

LITTLE CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Bridgefoot Village Hall on Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Ian Elliott, Jean McCartney, Carol Wilson, Ken Stephenson, Felicity Watts, Fiona Heslam and Roland Bell.

Also present: Allerdale Borough Councillor James Grisdale, Cumberland Councillor Andrew Semple, Mr Bob Freely, Mrs Gail Dixon, Mr Tony Dixon and Rev'd Judith Morgan, Parish Clerk

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Alan Kennon for health reasons.

93/22 Resignation – The Council was saddened to receive the resignation of Cllr Lynn Philipson, who had resigned with immediate effect, for personal reasons. It was noted that Mrs Philipson had been a very active member of the Village Hall Committee for many years, joining the Parish Council when the VH Committee had been disbanded, and had continued to support the village hall as a Parish Councillor. The Chairman proposed that flowers and a card be sent to Mrs Philipson with the thanks of the Parish Council, and Cllr J McCartney agreed to attend to this.

94/22 Declarations of Interest – there were none.

95/22 Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr J McCartney, seconded by Cllr R Bell, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th December 2022 were approved and signed as a true record.

96/22 Public Participation

Mr Bob Freely addressed the meeting with concerns for the volume, weight, and speed of traffic between Bridgefoot and Broughton Cross, and concerns for pedestrian safety and increased property damage. Mr Freely made particular reference to a change in planning consent which now permits 38-ton lorries to traverse that road from Tendley Quarries, the former limit being 10 tons. An increase in the number of waggons on that stretch of road had seen the number double from 40 to 80 per day. Mr Freely was also concerned for the bridge across the river Marron which was not reinforced. He wished to see a reduction in speed and reduced weight allowances on the waggons. There followed a lengthy debate in which the many ways in which the Parish Council had attempted to address these issues over several years were enumerated.

Cumberland Councillor A Semple agreed to contact Mr Freely to arrange a meeting and to progress matters once the new Unitary Authority was in being, in April. Mr and Mrs Dixon had attended the meeting to support Mr Freely.

Mr and Mrs Dixon left the meeting at 7.50pm

97/22 Village Hall

- i. Policy Documents – Cllr C Wilson to contact ACT for advice.
- ii. Quotes for solar panels and heat pump – Four quotations for solar panels had been received, each based on what the suppliers felt was most appropriate for the Village Hall and differing mainly in relation to battery storage capacity. SJD £16,000, R Hill £27,657, Eden Solar £18,812.50, Love Solar £22,878.21. It was noted that only Roland Hill's quote had included scaffolding (which would need to be factored in to the other quotations) and that, additionally, Roland Hill could quote for a hybrid system with a ground source heat pump to be added later for greater efficiency, if required. Taking all of these factors into consideration, and on the proposal of Cllr F Heslam, seconded by Cllr C Wilson, it was agreed that the quote from Roland Hill be accepted. Clerk to begin seeking grants for this work.
- iii. Book money of £5.92 was handed to the Treasurer, together with £80 from the Gospel group and a quantity of uncounted cash from the Bingo.
- iv. Village Hall keys had been returned to the clerk from Cllr L Philipson and the Derwent Valley Quilters.
- v. Cllr C Wilson reported that the water damage claim had now been closed by the insurers following the flood to the Village Hall in December 2022. They had been asked to reinspect the floor in six months' time. Heaters purchased to dry the hall out had cost £242.97 and the Handyman had an outstanding invoice to be submitted. It was agreed that, with a £500 excess, it was probably not worth claiming on the insurance for the damage.
- vi. There had been no response yet to the request for volunteers to form a Management Committee for the Village Hall.

- vii. Three quotations had been received via the Architects for the alterations to the entrance, exit and car park to create disabled access and parking, as follows:
W W Builders Ltd £25,618.00, Michael Thompson Ltd £33,240.00, Stobbarts Ltd £36,732.00
On the proposal of Cllr C Wilson, seconded by Cllr J McCartney, it was agreed that the lowest priced quote from W W Builders be accepted, especially as this included for solid oak doors. Clerk to begin seeking grants for the work.
- viii. The Handyman is to be asked to tidy the Memorial Bench and wash it, paint the bus shelter on Chapel Brow and tidy up the benches, to clean the benches on the Village Hall car park, to change the outside light switch so that the lights go off and to place a box of lights in the loft space.
- ix. Following the recent litter pick, chairs had been taken off the stage by volunteers and stored in the cupboard. These had now, mysteriously, found their way back onto the stage. Chairman to mention this to the Gospel group who had probably replaced the chairs innocently.
- x. The chairman agreed to contact Community Heartbeat for replacement defibrillator pads.
- xi. It was agreed that the snooker and pool table be gifted to Great Clifton Youth Club.
- xii. It was agreed that the fridge stored in the cupboard should be gifted to the British Heart Foundation.

98/22 Matters arising from the Minutes

- i. Further to Min 84/22 iii The Clerk advised that a soldier silhouette figure would cost £175 plus postage from the Royal British Legion. Cllr J McCartney suggested that one could be placed on the green area beside the Village Hall, and it was agreed that villagers be asked their opinion on this via the newsletter. Cllr F Heslam reported that she had discovered a war memorial inside someone's home in the village. There was also a plaque inside St Luke's church inscribed with the names of the fallen in WW1 and the WWII War memorial is located beside the entrance to Scots Croft.
- ii. Further to Min 84/22 i Mr Keith Parker had begun conversations with Cllr Mark Fryer about the CAT process, which will be open for discussion once Cumberland Council is in being.

99/22 Village News

A draft of the second edition was circulated and discussed. It was agreed that a call for more members of the Parish Council be made, together with a request for volunteers for a Village Hall Committee and someone to call Bingo numbers on Monday evenings.

Cllrs J Grisdale and A Semple left the meeting at this point, 8.54pm

100/22 BLCEH

Solar Made Easy event to be held in the village hall on 19th April, three parishes are working together on this event.

Greysouthern Parish Council wished to know whether Little Clifton Parish Council would be interested in sharing the cost of a thermal imaging camera. Cllr F Watts to feed back that Little Clifton P C is interested in principle.

101/22 Website

Susan Harrison had constructed most of the new website and was in the process of uploading documents from the existing site. Dates for training to be advised.

102/22 Planning Matters

There were no new applications.

103/22 Chairman's Announcements

Nothing new to report this month.

104/22 Allotments

All allotments had been let for the current year. Work was ongoing to erect fences and sheds etc.

105/22 Clerk's Report

Information regarding the forthcoming Parish Council elections was shared.

106/22 Authorisation of Payments

Cumbria County Council	Ground rent	67.00
Rev J Morgan	Salary and Exps. (December)	392.97
HMRC	PAYE (December)	86.00
R Bell	Grass cutting	110.00

107/22 Parish Maintenance

- i. The Clerk was instructed to report to County Highways a large pothole in the road between Springfield Cottage and Whitehouse, Little Clifton.
- ii. United Utilities to be asked to remove the plastic supports from the saplings they planted some time ago, as these have now done their job.
- iii. It was reported that 16 volunteers had joined the recent village litter pick, collecting 25 bags of rubbish which had been collected by Allerdale. Allerdale's enforcement officer had also removed a quantity of asbestos from beside the ford. It had been a good event with refreshments served in the hall afterwards.
- iv. Clerk to request an additional litter bin at the end of the village past Valley View. Also, to request a 'Little Clifton' sign to be placed on the village hall side of the road where it can be seen by drivers approaching from Chapel Brow, and replacement street signs for Oldfield Road and Hunday Lane.
- v. Cllr R Bell agreed to add grass cutting at the Village Green to his work schedule.
- vi. A request had been made to add some seating to the bus stop in Bridgefoot. Cllr F Watts to make some enquiries as to what might be possible.
- vii. Cllr K Stephenson reported that he had asked a local farmer to cut the hedges from Scots Croft up to Little Clifton as the branches had become too thick to cut with conventional garden tools. This would make the hedge manageable for the next few years.
- viii. Clerk to write to Mrs Shaw asking for an update on the bank erosion at the Churchyard.
- ix. It was noted that St Luke's Church has received a bronze award as an Eco Church.

Matters for next meeting - None identified.

Date of next meeting - Wednesday 12th April 2023 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed _____ Chairman Date _____