

Lindal and Marton Parish Council

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Clerk
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Councillors:-

Mr A Waite (462922) Mr R Lord (464034) Mrs S Glover (462383) Mr D Howarth (463304) Mrs S Kelly (465343)

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 7th March 2019, at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.

Present:- Councillors A Waite; Mrs S Glover; D Howarth; Mrs S Kelly.

Apologies:- Councillor Lord.

Also present: no members of the public were present.

In attendance:- Borough Councillor Mrs A Thurlow.
Station Manager Roger Exley, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service.
Apologies from PCSO L Johns.

12/19 Urgent business. Items normally needing to be publicised but received too late for the agenda. (Section 100B (4) (b) Local Government Act 1972)

None.

13/19 Disclosure of interests. Requests for dispensations.

None.

14/19 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 7th February 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 7th February 2019, were taken as read and APPROVED.

PROPOSED:- Councillor Howarth: SECONDED:- Councillor Mrs Glover..
Carried unanimously.

15/19 Matters arising from those minutes.

Councillor Howarth enquired about:-

- a) 10/19 (b), the requirement for a salt/grit-bin at Snipe Ghyll, with the Clerk responding that he had not yet received any reply from County Councillor Shirley.

- b) 10/19 (d), the problems associated with the pedestrian crossing on the A590 in Lindal, the Clerk responding that, after further discussions with Councillor Mrs Kelly, it had been agreed that any approach to Highways England be deferred until such time as the crossing experienced further problems.

16/19 Attendance of officer from Cumbria Constabulary

PCSO Johns was unable to attend but had submitted in advance crime statistics for the Parish in respect of February with one incident of criminal damage, ie., vehicle tyres slashed in Marton.

17/19 Attendance of Officer from Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service.

The Clerk referred to the concerns expressed by the Council at its meeting in November 2018 when it had been suggested that efforts to fight a recent fire at Maidenlands Farm, Marton, had been hampered by an alleged lack of pressure in water hydrants in the vicinity. This had required numerous fire appliances (carrying water) to be brought from various outlying fire stations, together with a water bowser from Penrith, prompting the Parish Council to contact the Fire Authorities, together with the local MP, in order to highlight what appeared to be clear deficiencies.

Whilst there had been reassurances as to the nature of the arrangements, which were said to be broadly satisfactory, it was recognised that more detailed explanations would be helpful and to that end, it had been agreed that Mr Roger Exley, Station Manager, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service, would attend a Council meeting, March being the most appropriate month..

Mr Exley suggested that the incident at Marton had not been particularly unusual regarding the problems with the water supply and that the well-established systems used by the Service worked well on the night in question. Whilst variations in water pressures were unfortunate, there were vast quantities of hydrants scattered throughout Cumbria with an extensive mileage of water mains (all the responsibility of United Utilities) and such variations were, perhaps, unavoidable.

However, he remained confident that the Fire Service's operational procedures, involving back-up fire engines (carrying water) together with existing hydrants, bowsers and the extraction of water from streams, ponds etc meant that there would normally be sufficient resources to cope with the vast majority of incidents.

Mr Exley concluded his explanations by emphasising the need for all properties to be equipped with smoke alarms, suggesting that being aware of any fire at the earliest opportunity was the key to saving life and ensuring that the Fire Service attended without delay.

The Chairman thanked Mr Exley for his presentation.

18/19 Planning applications relating to the Parish

B07/2018/0375 Proposed housing development, London Road.

The Clerk referred to previous discussions regarding this proposal, specifically, minute 105/18 (a) (December 2018) when it was NOTED that the planning application scheduled for submission to the planning committee in November 2018 had been withdrawn by officials for further consideration.

Additional information had subsequently been submitted by the applicant and this had been forwarded to the relevant parties for assessment (Highways England; Cumbria County Council; Network Rail). The details covered some relatively minor highways issues, together with a further assessment of surface-water problems.

It was anticipated that the application would be submitted to the planning committee for a decision at the April meeting and it was AGREED that no further comment was required at this time from the Parish Council.

19/19 Correspondence.

- a) Planning applications relating to the whole of the Borough. The Clerk confirmed that the latest on-line list from Barrow Borough Council had been received and forwarded to Councillors. NOTED.
- b) Community Information and Safety. (including product recalls.) None to report.
(all such notices are displayed on the Lindal notice board.)

20/19 Finance.

- a) Account balances:- *Current - £50; Festivals - £1002.83 Reserve - £2016.07.*
- b) The Clerk requested the following:- 1 the second tranche (£300) of his annual honorarium of £600; 2 payment of the auditor's annual fee (£37); 3 reimbursement of petty cash (£58.31 – including kiosk maintenance)
In addition, the annual rent for the Council's use of the Buccleuch Hall was due for payment, in the sum of £240.

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Howarth and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Kelly that the four payments outlined in (b) be authorised.

Carried unanimously.

21/19 Any Other Business.

- a) The Clerk reported that, despite requesting clarification of the arrangements for the use of the speed-gun (see minute 6/19, February 2019), it was disappointing to confirm that there was still no information as to how this equipment was to be used. It was similarly disappointing to note that, notwithstanding the long-held belief by local residents that speeding vehicles were a problem in the Parish, there were only three such residents who had volunteered to assist with this project. At this stage it was unclear when, or if, the project would ever be developed.
- b) The Clerk commented on advance information from Cumbria County Council suggesting that there were plans to develop partnership workings with Town and Parish councils to enable them to a) employ staff for "agreed work" on the highway – hedge

- trimming, sign cleaning and the like and b) utilise volunteers for “low-risk” duties such as litter-picking, grass cutting etc. Further information was anticipated in due course.
- c) It was pointed out that councillors would be due for re-election this year, on 2nd May 2019, and appropriate information packs were distributed.
 - d) The Chairman commented on the number of road-side hedgerows which appeared to have been trimmed in recent weeks, with the sweeping-up of debris being somewhat haphazard. It was AGREED that, bearing in mind the problems in getting a response from the various authorities at the present time, little would be gained in pursuing the matter.
 - e) *From the floor*, District Councillor Mrs Ann Thurlow announced her decision not to stand for re-election at the forthcoming elections scheduled for May 2019. The Chairman thanked her for her regular attendance at the Parish Council meetings and for her help and advice over the years.

22/19 Date and Time of next meeting

The Date and Time of the next meeting was AGREED as Thursday 4th April 2019, at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall.

(Council meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend. Agendas and minutes can be supplied by email to any resident on request and similarly, they can be seen, along with other documents, on the community website, www.lindal-in-furness.co.uk)