

LITTLE CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Bridgefoot Village Hall on Wednesday 18th October 2023 at 7.00pm

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

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ed Heslam (due to illness) and Cumberland Cllr Andrew Semple (due to clash of meetings).

71/23 Declarations of Interest.

There were none.

72/23 Approval of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr J McCartney, seconded by Cllr R Bell, the minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record.

73/23 Public Participation.

No members of the public were present.

74/23 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- i. Further to Minute 59/23 ii an accident had occurred at the junction adjacent to Corner House, due to two drivers being unsure who had right of way. One vehicle had subsequently been written off. The Clerk had reported the incident and again requested that the road signs be renewed. Cumberland Council had agreed to do this.
- ii. Further to Minute 59/23 v the Clerk had written to United Utilities again requesting that the plastic sleeves be removed from the saplings. No response had yet been received. Clerk to write again.
- iii. Further to Minute 63/23 ii the Clerk had ordered the Remembrance Wreath from Maryport Council, as in previous years.
- iv. Further to Min 63/23 iv the Clerk had reported the broken 'cycle path' sign on Chapel Brow to CC - response awaited.
- v. Further to Minute 62/23 vi The Clerk had written to both Home Group and CC about the uneven flags at Chapel Brow. CC replied that these are the responsibility of a private owner, HG had not replied. The Chairman had also reported this issue, and Cumberland Cllr A Semple had agreed to take the matter up with the Neighbourhood Director.
- vi. Further to Min 63/23 vii The Clerk had written to the owner of Chapel Brow Manor who had replied to say that he had taken remedial action about the water pipe and enclosed photographs. The Council warmly welcomed this response. The owner had also raised an issue with blocked pipes beneath the road, owned by the Highways Authority. He had reported this to the HA and was told that remedial work would be carried out and his connection would be reinstated, but nothing had happened. Clerk to also report this matter to the HA. Clerk to thank the owner for his reply.
- vii. Further to Minute 63/23 viii the problems with dog fouling on the path from Punderland Farm to Lostrigg Close had been reported to CC who had issued a link to report the matter to, which the clerk had done but no response had yet been received.
- viii. Further to Minute 63/23 ix the Clerk requires the address of the property on Cat Bank in order to raise the issue with the current owner.
- ix. Further to Minute 63/23 xi the Clerk had reported the weeds in the kerbsides at Scots Croft and throughout Little Clifton to both CC and Home Group. Home Group had replied that these are the responsibility of CC. CC were yet to make a response.
- x. Further to Minute 63/23 xii the Clerk had reported the issue with tarmac and 'Keep Clear' signs in front of the garages at Scots Croft to both Home Group and CC. Replies awaited.
- xi. Further to Minute 67/23 The chairman had received an update from Kellie Hampson of the Planning Dept who confirmed there are discrepancies in size between the plans and the building. Further investigation is ongoing, and it may result in a retrospective application.

75/23 Allotments

Cllr K Stephenson had instructed the Clerk to write to one allotment holder about the need to tidy up his plot. A reply from that allotment holder was read to the meeting. Cllr Stephenson reported that he had subsequently held a site meeting with the allotment holder who had agreed to tidy the plot by 31st October 2023. The issue of possible termination of tenancy is to be decided at the November meeting of the Parish Council.

76/23 Accounts for Payment

The following were approved:

HMRC	PAYE	£ 0.00 – this because of a letter from HMRC stating an overpayment on the account.
Rev J Morgan	Salary and Expenses	£509.82
R Bell	Grass cutting	£200.00

77/23 Parish Maintenance

- i. The Chairman reported that the bus shelter at Chapel Brow needs another coat of paint – handyman to be asked to do this. David also to be asked to erect the new noticeboard in the Village Hall foyer.
- ii. The date of the 'Meet up, Clean Up' litter pick had changed to Sunday 5th November.
- iii. Cllr F Helsam reported that she had received a quote of £250 for the removal of the three ash trees on the car park. The contractor would like to complete this work at the same time as the other tree surgery to the rear of the Village Hall and estimated that the car park would be closed for two days for all of this work to be completed.
- iv. Clerk to report pothole at edge of kerbside/pavement outside 19 Fell View, to Cumberland Council again as it is getting bigger.
- v. The Clerk was instructed to report to Cumberland Council verges overgrown onto the road and water flowing down the centre of the road at various locations from Chapel Brow towards Bridgefoot and from Bridgefoot up the hill towards Little Clifton. The road drains are full and leaves are now falling on the roads and pavements, causing a hazard to pedestrians. Much of this is thought to be due to years of neglect.

(Cllr F Heslam left the meeting at this point (7.37pm))

78/23 Village Christmas Tree

It was agreed that the Parish Council would purchase a 12ft Christmas Tree from Messrs Paterson of Brigham, and the handyman would erect it and put lights on it. Tree to be positioned on the grassed area beside the Village Hall for access to electricity supply. Cllr J McCartney to ask Mr Paterson for advice on how best to secure the tree. Flimby Male Voice Choir had agreed to sing carols – Cllr McCartney to request one copy of their carol sheet so that Cllr C Wilson can arrange multiple copies for public use on the day. It is understood that Father Christmas will be in attendance. Cllr C Wilson to purchase battery operated tea light candles.

79/23 Reduction in Speed Limit through the village

Cllr E Helsam had sent information relating to the recent survey. 25 replies (86%) in favour, 4 replies (14%) against.

Cllr Helsam also felt that a weakness in the process was that there was only one reply slip per household and added that, while it is reasonable to consult on this matter, issues of basic safety should not simply be reduced to a democratic vote. His suggestion was to take this result together with the petition and apply to Cumberland Council for a reduction in the speed limit.

It was agreed that the matter be held over until the next meeting in the hope that County Cllr Andrew Semple would be present.

80/23 Highways England

It was suggested that the multi parish council group be encouraged to have a rota of venues for its meetings, rather than just expect Little Clifton Village Hall to foot the bill.

81/23 Village News

The next edition would be produced before Christmas, and it was hoped that a draft would be available at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

82/23 Bridgefoot and Little Clifton Energy Hub (BLCEH)

Six volunteers had received training with thermal imaging cameras. Thermal surveys of properties are being offered.

A public meeting would be held at Lorton on 2nd November, with the same meeting being held in Little Clifton Village Hall in February 2024.

83/23 Planning Matters

Nothing new this month.

84/23 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman asked about the plans for a Remembrance Tommy for the village. It was agreed that this is awaiting the outcome of the CAT application for the field adjacent to Scots Croft.

85/23 Clerk's Report

The following items of correspondence had been received:

- i. Notification of a planned road closure of the U2188 Little Clifton for five days commencing 23rd October to allow Viberoptix to carry out utility work.
- ii. Letter from Paul Cretney, Fibrus, asking the Parish Council to nominate a local group to receive a small donation – agreed to put forward Little Clifton Village Hall for this.
- iii. Remittance advice from Cumberland Council for the second half of the 2023/24 precept, £3,750.00.
- iv. Information on Cumberland Council's Community Investment fund.
- v. Information on Cumberland Council's Lakes to Sea Network Launch event, Kirkgate Centre, Cockermouth on October 26th from 6pm.

70/23 Items for next meeting.

Budget and Precept to be set for 2024/25.

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.05pm

Signed _____ Chairman

_____ Date