

CALDBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at Caldbeck Parish Hall on Monday 26 March 2018 at 7:55pm.

Cllrs Present: Norman Atkinson (Chairman), Paul Doherty, Ian Shaw, Christina Coulthard, Colin Smithson, Alan Tyson, and Tim Cartmell.

Also Present: Simon Smith (Clerk).

Prior to the meeting Paul Taylor, Community Led Affordable Housing Officer, Allerdale Borough Council, gave a presentation on funding possibilities and next steps, followed by questions and answers. Paul Taylor highlighted the support available for affordable housing, including grant funding from Allerdale for developing proposals and site acquisition. Discussions focused on possible green field sites and conversion of existing buildings. It was agreed that further exploratory work would be undertaken to gauge the likelihood of securing possible options agreements. If the prospects seem positive, it would then be timely to establish a Community Group to provide the necessary leadership for a Caldbeck affordable housing project.

26.3.18 - 1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Angela Glendinning, Alistair MacFadzean (holidays) and Richard Hellon (work commitments).

Cllr Duncan Fairbairn (County & Borough Councillor) also sent his apologies.

26.3.18 - 2. **Minutes**

The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 26 February 2018 as a true record.

26.3.18 - 3. **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

26.3.18 - 4. **Public Participation**

With no members of the public attending, there was no public participation.

26.3.18 - 5. **Planning applications and decisions**

a) **Applications**

i) **7/2018/2041 - Hudscapes, Heskett Newmarket, Wigton, CA7 8JZ.** Portal framed sheep shed to provide dry sheep accommodation with overhang feeding. **No objection.**

b) **Decisions notified by Lake District National Park**

i) **7/2018/2008 - Heskett Bridge, Heskett Newmarket.** Construction of concrete saddle, installation of sheet piles and a concrete invert, repair of damaged masonry. **Approved.**

26.3.18 - 6. **Heskett Lonning Footpath**

The County Council had not provided a copy of the independent report and had not given any indication of the likely outcome of the investigation, despite several requests. Given the absence of news, the Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Executive requesting a copy of the independent report under Freedom of Information and what the County Council's conclusions were. The letter would contrast the time taken with the County Council's three week timetable for dealing with complaints. The Clerk would also add an update on the petition website.

26.3.18 - 7. **Community Led Affordable Housing**

The Parish Council recognised the significant opportunities for grant funding for affordable housing and emphasised the importance of securing an option agreement for a project to gain momentum. It was agreed to ask Paul Taylor to explore how affordable housing might form part of a planning proposal for land already designated by the National Park, then review options.

26.3.18 - 8. **Grass cutting 2018 tenders**

Following discussion the Parish Council agreed to accept the tender from Mark Binney for the contract for the three years 2018 to 2020 for Caldbeck and Hesket Newmarket grass cutting. The tender was considered value for money, more competitive than the other tender, and affordable, being within budget. The quality of the documentation was also commended.

26.3.18 - 9. **Parish Maintenance**

Progress on Highways issues was noted.

Issues raised with Matt Bish, County Council Highways and responses:

- i) Warning signs at Wath and Faulds Brow - for 2018-19.
- ii) Hesket Newmarket to Newlands Road including Hesket Newmarket Bridge - bridge strengthening planning application approved. Work expected in summer. The Parish Council has highlighted the need to consider the strengthening alongside the approaches to the bridge and drainage work. The Clerk will seek confirmation that there are no proposals to increase the vehicle weight limit.
- iii) Hesket Lonning road particularly near Throstle Hall, Church Bridge - Better Highways team has visited but significant work is required.
- iv) Knocker Lane junction with B5299 - Gully Team notified.
- v) Lanes at Upton and Caldbeck Green - To be assessed and repaired when funds allow.
- vi) Drain between Burblethwaite and Bonners Farm - To be carried out in 2018-19..
- vii) A blocked drain near the Woodhall Road/The Street junction - Gully Team notified.
- viii) Potholes approaching Hudscals Farm from Hesket Newmarket near Street Head Better Highways notified.
- ix) Concerns about road safety at the Woodall Road/The Street junction for traffic emerging from Woodhall Road - Traffic Department notified and will contact the Parish Council.
- x) Deer Park water draining from lane - Meeting being arranged.

Following discussion Hesket Lonning was considered a high priority given the poor state of repair and its critical importance for the Parish. Significant repairs and improvements have been delivered in other parts of the Parish where traffic volumes are low. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for a meeting with Matt Bish, Highways so that the various issues could be discussed on site and a clearer timetable set for undertaking the repairs.

Other issues

- xi) Newlands Bridge tree and debris clearing - to be undertaken in the Spring.
- xii) Reporting via HIMS - Cllr Doherty reported some improvements in how the system was operating but weaknesses remained, it was only possible to upload one photo.
- xiii) Volunteer group to help tidy the villages - Cllr Cartmell reported that activity would recommence in the Spring.

There were **no other urgent matters** regarding parish maintenance and it was agreed to include Caldbeck Pond as an agenda item for the May meeting.

26.3.18 - 10. **Winter Maintenance arrangements**

In light of the recent snow clearance work undertaken at Fellside, the Parish Council's winter maintenance policy was reviewed. As the County Council had extended its gritting from Caldbeck to Hesket Newmarket a change was required to the Parish Council's priority routes. The Clerk would liaise with the Castle Sowerby Clerk to see if joint action might be useful for seeking an extension of gritting from Hesket Newmarket via Millhouse to the B5305 main road.

26.3.18 - 11. **Street Lighting**

The Clerk reported on the County Council's offer of help in erecting street lighting columns but there remained a need to establish who was best placed to provide an electricity supply and raise charges for supply and maintenance. Further information was expected from Allerdale Borough Council.

26.3.18 - 12. **Armistice Centenary Commemoration 2018**

The Chairman reported that Caldbeck History Society is preparing an insert for the November Magazine. The Parish Council remains open to further suggestions for any local commemoration and will continue to monitor any Cumbria-wide initiatives of interest.

26.3.18 - 13. **Sign Post Renovations**

Cllr Tyson agreed to inspect historical sign posts with a view to setting up a programme of renovations in the Parish. It was agreed the Hesket Newmarket sign post would be a priority, unless there were urgent requirements for repairs and restoration work elsewhere.

26.3.18 - 14. **Parish Council Audit arrangements**

The Parish Council noted there had been no changes to Standing Orders in 2017-18 which were approved. The only change to the fixed asset register was the addition of Tom Reed's plough and it was agreed to include the plough in the register at a notional value of £50.00. The Clerk reported Jean Airey, Internal Audit, would visit towards the end of April to review the Parish Council's year end submissions and undertake her annual audit.

26.3.18 - 15. **Monthly Accounts**

The receipts and payments since the last meeting were approved.

a) Receipts

- i) Interest March £9.12
- ii) Allotment and other rents received £41.00

b) Payments

- i) Clerk's salary and expenses January to March £872.13
- ii) HMRC payment in relation to salary costs - £188.60 to be paid, awaiting confirmation on information required for processing through on line banking
- iii) Snow clearance - awaiting invoice

The year end forecast receipts and payments and budget had been updated and was nearing conclusion. One or two additional items were expected to be cleared before 31 March.

c) Bank Balances

- i) Current Account £7,562.53
- ii) Deposit account £108,037.20 including £98,627.80 for Hesket Lonning footpath

d) On line banking progress - arrangements for monitoring bank balances were operating satisfactorily; full on line banking had been used for payments in March. Bank figures were as at 19 March 2018.

26.3.18 - 16. **Correspondence**

Items of correspondence received since the last meeting were noted:

- i) CALC Newsletter March
- ii) Lake District National Park February Report - Geoff Davies
- iii) Caldbeck Common 'Off Roding' - Kath Johnson
- iv) Cumbria in Bloom
- v) Cumbria Children's Dyslexia Project - Clerk has contacted the project to offer support if the project takes place in Caldbeck
- vi) United Utilities Stakeholder Update and grant arrangements - Clerk has followed up initial expression of interest
- vii) CALC 3 Tier meeting - apologies given

26.3.18 - 17. **Meeting Date**

Date of next meeting 14 May 2018 following Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting closed at 9:25pm