long-term dataset to monitor the success of the restoration project” but there is no proposal as to how this will be achieved nor maintained once installed;
8. In comparing the other mosses already mentioned the Councillors are afraid that Rogersceugh will end up the same way, that is, a degraded wasteland devoid of its existing trees and wildlife.

4. Re-consultation on planning application - Reference No: FUL/2024/0019

Applicant: Sarah Hodgson. Proposal: Part change of use from agriculture to community area and erection of building. Location: The Grange and Attached Outbuildings, Drumburgh CA7 5DW.

There were **no objections** raised.

5. To consider Thorpe Trees outstanding invoice.

The Clerk presented an outstanding invoice dated 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024 for tree guards and stakes from Thorpe Trees Limited having reiterated that he had not received the bill until very recently. After a short discussion it was **unanimously approved** to pay the invoice.

6. Date of next ordinary meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**Noted.**

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.