

Lindal and Marton Parish Council

Chairman
A Waite
4 Silver Street
Marton
Nr Ulverston
Cumbria LA12 0NQ
Tel 01229 462922

Clerk
J Smith
7 East View
Lindal-in-Furness
Cumbria LA12 0LG
Tel 01229 467261

Councillors:-

Mr A Waite (462922) Mrs S Glover (462383) Mr D Howarth (463304) Mrs S Kelly (465343) Mrs C Stringer (464781)

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 4th March 2021, at 7.30 pm. Due to the restrictions imposed because of the coronavirus pandemic this was a telephone conference meeting.

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

Also present:- No members of the public had asked to be connected.

In attendance:- Borough Councillor Dan Edwards.

12/21 Urgent business. Items normally needing to be publicised but received too late for the agenda. (Section 100B (4) (b) Local Government Act 1972)

None.

13/21 Disclosure of interests. Requests for dispensations.

None.

14/21 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 7th January 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 7th January 2021 were taken as read and APPROVED.

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

Carried unanimously.

NB. No meeting in February because of the coronavirus pandemic.

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15/21 Matters arising from those minutes.

There were no matters arising.

16/20 Attendance of officer from Cumbria Constabulary

Crime details supplied in advance by Cumbria Constabulary:-

December 2020. Break-in, Dalton Motor Breakers. Nothing stolen.
Theft of 10 sheep, Hill Farm, Urswick Road.

January 2021 Break-in, Tytup Smallholdings. Nothing stolen

February, 2021 Nil.

17/21 Local Government reorganisation. Proposed new Unitary Authority.

The Clerk drew attention to the most recent correspondence from the government regarding the proposals for new unitary authorities, which would see the elimination of all existing councils in Cumbria. Insofar as Furness was concerned, the recommendation from Barrow District Council, South Lakeland District Council and Lancaster City Council (Lancashire), was that they combine into a new unitary authority, to be called The Bay Authority.

The government's document included four proposals relating to Cumbria, submitted by the other Cumbrian councils, all of which incorporated Barrow in one form or another.

The government was now seeking comments from all interested bodies, including parish councils and individual local residents, the information and a survey form being contained within documents to be found on:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposals-for-locally-led-reorganisation-of-local-government-in-cumbria-north-yorkshire-and-somerset>

Responses need to be submitted by Monday, 19th April 2021.

It was pointed out that the principle of a Bay Authority had already been fully discussed by the Parish Council when it met in November 2020, along with the other suggestions for a unitary authority which would incorporate Barrow with other local councils. These latter suggestions, having been judged to be not as appropriate as the one incorporating Barrow, Kendal and Lancaster, were discounted by the Parish Council

However, the final submission by the prospective Bay Authority councils also included a recommendation that a second Unitary Authority be created from all the remaining district councils in Cumbria, a suggestion that the Parish Council had no views on.

It was also noted that the Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) had arranged a virtual meeting for 18th March in which representatives of all the proposed Unitary Authorities would give a brief presentation on the merits of their individual proposals and take questions from the participants.

However, given that the Parish Council had already expressed its support for the general principle of the Bay Authority, it was agreed that little would be gained by entering into further discussions. Clearly, the Parish Council was in no position to examine such matters as the financial forecasts etc and it was felt reasonable to accept the professional judgement of the district officers concerned in putting together the Bay proposal.

It was then PROPOSED by Councillor Howarth and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Kelly that no further comment was needed and that the decision taken in November 2020 be reaffirmed in that this Council supported the proposal to create a unitary authority for the Morecambe Bay area as referred to above. In addition, the Clerk would respond to the government consultation by completing the on-line survey accordingly.

Carried unanimously

18/21 Planning applications relating to the Parish

None.

19/21 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.

20/21 Finance.

- a) Account balances:- *Current* - £50: *Festivals* - £1005.42 *Reserve* - £2678.85
- b) Payments, for formal authorisation:-
- Archie Workman, £80 (village maintenance).
 - The Clerk, £57.13, (petty cash): £300,(half-yearly honorarium).
 - J Bentley, £37. (internal audit fee).
 - North West Air Ambulance, £200 (Donation - £100 re 2019/20: £100 re 2020/21).
 - JRB Enterprises £39.30 (dog-waste bags)
 - Buccleuch Hall, £240 (donation in lieu of annual rent of premises).
- It was PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs Kelly and SECONDED by Councillor Howarth that such payments be formally authorised. Carried unanimously.

21/21 Any Other Business.

- a) The Clerk referred to previous references to the Council's ability to make donations to St Peter's Church by means of the Section 137 Regulations, given that it was a valuable local amenity. This had been suspended for the current year due to the suggestion that such Regulations did not authorise such payments. Recent correspondence in professional journals seemed to confirm that, until the legal position was clarified by the government, no further donations could be made. NOTED.
- b) The Chairman referred again to the pothole issue, particularly in Marton, where it appeared that work had been done on specific examples which had been reported to the Highways Department but adjacent defects had been ignored. This seemed to be at variance with assurances given previously by the Highways Department that this procedure would cease. The Clerk, in conjunction with District Councillor Edwards, undertook to follow this up.

- c) Councillor Mrs Kelly referred to the on-going problem of what appeared to be unauthorised development at the site of the Tytup Smallholdings. Several local residents were concerned about it but the Clerk reported that officials from Barrow Council were due to visit the site during the following week to, hopefully, clarify the matter. Reference was also made to works being carried out on the site of the Old Sawmills: District Councillor Edwards undertook to discuss both these issues with planning officials.
- d) Councillors Howarth and Mrs Kelly, together with the Clerk, commented on the deteriorating problem of litter throughout the district, Councillor Howarth confirming that he and other family members had collected several bags of rubbish from the A590 and, after discussion, District Councillor Edwards confirmed that he would be raising the matter with Town Hall officials.

22/21 Date and Time of next meeting

The Date and Time of the next meeting was AGREED as Thursday 6th May 2021 at 7.30 pm, via telephone, unless circumstances dictated otherwise.

(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)