

CALDBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held at Caldbeck Parish Hall on Monday 16 December 2019 at 7:30pm.

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

Also Present: Mike Johnson, Cumbria County Councillor, Simon Smith (Clerk), Audrey Noble, Carole Marsters

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Paul Doherty and Tony Annison, Allerdale Borough Councillor.

2. Minutes

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

3. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Results of Consultation

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for the work that had been undertaken organising the consultation and single handedly collating the results. Each section of the consultation was discussed in order with the Clerk setting out the results:

4.1 Street Lighting

Allerdale Borough Council will turn off the street lights on 1 April 2021 if the Parish Council does not agree to pay for the electricity from that date.

Q.1.1 Do you wish to keep all the present street lights with the Parish Council paying for the electricity used?
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Yes 80% No 20%

Q.1.2 If you do not wish to keep all the present street lights, which one(s) do you want to see removed?
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A number of suggestions have been made for removing some street lights away from the centres of villages. Comments were also made about both orange lights and brilliant white lights adding to light pollution and there was a call for street lights to be switched off at 12:00pm, some parishioners preferring an earlier 'lights out'.
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Q.1.3 Would you prefer to see all the street lights removed?
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Yes 11% No 89%

In light of Allerdale's proposals, the Parish Council agreed to pay for street lighting electricity from April 2021. Over the next few months Alison Young Poole and John Brown for Heskett Newmarket and Alastair MacFadzean and Ian Shaw for Caldbeck would review street lighting and make recommendations as to which lights should be retained. The review would also consider the type of bulb fitted and the scope for having lights turned off at 12:00 pm. The Clerk would liaise with Allerdale about the extra costs for fitting timers and the reduced electricity consumption.

4.2 Public Toilets

Allerdale will cease to provide the public toilets in Caldbeck from 1 April 2020
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Q.2.1 Are you in favour of the Parish Council taking over the provision of the Public Toilets in Caldbeck?
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Yes 76% No 24%

Q.2.2 Would you like the Parish Council to explore further the provision of public toilets in Heskett Newmarket which would need funding?

Yes 30% No 70%

The Parish Council agreed to take on responsibility for public toilets in Caldbeck. Whilst Allerdale was prepared to refurbish the existing facilities, funds would not be made available for potentially equipping new facilities if a different site were identified. It was agreed to defer any publicising of existing Heskett Newmarket facilities pending purchase of the National Park land.

4.3 Caldbeck Green

Q.3.1 Are you in favour of keeping the current arrangements for cutting Caldbeck Green?

Yes 78% No 22%

Q.3.2 Would you like to see some areas away from the pond/car park left for a later cut to promote greater biodiversity?

Yes 68% No 32%

The Parish Council agreed to leave arrangements for grass cutting at Caldbeck as is for the third and final year of the contract. It would, however, consider any proposals from interested parties for managing certain defined areas so as to encourage greater biodiversity.

4.4 Hesket Newmarket Green

Q.4.1 Do you think the current grass cutting arrangements for Hesket Newmarket Green and car park area are satisfactory?

Yes 93% No 7%

Q.4.2 If No, please explain why?

Concern about grass clippings not being collected

The Parish Council noted the criticisms about grass clippings and agreed to find out the cost for collecting grass from the middle portion of Hesket Newmarket green. Once the Clerk has obtained the information, the Parish Council would consider if any change could be made to the contract.

John Brown asked if responses from Hesket Newmarket parishioners diverged from those of Caldbeck parishioners. The Clerk did not believe there were significant variations but agreed to check and report back on detailed findings.

4.5 Caldbeck/Hesket Newmarket Lonning Footpath

Q.5.1 Do you want a direct footpath, which can also be used by wheelchairs, along Caldbeck/Hesket Newmarket Lonning?

Yes 72% No 28%

Q.5.1.1 Do you want bicycles to be permitted to use the footpath?

Yes 52% No 48%

Q.5.1.2 Do you want the footpath created as a bridleway which would allow horses as well as bicycles?

Yes 29% No 71%

Q.5.2 Do you at present walk along Caldbeck/Hesket Newmarket Lonning between the two villages?

Yes 30% No 70%

If Yes how often?

A range of responses given from Occasionally to Weekly

If not why not?

'Too dangerous' was the most common comment with 'Better alternatives' also cited

Q.5.3 Would you use the footpath if it were created?

Yes 69% No 31%

If Yes how often?

A range of responses given from Occasionally to Daily

Q.5.4 Would you be in favour of the Parish Council lobbying the County Council to use its powers to issue a Footpath Creation Order?

Yes 52% No 48%

Q.5.5 Would you be willing to support the legal costs involved with a Footpath Creation Order?

Yes 31% No 69% Suggested contributions £6,190

Q.5.6 If establishing the full length direct footpath were not possible, would you use alternatives, eg:

Putting in a part path where landowners are in agreement;

Yes 55% No 45%

Other options?

Improve existing footpaths; widen lane; extend speed limits and enforce them

Q.5.7 Do you wish the Parish Council to abandon pursuit of the footpath and return the donation?

Yes 29% No 71%

The Parish Council agreed (with one abstention) to continue pressing for the establishment of the footpath. It was agreed to lobby the County Council and the media and to make use of public participation at the County Council meeting on 9 January 2020. The Clerk would write to the landowners advising them of the Parish Council's decision and emphasise the Parish Council's preference for agreement but that it had to take very seriously the risks posed for those walking along the lane and the strength of feeling shown by the 70% of parishioners who favoured a direct footpath. The letter would include an offer of a meeting to discuss the footpath and any other issues of concern where there might be opportunity for cooperation.

4.6 Purchase of National Park Land

Q.6.1 Are you in favour of the Parish Council purchasing the National Park land? Yes 82% No 18%
Q.6.2 Do you support the proposed arrangements for voluntary contributions for using the car parks? Yes 96% No 4%
Q.6.3 Do you support extending the Hesket Newmarket car park if planning and other arrangements were possible and funds were available? Yes 77% No 23%

The Parish Council agreed to proceed with the purchase of the National Park land contingent on the National Park's consultation and final decision. It would defer any decision on extending Hesket Newmarket car park until costs and income streams were clearer, together with an assessment of demand for extra car parking.

4.7 Parish Lengthsman

Q.7 Are you in favour of the Parish Council employing a part time lengthsman? Yes 68% No 32%
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The Parish Council agreed (with one vote against) to go ahead with a year's pilot and will seek to contract a lengthsman in the new financial year.

4.8 Budget Implications

Q.8.1 Are you in favour of the Parish Council increasing the precept to pay for street lighting? Yes 68% No 32%
Q.8.2 Are you in favour of the Parish Council increasing the precept to pay for public toilets? Yes 63% No 37%
Q.8.3 Are you in favour of the Parish Council increasing the precept to pay for a lengthsman? Yes 62% No 38%

The Parish Council agreed to make provision for the new functions by increasing the precept. The Clerk would prepare a two year budget to incorporate the additional costs for consideration and approval at the budget meeting on 13 January 2020.

5. Correspondence

The following urgent items of correspondence received since the last meeting were noted:

- i) Old Map Shop appeal to Secretary of State. The Parish Council agreed that it should submit its representations, highlighting its long held concerns about the size of the building, its lack of any private property surrounding the building, and the location, all suggesting that commercial activity would be the most appropriate use for the building. Norman Atkinson agreed to circulate a draft.
- ii) Fellside Centre. The Clerk reported that Allerdale Borough Council was expecting to take a decision on listing the Centre as a community asset that week and any further evidence on employment and possible interest in taking over the Centre as a going concern should be provided as soon as possible.
- iii) The Clerk reported on recent emails raising concerns about the failure by County Council Highways to grit the full route from Caldbeck to the B5305, and particularly the lane from Howbeck to Millhouse. Parish Councillors would be updated with progress as soon as possible.
- iv) The Clerk reported on recent discussions with Cumbria Police about speeding concerns. Traffic monitoring in both Caldbeck and Hesket Newmarket would be undertaken when resources permitted.

6. Meeting Dates

Date of next meeting, the **ordinary meeting to agree budget 13 January 2020.**

Dates for 2020

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 9:05pm