

LITTLE CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Bridgefoot Village Hall on Wednesday 14th June 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Ian Elliott, Jean McCartney, Carol Wilson, Ken Stephenson, Fliss Watts, Fiona Heslam, Ed Heslam and Roland Bell. Judith Morgan, Parish Clerk, was also in attendance.

Apologies were received from Cumberland Cllr Andrew Semple, due to family commitments.

20/23 Declarations of Interest.

There were none.

21/23 Approval of Minutes

- i. On the proposal of Cllr R Bell, seconded by Cllr C Wilson, the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 10th May 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record.
- ii. On the proposal of Cllr E Heslam, seconded by Cllr F Watts, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th May 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record.

22/23 Public Participation.

No members of the public were present, but Cllr F Heslam raised concern that the recycling bins were not being emptied during the current dispute. She had referred the matter to Andrew Jenkins of Cumberland Council who had explained that recycling collections are not statutory, whereas the domestic black bins are, and these were being emptied as often as possible.

23/23 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- i. Further to Minute 7/23 iii the clerk updated the council on funding applications to date. An application had been made to the National Lottery and there were encouraging signs that an award of £30,000 might be made for the solar panels, provided certain criteria could be met. This included the need for a survey of the roof structure to ascertain that it was strong enough to take the load, and this had been arranged via Cllr F Heslam, at the Clerk's request. Mr Stobbart would be carrying out the survey on 15th June. The cost of £450 for this survey was approved. It was agreed that the solar panel element of the Village Hall improvements should be tackled first, with the alterations to the entrances as a second phase.
- ii. Further to Minute 7/23 i Cumberland Cllr A Semple had emailed to say that he is sorting out a meeting with Tendley, speaking to Mark Fryer about issues with land and Denise Rollo is meeting with Stagecoach about issues across the area.
- iii. Further to Minute 7/23 iv the clerk had ordered a perching bench for the bus shelter at a cost of £264 and this had been delivered.
- iv. Further to Minute 11/23 viii Cllrs F and E Heslam had commenced defibrillator maintenance and reporting training. Two years' maintenance fees had been paid from the Parish Council account to Community Heartbeat, and these would need to be reimbursed from the Jubilee account – Cllr J McCartney agreed to attend to this.
- v. Further to Minute 11/23 ix Cllr F Watts agreed to transport the spare fridge to the Allerdale Waste Depot from whence it would be taken to the Cumbria Recycling Centre at Lillyhall to be refurbished.

24/23 Allotments

Cllr K Stephenson reported that everything was going OK on the allotments, although the ground was dry, and some rain would be welcome.

Cllr F Heslam congratulated Cllr K Stephenson and the allotment holders on the smart and tidy appearance of the plots and asked if there was a 'Deputy Ken' to help out. Cllr Stephenson replied that there wasn't a deputy, but he has lots of help available to him, particularly from the younger allotment holders.

Cllr F Heslam asked if the Parish Council had a COSHH Policy for handling hazardous materials, Cllr K Stephenson replied that weedkillers were not used on site and he administered rat poison himself when necessary and kept it under lock and key. It was noted that the allotments are covered on the Parish Council's insurance policy.

25/23 Parish Maintenance

- i. The Clerk was instructed to write to Cumberland Council requesting a site meeting at the junction of Gaythorn Terrace and Oldfield Road. The 'Give Way' and 'Slow' road markings needed repainting, with some clarification of rights of way at the same junction, where three routes converge on a blind bend. Some road signs reading 'Caution' and 'Blind Bend' or just an '!' would also be helpful. It was noted that there had been two accidents at the junction since the 'Slow' sign had been painted on the road surface and it was felt that this was insufficient to prevent further accidents. The Clerk reported that a complaint about the poor state of the road surface had been forwarded to Cumberland Council and some remedial work had been carried out very recently as a result.
- ii. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Environment Agency asking for enforcement action to be taken as all of the waste from the 8 properties on Station Terrace was being discharged from one septic tank into the river Marron at Bridgefoot and, in addition, the Horseshoe also discharges waste into the river. Concerns were expressed that new legislation introduced in 2015 and legally binding from 1st January 2020 for all such systems to be upgraded to connect to mains waste disposal, had not been adhered to. In the recent hot weather, children had been observed swimming in the river both up and downstream of the discharge points and there was also concern for the diverse wildlife along the river which currently includes a family of otters. All of this to be conveyed to the Environment Agency. Cumberland Cllr A Semple to be copied in to the email, for information.
- iii. The Clerk was instructed to write to Cumberland Council regarding the wall beside Chapel Brow Manor and the School House which has had plastic barriers against it for several years, and to ask what the schedule is for its repair.
- iv. The Clerk was instructed to write to Cumberland Council notifying them of repetitive fly tipping on Cat Bank and asking for a site visit with Cllr E Heslam to discuss the way forward.
- v. The Chairman expressed concern that the bin on the grassed area adjacent to the Village Hall was not being used and litter was being left on the grass and car park. It was agreed that this would be mentioned on the village What's App group and in the Village News.
- vi. The Clerk was instructed to write to both Home Group and Cumberland Council about the weeds on the kerbsides at Scots Croft and to ask for them to be treated.
- vii. The Clerk was instructed to ask Cumberland Council to repaint the 'Keep Clear' and junction lines on the road at Scots Croft.

26/23 Village Hall

- i. Book money of £1.80 was handed to the treasurer.
- ii. Carol advised that the insurance claim was now closed until next year.
- iii. The Clerk advised of three new bookings
- iv. There was some discussion of the boat that had appeared on the car park, the Chairman had spoken to the owner who had promised to move it. A number of cars had been parking overnight of late and it was not known whose they were. It may be necessary to put leaflets on the windscreens.
- v. Mrs Carol Elliott had reported lights left on in the toilet and kitchen areas on two recent occasions. The Clerk had been in touch with the groups concerned and they had agreed to take extra care in future. Cllr J McCartney agreed to ask Jason whether motion sensor light controls might be added to the lights in the toilets.

27/23 Reduction in Speed Limit through the village

Cllrs I Elliott and E Heslam had attended a recent meeting at Tendley Quarry. A further meeting was to be held in the Village Hall involving the Police, Tendley Quarry, County Highways, Cllr A Semple, Little Clifton Parish Council, Greysouthern Parish Council, Brigham Parish Council and other interested parties. The proposal to be put forward at that meeting would be a reduction in speed limits by 10mph across the parish.

28/23 Parish Boundary Changes

Cllr E Heslam introduced the possibility of applying to have Neggill and surrounding properties included in Little Clifton Parish (currently they are part of Greysouthern Parish). The Clerk outlined the process for making such an application. After discussion it was agreed that this was not something to be considered at this time.

29/23 War Memorial

It was agreed that this should be held over until the outcome of the CAT application relating to land adjacent to Scots Croft was known.

30/23 Highways England

The Clerk was instructed to write to Highways England conveying the council's disappointment at the cancellation of the roundabout on the A66 at the Brigham/Broughton junction. This council had safety concerns and it was noted that a number of fatal accidents have already occurred at that spot, and it was felt that the withdrawal of this plan would have a detrimental effect on public transport to the villages, which are already poorly served.

31/23 Website

Cllr F Watts suggested that photographs of councillors with a brief biography should be added to the website. This was met with mixed responses and it was agreed that Cllr Watts would bring a camera to the next meeting and those members who wished to have their photographs added, could elect to do so. This would be a matter of personal choice.

32/23 Village News

- a) It was agreed that the following be included in the next issue:
 - i. Littering on land beside Village Hall
 - ii. BLECH update

33/23 BLECH

The Open Day had gone well with a huge number of people's observations of wildlife being collated.

Zoom meetings re Community Energy (via CALC) were coming up, with meetings later in the year on retrofitting and insulation.

The group was working on developing a model for a community energy network.

The thermal imaging cameras would get going in November.

34/23 Planning Matters

Planning Application HOU/2023/0101 Mr and Mrs Ross, 9 Fell View, Bridgefoot, proposed extension above existing garage to provide additional living accommodation and raised terraced area. No observations or objections.

35/23 Chairman's Announcements

Nothing further this month.

36/23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that the external auditor had received the AGAR and would not be in touch again. This concluded the audit.

Mr Bob Dredge had written to say how delighted he was that Cumberland Council had fixed the drain cover at 4 Chapel Terrace.

37/23 Financial Matters

Accounts for payment

The following were approved:

Rev J Morgan – reimbursement for bus shelter		
	perching bench	£264.00
HMRC	PAYE	£ 86.00
Rev J Morgan	Salary and Expenses	£455.37
R Bell	Grass cutting	£200.00

38/23 Items for next meeting

Proposal for a reduction in the speed limit - update

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Wednesday 12th July 2023 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.56pm

Signed _____ Chairman

_____ Date