

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16th
DECEMBER 2016 AT 7.30pm

PRESENT: Mr R Hart (Chairman), Mr W Douglas, Mr W Bradley, Mr J Kendall, Mr J Hanley, Mr A Jones, Mrs P Jones, Mr A Armstrong

APOLOGIES: P.C.S.O. Peter Crome

ALSO PRESENT: Mr G Proud, Councillor A J Markley

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION: None.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION: None.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st November 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record. Mr R Hart pointed out, however, that Mr John Dickenson (our contact with Environment Agency) is based in Abbeytown; he does not live there.

MATTERS ARISING:

Clerk stated she had been to HSBC Bank with confirmation she has been Clerk for over 26 years and they have accepted this.

Dovenby Game had stated they could not supply us with a Christmas tree this year. A tree has, however, been obtained from Mr Bill James of Bank Mill. Thanks were extended to Mr J Hanley and his family for putting the tree up.

Mr J Kendall provided a cutting from the local newspaper re. replacement street lighting saying concerns had been raised over safety. C.C.C. have replaced lighting to make it more efficient and cheaper. However, it was felt the lights were not bright enough and it was feared they could pose a health and safety risk and possible rise in crime. It was agreed Councillor J Lister be advised of our concerns.

TARMACING:

Clerk said Dempsters have not responded to 2 e-mails re. Breakdown of their estimate and it has not been possible to contact them by telephone. Mr W Douglas said he thinks we should go ahead and carry out the work and we do not really need a breakdown. Mr A Jones and Mr R Hart felt we do need a breakdown/itemised account. It was agreed Clerk try again to contact Dempsters. It was felt this was the best quote but it needs breaking down,

POLICE REPORT:

A report was received from P.C.S.O. Peter Crome. Crime figures must now be obtained via Cumbria Police website- www.twitter.com/cumbriapolice.

PLAYGROUND:

An e-mail has been received from A.B.C. re. The Playground Inspection which is expected to take place in March 2017.

Mr R Hart reported that Councillor J Lister has awarded £1796⁵⁰ towards replacement 'singles' equipment.

SEATS AND BENCHES:

Mr L Parker has stated nothing has been decided as yet. Mr R Hart said one bench at the top end of the village is in a bad condition.

PROGRESS OF HANDYMAN: None.

PROGRESS ON TOILETS:

An e-mail was received from Abigail Borrowdale, Solicitor, saying she is yet to receive a response from A.B.C. though she has chased them up. She says the matter has turned out to be more complex than initially expected. She originally gave us an estimate of costs as £1200 but her time costings currently stand at £2902.50. If the matter were to proceed to completion shortly without any further complications she would anticipate raising an invoice of £2000.00 + V.A.T. If, however, any further complications arise then her costs will increase. A further e-mail was received from Abigail Borrowdale following our letter asking her to proceed as the contract has been signed by Mr R Hart and Mr W Douglas. She said there are matters outstanding on which she requires our comments before proceeding:-

1. A.B.C. are not prepared to meet the cost of £80.00 for "missing information insurance policy".
2. She awaits a reply from Jill Morgan, A.B.C. re. Supply of consent from C.C.C. to the transaction.
3. She notes we wish to proceed despite a number of matters remaining unanswered.
4. A.B.C. have indicated £2500 will be paid to Allonby Parish Council. Rather than include this in the contract (which would make it a continually binding obligation on them) they have suggested this is dealt with in a side letter and she awaits a copy of this letter. She says there is conflicting authority as to whether side letters are legally binding documents and she wants confirmation from Parish Council they are prepared to accept this. She requests confirmation we are prepared to accept the position.
5. She awaits a copy of the Minutes from Parish Council confirming that the terms have been discussed and Parish Council have agreed to proceed on those terms with authority from Mr R Hart and Mr W Douglas to be signatories.

She also says she looks forward to receiving the sum of £2456 prior to completion.

Clerk reported a telephone call from Jill Morgan, A.B.C. who stated the only delay re. this matter was when she took over the job from her predecessor. It was agreed to proceed with this matter.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The following items were received and noted:-

1. From 'Elements' Outreach Cumbria a Book - "Between Fell & Sea" - passed to Mrs P Jones.
2. E-mail from Mark Hodgkiss, C.C.C. Scheduled Bus Services Officer, stating Reay's have informed them they intend to withdraw the Silloth to Maryport bus service from 28th January 2017 as they say the service is not viable on a commercial basis. Mr Hodgkiss says they will be contacting other operators to see if there is any interest in offering an alternative service.
3. E-mail from C.A.L.C. re. LCR Opinion Question - passed to Mr R Hart.
4. E-mail from C.A.L.C. re. Fibre Broadband in Cumbria.
5. From N.A.L.C. PC Transparency Compliant Websites - passes to Mr R Hart.
6. E-mail from C.A.L.C. - Developing Your Skills Programme.
7. E-mail from The Pensions Regulator advising all members of staff aged between 22 and state pension age and earn over £833 per month must be written to and enrolled into a pension scheme. Any other employees outside the above criteria have to be written to advising they can join or opt into a scheme and then the declaration of compliance will need to be completed. As Clerk is the only employee and does not meet the criteria Pensions Regulator to be advised.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Allonby Village Hall - Mrs P Jones reported they have a grant of £2500 towards re-wiring. They are hoping to start work in Spring to get the wiring done.

Allonby Community Forum - Mr R Hart reported the Community Forum have applied for a grant of £2500 for some play equipment.

PLANNING:

Application was received for outline application for proposed residential development - Land at Wigton Road, Allonby. This application was circulated amongst members. A reply was sent to A.B.C. prior to the deadline for replies objecting on the grounds this is a very narrow road with no pavement for pedestrians entering the village and any increase in footfall and vehicles would exacerbate an already

dangerous situation. There are concerns that water run-off would increase the flooding situation as this road is currently liable to flooding. It is of concern that the new access into the site is just after a blind bend on the Westnewton side. This development is opposite a planned housing development which has already got outline permission on a very narrow road and it is felt the pavement should be set back to allow delivery vehicles parking etc as this road would be blocked.

CONSIDERATION OF CHANGING BANKS:

Mr A Jones is now a signatory of the account and it was agreed to stay with HSBC Bank for the time being.

CONSIDERATION OF 2017-18 PRECEPT:

A letter was received from A.B.C. including Precept claim form to be returned by 20th January 2017 and advising that the C.T.R.S. grant for 2017/18 is £223.76.

At this point Councillor Markley entered the meeting.

Mr W Douglas said as we are taking over the toilets we should apply for £10,000.00. This was agreed.

It was felt we should ask Dr B Irving if he could contribute £500 towards grass cutting costs. It was agreed a letter be sent to Dr Irving.

Mrs P Jones said Mr Peter Stoddart had asked about paying accounts. He said instead we could buy 2 new strimmers next year. Two strimmers are also being provided by the Church and he is to get quotes. He thinks it will be under £400 each. Councillor Markley said it is a public body and we must make sure the work is being done. He said we must be very cautious and get it in writing.

FINANCE:

Clerk reported receipt of £400.00 rent from the Allotments Association.

Account was received from Mr A Sim for £2400.00 for grass cutting. Mr J Kendall said we should write to Mr Sim thanking him for the work done and also write to Community Payback for their work - agreed.

Account received from Ellis Bros Ltd for items purchased by Mr C Ireland, Handyman - £36.25 agreed. Concerns were expressed that Mr Ireland is purchasing tools/equipment for himself which he should already have - a saw and paint brushes. Mr R Hart said he will speak to him about this. Mrs P Jones said maybe we should check we agree with items the Handyman gets in future.

Account from Bank Mill for Christmas tree - £180.00 passed for payment. It was suggested Iggesund may provide Christmas trees.

Clerk's salary and expenses were agreed as follows:-

Pay period 21st November to 18th December 2016

12 1/4 hours at £8.717 per hour = £106.77

Less Income Tax of £21.20 = £85.57

Reimbursement of expenses:

Heating of Hall - £1.00

Postage - £3.81

Photocopying - £6.40

Stationery - £2.35

Total = £13.56

Plus 3 months, telephone expenses

Rental - £26.80

Calls - £10.80

V.A.T. - £7.52
Total = £45.12

Total amount payable = £85.57 + £13.56 + £45.12 = £144.25.

Quarterly payment of income tax to HMRC - £67.20 agreed.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

Bus service. Councillor Markley said C.C.C. are in discussion with another contractor who is considering taking it on.
Future of the graveyard.
Lighting.

Mr W Bradley said Allonby First Responders are stopping as they can't get new members. It was decided the defibrillators could go on the toilets when we take them over and the school but boxes are needed for the defibrillators. Boxes cost £520.00 + V.A.T. each. Mr D Owen, Headteacher, is agreeable to having one on the school. Councillor Markley said maintenance must be considered. Mr Bradley asked if Parish Council could pay for one box and First Responders' funds covering the second box. Parish Council could claim the V.A.T. back. Councillor Markley asked could one defibrillator be sold. The defibrillators need to be connected to an electricity supply. Mrs Jones proposed the Parish Council pay for one box and Mr W Bradley seconded the proposal. A vote took place and 5 were in favour therefore agreed.

Mr J Kendall said lump was gouged out of land opposite Blue Dial and there are no groynes therefore could we write to Dr B Irving. Though it is not in our Parish there was concerns about the state of the seashore; it could impact on Allonby. Councillor Markley said sea defences are A.B.C.,s responsibility and C.C.C. will not do anything until it breaches. It was agreed a letter be sent to Dr Irving about the state of the seashore and how it might impact on Allonby.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

16th January 2017 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm when members stayed together for social discourse.