

CALDBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at Caldbeck Parish Hall on Thursday 17 October 2019 at 7:30pm.

Cllrs Present: Tim Cartmell (Chairman), Norman Atkinson, Alison Young Poole, Alastair MacFadzean, Angela Glendinning, Alan Tyson, John Brown.

Also Present: Simon Smith (Clerk), Peter Rolfe and Alison Scott (both from Fellside)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Paul Doherty, Paul Graham and Ian Shaw.

2. Minutes

The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council for 2 September 2019.

3. Declaration of Interest

Tim Cartmell, Chairman, declared an interest in item 15 - grant payment to Northern Fells.

4. Public Participation

- a) Cllr Mike Johnson, County Council, advised he would provide County Council comments at appropriate times in the Agenda.
- b) Cllr Tony Annison, Allerdale Borough Council, reported on his work with Scrutiny and gave assurances on his commitment to serving the Warnell parishes.
- c) Members of the public attending were interested in the planning application for the Fellside Centre.

5. Planning applications and decisions

a) Applications

- i) [7/2019/2191](#) **Cumbria Outdoors, Fellside Centre, Wigton, CA7 8HA** Change of use from a residential activity centre to 3 no. dwellings. Following discussion it was agreed to apply to Allerdale Borough Council for the Fellside Centre to be listed as a Community Asset to see if a buyer might be found to operate the facility as a field centre. Concerns were also expressed about parking, access for vehicles and the need to protect mature trees which provide screening and enhance the landscape. The Clerk to update the National Park regarding its objections and decision to apply for the centre to be listed as a community asset.
- ii) [7/2019/2233](#) **John Peel Farm Barn, Caldbeck CA7 8HJ** application for a Certificate of Lawful Use. The Parish Council noted that the National Park appears to have little option but to allow the application and expressed disappointed that the National Park had not made further enquires in 2016 when there may have been opportunity to enforce the planning conditions and to ensure the property remained as one unit. The outcome would seem to be that the owner stands to gain from the division of the property into two separate properties despite the contravention of earlier planning regulations. The Clerk to inform the National Park of its concerns.
- iii) [7/2019/2224](#) **Midtown Cottage Barn & work units, Caldbeck, CA7 8DZ** Proposed change of use from retail/work units to camping barns [7/2019/2227](#) Listed Building Consent application. Following discussion the Parish Council agreed to **object** to the application. There are already a number of camping barns in operation in Caldbeck Parish and an application was approved for a camping barn in close proximity to the new application. The site is on a difficult corner and access and parking issues have not been addressed. The proposals are for 12 people to use the facilities which could entail significant numbers of cars. Finally there is concern that the impact on neighbours has not been given proper consideration. Work appears to have started, including some drainage work on the highway and it is not clear if the necessary permissions were obtained.

b) Decisions

- i) [T/2019/0133](#) **Quarry Barn, Heskett Newmarket, Wigton, CA7 8JG** Silver Birch - Crown thinning works to improve transmission of daylight/reduce wind resistance. **No objection.**
- ii) [7/2019/2177](#) **John Peel Farm Barn, Caldbeck CA7 8HJ** application for a Certificate of Lawful Use. **Withdrawn.** See a i) above

- iii) [HOU/2019/0051](#) **Archway Cottage, Friar Row, Caldbeck** Removal of flat roof dormer extension to the front and erection of first floor lounge extension with balcony. **Approved.**
- iv) [7/2019/2029](#) **Hall Close, Park End, Caldbeck CA7 8HQ** Use of building as an unfettered dwelling house (use class C3). **Accepted** that the agricultural occupancy condition had been breached for in excess of 10 years and that the lawful use has an unfettered dwelling house. The Parish Council noted the decision to grant the application and expressed concern that evidence that those engaged in agriculture had been tenants had proved insufficient. The Clerk to notify the National Park of these concerns.
- v) [7/2019/2175](#) **Syke House, Heskett Newmarket, Wigton, CA7 8LA** Erection of a home office (amendment to previous scheme 7/2017/2183) **Granted**
- vi) [7/2019/2087](#) **Land to the East of the Children's Play Area, Heskett Newmarket.** Flood Risk and Surface Water measures. **Approved.** It was agreed that the Information on the website did not provide any evidence to support the conclusion that the condition had been met. The Clerk to ask the National Park to ensure the evidence is made available.

6. Heskett Lonning Footpath

The Chairman reported that the Footpath Working Group met on 9 September and 8 October. The County Council remained unwilling to support a Footpath Creation Order without all potential legal costs being covered. The Parish Council noted the different response being taken by Carlisle City Councillors where party groupings seem keen to out bid each other in offering support although recent press coverage suggests that the Waverley Trust is under pressure to demonstrate that it has the £300,000 funding for the full project.

Various options were discussed:

- a) Lobby the County Council to use its powers to issue a Footpath Creation Order - including using public participation at County Council, and briefing Councillors and the media about the burying of Dan Barton's first report and the Information Commissioner's ruling;
- b) Support the funding of worst case legal costs for the County Council to issue a Footpath Creation Order - including asking if residents would contribute;
- c) Support upgrading the existing footpath network between Heskett Newmarket and Matthew Ridding - although there are serious concerns that an upgraded footpath would not be used;
- d) Establish the footpath where there is agreement with landowners, albeit some sections of the route would lead people onto the lane;
- e) Abandon pursuit of the new footpath.

The Parish Council agreed that it should proceed with lobbying the County Council and would make the necessary arrangements, including contacting the Leader of Carlisle City Council who is also a County Councillor. There was little enthusiasm for improving the existing footpath network as an alternative to the direct footpath nor for establishing a part path where landowners are in agreement. Further consultation with parishioners was discussed and alternative views were expressed. The 2017 on line petition had received 1,600+ signatures, albeit most of whom were not residents. Other views were that further consultation would provide an up to date picture of support for the footpath and there could be useful evidence to draw on in respect of need.

7. Community Led Affordable Housing

The Clerk reported there had been no response to the invitation to landowners to access Allerdale Borough Council's grant for obtaining pre planning application advice. One site remains a possibility but where the National Park has previously expressed reservations. However, the National Park's Geoff Davies and Paula Allen, Strategy Planner, encouraged the Parish Council to look again at the site, given the absence of any alternatives. It may well be that all units would have to be affordable with no open market units. The Parish Council agreed to press ahead with the pre planning application. The Clerk would write to the landowner and brief the architect.

8. Lake District National Park land disposals

The Chairman reported that the National Park's decision, subject to local consultation, was still awaited. However, it is looking likely that the Parish Council's offer will be accepted and the lands will transfer. Discussions are underway between the National Park and the Treasury regarding possible use of the sale proceeds and whether there was scope for the parish to benefit.

9. Repair of Caldbeck and Heskett Newmarket benches

It was agreed that the Parish Council should await information from Men in Sheds regarding a timetable for repairing the benches.

10. Waste management arrangements

The Parish Council noted that waste collections have been restored but at significant cost to Allerdale Borough Council.

11. Parish Maintenance

The update report from Matt Bish was discussed. Mike Johnson highlighted the need to report new issues accurately. Highways would attend to the faults reported such as filling a pothole. If the road surface had also disintegrated (as at Branthwaite Bridge), that fault needed reporting separately.

a) Issues raised with Matt Bish, County Council Highways

These are detailed below

- i) Cornhill House (the Old Police Station) - broken manhole
- ii) Caldbeck Green - pot holes
- iii) B5299 Ratten Row, Caldbeck - surface water across road & Caldbeck Boundary Sign
- iv) Whelpo Bridge to Faulds Brow - pot holes
- v) Drain between Burblethwaite, Fellside and Bonners Farm - drain located and marked up
- vi) Pot holes Branthwaite Bridge, Fellside
- vii) Upton, Caldbeck - road surface
- viii) Pot holes between Upton and the Wath
- ix) Pot holes between Hudscals and Street Head
- x) Pot holes between Street Head and Hesket Newmarket
- xi) Hesket Newmarket, Street Head/Woodhall Junction - surface water drainage/road
- xii) Pot holes between Woodall and Pasture Lane, Hesket Newmarket
- xiii) Pot holes Pasture Lane to Calebreck
- xiv) Calebreck to Hesket Newmarket - road disintegrating between cattle grid and the ford
- xv) Pot holes Pasture Lane to Howbeck
- xvi) Howbeck to Hesket Newmarket – dips in road where services have been laid
- xvii) Uneven road between Howbeck and Hesket Newmarket (previously marked for repair)
- xviii) Grass encroaching on the lane in front of play area at Hesket Newmarket affecting drains
- xix) Hesket Lonning road particularly near Throstle Hall
- xx) Riverside Caldbeck (opposite pub) – collapsed drain on pavement
- xxi) Warning signs at Faulds Brow and Wath Brow - issues raised with Philip Groom
- xxii) Culvert between Wath and Upton

It was agreed that items i), xiv) and xviii) were completed. Further faults need to be reported regarding items v), vi) and ix) and at Fellside and Pasture Lane/Haltcliffe Bridge - Clerk to action.

b) Other issues

i) Street lighting issues - reinstatement of light near Calva

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had met Dave Bryden, Allerdale Borough Council, on 9 October. The most sensible place for reinstatement of the street light is opposite Calva on the other side of the lane. Dave Bryden is arranging for quotations for a new lighting column, light and electrical installation. Once received, the Parish Council will discuss the costs with the owners.

Urgent items

Alison Young Poole reported that geocaching was damaging the cobbled area at Market Cross, Hesket Newmarket, and there were concerns about possible geocaching sites in Caldbeck. It was agreed to add geocaching to the Agenda for December's meeting.

Alison Young Poole reported on the hydrosacks which Allerdale is making available to residents as an alternative to sand bags. A stock would be held at Hesket Newmarket to assist with the general flooding problems above the play area as advised by Matt Bish. Residents should obtain hydrosacks for their own use from Allerdale.

12. Street Lighting

Mike Johnson confirmed that there will be no changes to street lighting arrangements next financial year 2020-21. Allerdale is to charge Parish Councils for electricity from April 2021 which for Caldbeck is estimated at £1,500 a year. Allerdale has decided to retain ownership of the street lighting stock, responsibility for maintenance resting with Allerdale.

The Chairman reported that Paul Doherty has the lighting bollard for near the bench, between the village and the school, and it is to be installed as soon as possible.

13. Street Cleaning

The Chairman reported that a small group met in Caldbeck 7 October to tidy the village. Others had also helped in their own time and their contributions were much appreciated. It was agreed that the work planned by Highways for Heskett Newmarket should be progressed before seeing if there was a need for local action.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would submit a proposal for a village tidying scheme for a Community Payback project, the Clerk to progress. It was agreed that the Parish Council should consult parishioners about the merits of contracting a part time lengthsman, estimated costs £4,000 a year.

14. Parish Plan and arrangements for consulting parishioners

Following discussion the Parish Council agreed to consult parishioners on various issues as part of its budget preparations. The Clerk would circulate a draft with the intention of preparing a report on the results of the consultation for the December Parish Council meeting. It was noted that the timetable is tight but at this point the expectation is that the next meeting should take place on 2 December as planned.

15. Monthly Accounts 2019-20

The Parish Council approved the following receipts and payments and budget monitoring report. It agreed to defer discussions of grant payments and change of signatories for the Cumberland Building Society to the December meeting.

a) Receipts

- i) Interest September £22.08; October £21.38
- ii) Precept 2nd instalment £6,165.00

b) Payments

- i) Mark Binney Grass cutting £1,243.75
- ii) Andrew Ward IT Services £180.00
- iii) Paul Doherty for Bollard Streetlight £275.99
- iv) HMRC Tax 2nd Quarter £270.20
- v) Simon Smith 2nd Quarter Salary and Expenses £952.74

c) Bank Balances

- i) Current Account £16,792.55
- ii) Deposit account £108,381.30 including £98,627.80 for Heskett Lonning footpath

d) On line banking arrangements operating satisfactorily. Bank figures as at 8 October 2019.

e) Budget monitoring report for first six months of 2019-20

16. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were noted:

- i) CALC: AGM invitation; Audit arrangements; Climate Change; log in details
- ii) Lake District National Park: September Report from Geoff Davies; Interactive Map
- iii) Allerdale Borough Council: Council Plan and Local Plan
- iv) Rural Services Network

17. Meeting Date

Date of next meeting 2 December 2019

Dates for 2020 already set

13 January 2020

Suggested dates for 2020-21

17 February 2020

23 March 2020 (Easter Monday is 13 April)

18 May 2020 (early May bank holiday is Friday 8 May - VE 75th Anniversary)

15 June 2020

27 July 2020

7 September 2020

19 October 2020

7 December 2020

11 January 2021

The meeting ended at 9:25pm