

CALDBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at Caldbeck Parish Hall on Monday 29 July 2019 at 7:30pm.

Cllrs Present: Paul Doherty (Vice Chair), Angela Glendinning, Norman Atkinson, Ian Shaw, Alastair MacFadzean, John Brown, Alan Tyson, Alison Young Poole, Paul Graham

Also Present: Elspeth Mackenzie, Liz Mounsey, Karen Atkinson & Sandra Pattison for item 4; Simon Smith (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Tim Cartmell (Chairman),

2. Minutes

The Vice Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 June 2019 as a true record.

3. Declaration of Interest

Paul Graham declared an interest in Item 5ai) as he had submitted the planning application for the tree work at St Kentigern's. John Brown drew attention to his potential interest in item 6 as a landowner adjoining the currently proposed route of the Hesketh Lonning footpath.

4. Public Participation

Report from Cllr Mike Johnson, County Council. In light of Cllr Johnson's other commitments, the Vice Chairman agreed to bring forward items 6, 11 and 10 as regards County Council and Allerdale Borough Council responsibilities.

4.1.1. Hesketh Lonning Footpath

The Clerk reported that Alan Tyson and he met Paul Haggin, County Council, and Mark Eccles, National Park, to walk from Hesketh Newmarket to Matthew Rudding to consider whether upgrading existing footpaths might provide an alternative to the proposed new footpath alongside Hesketh Lonning. Following the site visit, a discussion was held with Tim Cartmell. Both the County Council and National Park considered that whilst the Hesketh Newmarket - Matthew Rudding footpath could be upgraded, it would be costly, there were issues with the first field where the path does not follow the boundary, and the route ends at Upton or the footpath from Townhead to Caldbeck by Cat Craggs. Both officers recognised that even if the footpath were improved, people may still choose to walk along Hesketh Lonning and that there was much logic to the Parish Council's preferred route. The National Park's stated preference was for an end to end, one side of the lane route.

Alison Young Poole agreed with the attraction of a direct path between villages and referred to the new footpath that linked Gosforth and Seascale. The National Park had also highlighted the Bampton/Bampton Grange footpath.

The Parish Council was awaiting information on costs from the National Park and the County Council's written response to engagement in consultation.

Following discussion it was thought that exploring options was sensible and that further public engagement might lead to some consensus, perhaps through a Parish survey as part of updating the Parish Plan. Having the County Council and National Park alongside the Parish Council would help, assuming positive responses were received.

4.1.2. Parish Maintenance

Updates from the previous meeting:

a) Issues raised with Matt Bish, County Council Highways

i) Caldbeck Green - pot holes

ii) B5299 Ratten Row, Caldbeck - Surface water across road & Caldbeck Boundary Sign

iii) Warning signs at Faulds Brow

iv) Warning signs and Wath Brow

v) Upton, Caldbeck - Road surface

vi) Hesket Lonning road particularly near Throstle Hall

vii) Heskett Newmarket/Newlands - Step protruding on road towards bridge

viii) Heskett Newmarket, Street Head/Woodhall Junction - Surface water drainage/road markings

ix) Drain between Burplethwaite and Bonners Farm

x) Whelpo Bridge to Faulds Brow - pot holes

xi) Hudscals and Street Head; Street Head to Heskett New Market; and Woodhall to Pasture Lane - pot holes

xii) Cornhill House (the Old Police Station) - manhole was in need of attention

xiii) Calebreck Lane - road was disintegrating

xiv) Grass encroaching on the lane in front of the play area at Heskett Newmarket

The Clerk reported on a meeting with Matt Bish, County Council Highways, Norman Atkinson, Ian Shaw, Tony Annison, Allerdale Borough Councillor, and himself. Norman Atkinson had designed a route that visited the County Council Highways problems in the Parish to allow for inspection of the various sites.

Two items were closed:

vii) 'Before' and 'after' photos of the protruding step at Heskett Newmarket show it had not moved when the hedge was replaced by a wall.

viii) Extensive work has been undertaken to combat the drainage problems at Woodhall Lane. A large pipe has been installed under the lane taking collected drainage water from what was an inadequate soak away and piping it down the hill to Heskett Newmarket where it joins the main surface water drainage system and is taken underground to discharge into the beck and the Caldew.

The damaged drain at Burplethwaite (item ix) was also located and marked for repair.

Matt Bish considered the site visits beneficial in seeing all the problems throughout the Parish. He has reported the various potholes and road surface concerns to the Better Highways teams. A new system is operating where Highway Condition officers carry out inspections with teams following behind repairing the defects picked up from inspections. The existing teams are working on defects raised through HIMS so they should be attending to the ones seen during site visits. The new way of working is expected to see improvements with dedicated teams repairing defects within 24 hours, 5 days and 20 days depending on how serious they are. New defects should be logged on HIMS so that all problems are properly recorded and then repaired within the specified timescales, with the appropriate teams notified to take the necessary action.

Following discussion the Parish Council agreed that the meeting and site visits had been helpful and looked forward to seeing the new arrangements resulting in progress on repairs. Cllr Johnson thought the new systems would help deliver better results.

4.1.3. Waste management arrangements

Cllr Johnson provided background information on Allerdale Borough Council's new contract for waste collection and the problems that had arisen leading to the suspension of some services - garden waste and plastics/glass. In planning to deliver £400,000 savings, the contractor had sought to introduce a new design where properties were put into zones enabling a reduction in numbers of collection vehicles. This had not worked and the contractor had been unable to

deliver the service. The Council had examined the problems and was working with the contractor to reinstate the suspended services, hopefully before the notified two month suspension period. Meantime residents were encouraged to take their recyclable waste to public recycling facilities. The Parish Council noted the pressure at Sykes Road, Wigton and the facilities by the Parish Hall where Allerdale Borough Council had responded positively to requests for additional collections. Cllr Johnson suggested that if households had spare capacity in their household waste bins, it was acceptable to dispose of plastic and glass, ideally in the old purple bags to aid recycling efforts. He explained that household waste was sorted and recyclable materials gathered, before the non recyclable waste was sent to landfill.

4.1.4 Possible transfer of public toilets and street lighting

In addition to the items brought forward on the Agenda Cllr Johnson referred to Allerdale Borough Council's proposal to cease provision of public toilets and street lighting services. Parish Councils therefore had the opportunity to run these services themselves and would have to fund the services if they chose to take them on. Parish Councils would no doubt wish to consult their parishioners about the services and exactly what services they wished to offer, reviewing existing provision and determining what facilities would continue to be operated (such as the exact number/location of street lights). Parish Councils would want assurances on the condition of assets transferred and Allerdale Borough Council was prepared to upgrade public toilet facilities prior to transfer. The Parish Council noted that it had already built into its budget provision for some of these services. Further work would be required to ensure that budget provision was adequate for any services which were to be provided.

4.2 Report from Cllr Tony Annison, Allerdale Borough Council.

Cllr Annison reported that he was a member of Allerdale Borough Council's Scrutiny Panel which would be examining the waste collection arrangements in detail. He was attending as many Parish Council meetings and activities as possible in Warnell and emphasised that he was happy to support Caldbeck Parish Council in any way he could.

4.3 Representations regarding grass cutting of Caldbeck Green

The Vice Chairman invited Elspeth Mackenzie to set out the findings of the flower and plant survey and the concerns of residents as regards grass cutting arrangements. Elspeth Mackenzie highlighted the variety of plants and flowers found and the role they played in supporting biodiversity for populations of insects and animals who depend on insects. Plants need to flower and set seed so times of mowing are critical to maintaining biodiversity. Elspeth Mackenzie wished to work with the Parish Council to see if some changes to dates of cutting might help support greater biodiversity. Liz Mounsey also spoke in support of reviewing timings of grass cutting so that meadow flowers had better chance to seed.

Karen Atkinson and Sandra Pattison made the case for supporting the current arrangements. They highlighted the concerns of many residents and visitors who take pleasure from seeing the Green kept in its current tidy condition but worry this would be lost if the grass were left to grow for longer periods. The current grass cutting arrangements allow for easy access of the Green on foot, particularly from the car park and all around the pond, and there was concern changed arrangements would impede access for those enjoying the Green.

During discussion a suggestion was made to set up a Working Group to explore options and for wider consultation with parishioners. Alison Young Poole offered to join any Working Group. It would also be important to take advice from the Parish Council's contractor on possible changes to specifications and the impact of any changes on costs and operations.

The Vice Chairman concluded that there was a need for further reflection and that the Parish Council would therefore consider the way forward at the September meeting.

5. Planning applications and decisions

The Parish Council noted the following planning applications. Its response had already been submitted in relation to tree work at St Kentigern's Church given the deadline prior to the meeting.

a) Applications

- i) [T/2019/0099](#) **Work to collection of mixed tree types St Kentigern's Church, Caldbeck - No objection**

b) Decisions notified

- i) [7/2019/2115](#) **High Intack Farm, Caldbeck, Wigton, CA7 8HL** Demolition of outbuildings and construction of a new build storage/implement shed **Approved with conditions**
- ii) [T/2019/0083](#) **Greensyke, Caldbeck, Wigton, CA7 8ER** Tree Work in Conservation Area Fell two Norway spruce **No objection - work allowed**

The Parish Council also discussed the notification of an application for a Certificate of Lawful Use for **John Peel Farm Barn, Caldbeck CA7 8HJ** [7/2019/2177](#) which was received after the agenda had been circulated. The affidavit states that John Peel Barn and John Peel Cottage have been used as separate buildings since 2010. Whilst the letter was sent for information and does not require comment, the Parish Council expressed its concerns that such practices were increasingly common and could be used to circumvent planning arrangements. The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk should write to the National Park raising these concerns.

6. Hesket Lonning Footpath - see 4.1.1. (no further discussion)

7. Community Led Affordable Housing

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received the grant from Allerdale Borough Council and that Stuart Woodall, Green Swallow, had been appointed to undertake the consultancy. The final report should be completed by the 14 October meeting with a progress report for 2 September. A meeting of the Working Group would be arranged if required.

8. Lake District National Park land disposals

The Clerk reported that the National Park's Executive Board is expected to sign off the sales in the next two weeks and then move to the consultation stage. The Parish Council has suggested a number of people and organisations who should be consulted. The Treasury has approved the sales and the National Park and the Treasury are discussing what should happen to the receipts.

9. Repair of Hesket Newmarket benches

The Clerk reported that Ken Graham had been in touch with the Chairman and that Men in Sheds would take on the work in due course.

10. Waste management arrangements - see 4.1.3 (continued)

The Parish Council agreed to request additional anti dog fouling notices and larger public refuse bins from Allerdale Borough Council when stocks were available.

11. Parish Maintenance - see 4.1.2 (continued)

b) Other issues

- xv) Street lighting issues - reinstallation of light near Calva

The Clerk reported that a site meeting with David Bryden, Allerdale Borough Council, and Brian Holmes, County Council, is being arranged to determine whether and where a street light could be reinstated.

12. Street Lighting

The Vice Chairman reported on solar lighting options and distributed two options - a street lighting column costing £2,000 and foot lighting bollards costing £290. He recommended the bollards on both aesthetic and cost grounds. The Parish Council agreed that the bollards should be further explored and that it would be worth installing one (or two) between the school and the village to see if this provided an appropriate solution.

13. Monthly Accounts 2019-20

The Parish Council approved the following receipts and payments since the last meeting.

a) Receipts

- i) Interest July £21.36
- ii) Grant Payment for Affordable Housing £1,940.00

b) Payments

- i) Mark Binney Grass cutting £1,140.00
- ii) PFK advice on National Park land purchases £198.00
- iii) Mrs E Benson Cleaning disabled toilet February to April 2019 £100.00
- iv) HMRC tax first quarter £207.00
- v) Simon Smith salary and expenses first quarter £978.74

c) Bank Balances

- i) Current Account £13,603.98
- ii) Deposit account £108,315.76 including £98,627.80 for Hesket Lonning footpath

d) On line banking arrangements operating satisfactorily. Bank figures as at 23 July 2019.

14. Correspondence

The Parish Council noted the following items of correspondence received since the last meeting:

- i) **CALC:** June & July Newsletter; Cumbria Action; Connecting Cumbria
- ii) **Lake District National Park:** June Report from Geoff Davies
- iii) Rural Services Network
- iv) Running events - Grand Tour of Skiddaw 31 August and Cumbria Way 14&15 September

15. Meeting Date

Date of next meeting 2 September 2019

Dates for 2019

14 October 2019

2 December 2019

13 January 2020

The meeting ended at 9:25pm