**DEAN PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the Kirkstile Community Centre

on Monday 3rd March 2025 at 7.30 pm

**Present**: Mr. Chittenden (Vice-Chairman), Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Smith, Mr. Haslam, Mr. Scott, Mr. Agnew, Mr. Worsley, Mrs. Holmes, and Rev’d. Morgan (Clerk).

**Also Present**: Mr. McNeely (Tendley Quarry)

*In the absence of the Chairman, the meeting was chaired by Mr. Chittenden.*

**101/24 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Hayman (work commitment) and Mrs. Pallister (on holiday),

Mrs. Moore (family commitment), Mr. Semple (Cumberland Councillor). The apologies were accepted.

**102/24 Public Participation** – none, as all were present for agenda business.

**103/24 Visitors’ Business**

Mr McNeely updated the council on activities at the Quarry. Land towards Brigham had been acquired which would extend the life of the quarry by 20 years, providing a small, deeper extension to the quarry. EIA scoping was already in the public domain and open to questions and observations. It was hoped to hold a public meeting at the end of the consultation period. The quarry will be busier but will not exceed its planning permission and is estimated to be around 75% capacity. There will be more out of hours working at the asphalt plant this year. In answer to questions from councillors, Mr McNeely offered the following:

* + The crusher/screener is not used at the asphalt plant. Please report any noise nuisance to him.
  + The rock is good rock and lends itself to the production of agricultural lime as well as asphalt.
  + The extension will move operations 40m to 100m closer to Brigham, it is currently quite a distance from the village boundary.
  + Mr Thomas Clifford, an expert in his field, is working with Tendley Quarry on methods of data collection and technical details to ensure that air pressure, ground vibrations etc. are measured most appropriately.
  + The planning application was currently on the Cumberland Council website.
  + Tendley is currently working on a phased restoration of land.
  + The extension would not permit working along the full length of the embankment along Hotchberry Road and would not extend as far as the new banking.
  + The end stage would be a pond of 50 – 60m depth which nature would reclaim.

Mr McNeely offered an open invitation to councillors to visit the quarry.

*Mr McNeely left the meeting at 7.46pm*

**104/24 Declarations of Interest –** Mr. Thomas and Mr. Worsley declared an interest under Minute No. 115/24 c.

**105/24 Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2025 were approved, subject to the removal of the words ‘at this time’ from minute 95/24e, and on the proposal of Mrs. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Scott, signed by the chairman.

Mr.Thomas congratulated the clerk on the manner in which a complex meeting had been minuted.

**106/24 Matters arising from the minutes not covered on the agenda** - none.

**107/24 Report from Cumberland Councillor Mr. A. Semple**

The following report was received**:**

“Full Council meeting Tuesday 4 March

We have an 800-page agenda and the main items are to agree the council budget of £332.57 million and to set the Council Tax for 25/26. Of course, this is my first time chairing such a complex meeting and there are likely to be tabled amendments from the other political groups. My role as Chair of the Council is a non-political one and I always want to make sure that everyone gets a chance to have their say. And in doing that, ensure we stick to time or else we will all be there until next week! It helps that I know all the councillors now and the good thing is that all are decent people and (without tempting fate) disagreements are aired civilly.

Rosehill Board

Assuming I get back in time I shall be attending the Rosehill Theatre Board meeting between 5pm and 7.30pm. And, yes, its another budget meeting. I am the council’s representative on the Rosehill Board and I was recently on the Kirkgate Arts Board so I know my way around the challenges the arts sector has. After that meeting, as Pepys would say “and so to bed..”

Wednesday 5 March – Cumberland Local Plan update

For two hours in the morning there is a Teams briefing for councillors about the progress towards the Cumberland Local Plan and Community Investments. I was tremendously impressed with the work you have done with the local plan for Dean – absolutely outstanding! I hope to be involved in working groups as we shape the Cumberland Plan and will let you know of progress.

Friday 7 March – Cockermouth Civic Trust Vision 25

In the morning I have a briefing with Michael Barry, the neighbourhoods Assistant Director, on Cockermouth Civic Trust’s “Vision 25” document. Like the Dean plan, its full of great ideas and vision. We’ll be looking to incorporate the Civic Trust’s suggestions where we can again all this is part of the Cumberland “jigsaw” – to extend that metaphor there’s no current full picture on the box but it’s getting there!

Saturday 8 March – Crosscanonby Community Centre

Our Lakes to Sea Community Panel are there between 10am to noon. We will be there to hear what young people aged 10 to 16 have to say about the kinds of activities they need funding for. The event will particularly focus on what services are needed in the villages of Birkby, Crosby, Crosscanonby and Gilcrux. We have fun activities and free snacks to keep all entertained.

W/c 10 March – Health and our communities

On Tuesday 11 March I’m at the Community Health and Wellbeing Conference for south Cumberland – in my role as Council Chair.

Then on Thursday 13th March I will be, as a member of that committee, at the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The main focus will be on mental health services and provision and there is a presentation about the research going on to understand why Copeland has one of the highest suicide rates in England. In the evening, I will be chairing the Lakes to Sea Community Panel in Ireby, where we will agree our final neighbourhood investments for the 24/25 financial year. We have an application to consider from the Pardshaw Quaker Centre as they plan to widen engagement with and for the local community. I’ll make sure you get feedback from the meeting.”

The Parish Council considered making a joint response to the Mayoral Proposals but declined to do so.

**108/24 Updates on Visitors’ Business from January meeting:**

1. **Viberoptix**

Eaglesfield – Parish Council decision cannot be made until requested information is received – clerk to write again.

Deanscales – Parish Council ought to have been consulted although has no right to veto. Clerk to request wayleave agreement for poles on Deanscales Village Green.

1. **Pardshaw Quaker Centre**

Chair and vice-chair to meet Mr. Day at the centre on 8th March 2025 at 2pm for a liaison visit. There is an open invitation to all members of the parish council to visit the centre.

**109/24 Community-led plan for Dean Parish**

A proposal paper had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that a workshop for Parish Councillors would be held on 16th March from 2pm until 5pm in Ullock Village Hall.

**110/24 Update on Website**

Mr. Haslam reported that the website is now listed on Google and is fairly up to date on documentation. It was agreed that Mr. Haslam would remain as an administrator for the site to avoid the vulnerability of having just one single point of access. Handover to the clerk expected before the next meeting.

**111/24 Adoption of Policy Documents**

Draft copies of the following documents had been circulated by email prior to the meeting:

i. Risk Management Policy and Protocol

ii. Risk Assessment

iii. FOI Policy

On the proposal of Mr. Haslam, seconded by Mr. Smith, it was unanimously agreed that the policies be adopted.

It was noted that some mandatory training is required for a Sexual Harassment Policy (to be brought to the next meeting for approval). The Clerk was instructed to ask CALC if there is online training available.

**112/24 Reports**

1. **Dean Community Response Group**

**The following report was received:**

“On 3 Feb, members of the Community Response Group committee met. After visiting the Emergency Equipment store in the St Oswald’s Old Gas House to view the equipment and the storage arrangements. The meeting reconvened in the village hall to discuss lessons learned from the recent Storm Eowyn outages. These lessons are summarised as

a. The priority of use for the CRG emergency equipment should be:

i. Village Halls for warm places

ii. Vulnerable people and those with special needs

iii. Groups of houses

iv. Individual loan (to be given up if a higher priority occurs)

b. It would help to set up Village Halls as places of refuge etc earlier in the event – any member of the CRG can make this call

c. For minor outages affecting small numbers of properties people need to bring their own cooking utensils if using the village hall kitchens. For major events with many houses affected communal catering using the bigger CRG utensils will be considered.

d. Consideration should be given to providing notices or guidance on the facilities available in each hall for use in the event of an emergency.

e. It was observed that some modern deep freezes and fridge /freezers have a “starting current” which can exceed the capacity of the CRG generators, which were sized and procured for portability, lighting and light electrical loads only.

f. Showers are available in schools; this may need liaison between CRG members and school management to set up for limited public use outside of the school day

g. Since it is impracticable for there to be a “duty CRG lead” in the event of an emergency, or potential emergency, the available GRG committee members should consult where possible but each member has the authority and necessary information to initiate an emergency response.

h. It would be helpful to have individual WhatsApp groups for each village sponsored by a CRG member resident in that village for use in emergency only.

i. It was decided to conduct a slow time exercise in the better weather to demonstrate the equipment and familiarise the volunteers with the developing arrangements.

j. An article has been produced for dissemination in Parish Magazines summarising the learning from Storm Eowyn and the subsequent meeting.

k. The Dean Parish Council is to be approached for budgetary approval to cover routine maintenance and replacement of consumable items such as fuel and disposables after use.”

On the proposal of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Ferguson it was unanimously agreed that a budget line for the community response group to cover routine maintenance and replacement of consumables be established with an annual fund of £200. It was noted that £50 had already been banked by the group which had been received from Electricity Northwest as a result of Mr. Chittenden’s discussions with them. It was confirmed that no fuel is stored and equipment is loaned on the understanding that people provide their own fuel.

1. **Dean Moor Solar and Lostrigg Solar**

Dean Moor had sent an update to their draft community benefit strategy in January, which the joint Dean/Distington group had met and discussed. Certain aspects of the offer had improved but compared to Potatopot the offer was still derisory. Various possible responses were outlined which were discussed in full. A draft response document had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. On the proposal of Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, it was agreed that the draft document be sent to Dean Solar.

An email had been received from the Fultons requesting support from the Parish Council. It was agreed that Mr. Smith would draft a letter to Dean Moor in support of the Fultons. Members had been given assurances in December that the issues had been resolved, which was clearly not the case.

It was noted that Josh MacAlister and Kevin Peel were being very supportive of the Parish Council’s position.

1. **Open spaces –** Nothing new this meeting.

**113/24 Litter Pick**

It was agreed that this would be held on Saturday 5th April. Clerk to ask Cumberland Council to drop equipment at Mr. Thomas’ home and to arrange collection of filled litter bags after the event. Mr. Chittenden to write an article for the Parish Magazine.

**114/24 Representatives to join locality police virtual meetings**

This is a new venture for the police. Two representatives are required to attend virtual meetings twice yearly. It was agreed that Mr. Haslam and Mrs. Moore would be Dean Parish Council’s representatives.

*Mr. Agnew left the meeting at this point – 9.15pm*

**115/24 Finances**

1. **Approval of payments**

The following payments were approved:

Clerk’s salary – March - net £ 257.23

Tax on March salary £ 64.30

Clerk’s expenses £ 48.55

Clerks salary - April– net £ 257.23

Tax on April salary £ 64.30

J A Lee (Dean bus shelter cleaning) £ 56.02

1. **Bank Account**

Bank Balance as at 06/03/25

Balance as per statement £18,985.04

Less outstanding cheques (£ 531.62)

Balance remaining £18,453.42

1. **Request for donation**

A request for a donation had been received from the Kirkstile Community Centre for unforeseen expenses. On the motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Moore, a one-time donation of £2,500.00 was approved.

1. **Annual Donations**

As the usual request letters had not been received prior to the meeting, on the motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Smith, the following were agreed in principle, pending receipt of the appropriate requests:

St Oswald’s Parochial Church Council, for grass cutting and production of the Parish Magazine £750.00

GNAAS £700.00

Citizens Advice Bureau £400.00

**116/24 Planning**

**Applications pending a decision**

Ref No: OUT/2024/0005

Applicant: Hewson Wood

Proposal: Outline consent for redevelopment of farm steading, involving the erection of 7 No. dwellings and associated infrastructure with all matters reserved except for layout and means of access (outline) (resubmission of OUT/2023/0017)

Location: Well Head Farm, Dean CA14 4TJ

Dean Parish Council to point out that the architects drawings show the bell mouth of the drive as going through the Well, and to insist that this does not happen.

Ref No: FUL/2025/0016

Applicant: Stockdale

Proposal: Conversion of 2 no. detached agricultural style sheds into one bedroom self contained units.

Location: Thorndyke, Pardshaw, CA13 0SP

Ref No: FUL/2025/0017

Applicant: Stockdale

Proposal: Conversion of detached store into one bedroomed self contained unit.

Ref No: FUL/2025/0018

Applicant: Stockdale

Proposal: Installation of 5 No. Glamping Pods in adjoining field, including access track.

Location: Thorndyke, Pardshaw, CA13 0SP

Dean Parish Council has no objections to the three Pardshaw applications but is concerned that collectively they will have a cumulative impact on traffic on roads through the village and surrounding area.

Ref No: HOU/2024/0181

Applicant: Josh Hoyle

Proposal: Alteration and extension to a previously converted barn comprising of an entrance porch, living room and external terrace on the ground floor and a bedroom, bathroom and walk-in wardrobe on the first floor.

Location: Hill Top Barn, Ullock, CA14 4TP

Dean Parish Council had no objections.

Applicant: Julie Waite

Proposal: Listed building consent for removal of uPVC porch to rear and replace with timber. Retrospective removal of dangerous chimney stack to rear elevations Removal of plasterboard drylining to dining room and replace with lime plaster

Location: Manor House, Dean, Workington, CA14 4TJ

Dean Parish Council had no objections.

Reference No: FUL/2024/0049

Applicant: J Skelton

Proposal: Conversion of a barn to dwelling

Location: Barn Opposite Southward Cottage, Pardshaw, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 0SP

Dean Parish Council had no objections

**117/24Amenity**

**a. Registered Land and Asset Register -**Nothing to report**.**

**b. Reg’s Round** – Agreed, remove from future agendas.

**c. Broadband –** Agreed, remove from future agendas.

**d. Repairs to noticeboards and seats.**

J T Décor had been asked to repair the Eaglesfield noticeboard with a leg splint but had not yet done so.

Mr. Thomas reported that the new Branthwaite seat is ready for installation.

**118/24 Highways Issues –** None.

**119/24 Reports on Meetings Attended**

The Cumberland Local Plan is out for consultation. It was agreed that the output from the 16th March meeting be used to refresh the 2014 submission, for discussion at the council’s May meeting.

**129/24 Communications addressed to the council –** Letter from Mr and Mrs Fulton. Mr. Smith to draft a reply.

**130/24 Confirmation of date of next meeting**

Monday 12th May 2025 at 7.00pm in the Kirkstile Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 10.18pm.

Signed as a true and correct record …………………………………….. Chairman

Date …………………………