

DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the Eaglesfield Village Hall on Monday
4th March 2024 at 7.30 pm

Present, Mr Hayman, Mr. Chittenden, Mr. Worsley, Mr. Haslam, Mr Thomas, Mr. Scott, Mr. Ferguson,
Mr Smith, Mrs. Moore, Mrs Pallister, Mrs Holmes, and Mrs. Lamb (Retiring Clerk), Rev'd Morgan (Clerk)
Also present Councillor Andy Semple (Cumberland Council), Mr Paul Tharagonnet (Distington Parish Council).

Mr. Hayman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Rev'd Morgan, the new Clerk.

99/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

100/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Ferguson apprised the council on several meetings which had taken place since January and recapped the history of the Dean Moor Solar Farm project. A sub-committee comprising Mrs Pallister, Mr Hayman, Mr Smith and Mr Ferguson from Dean Parish Council and Mr Tharagonnet and Mr Clarkin from Distington Parish Council had been formed and had produced a Joint Position Statement. Both Parish Councils would be asked to approve the statement, Distington Parish Council would consider the matter at their next meeting on 11th March. The public consultation was due to be held on 19th March (Distington), 20th (Dean) and 21st, so time was tight. The greatest risk would be that the money on offer should become a county wide package; if kept local it had the potential to allow some game-changing projects to be developed, possibly attracting matched funding. The first stage might well be to ask Dean Moor to support the production of a Development Plan. Subsequent steps would depend on Dean Moor being collaborative with the two Parish Councils.

Mrs Pallister and Mr Ferguson had met with Mr Lee Jackson (Greysouthern Parish Council) to discuss Greysouthern's position. It was understood that Winscales had been unable to form a Parish Council at this time.

Councillor Semple informed the meeting that the Company had made a presentation to Cumberland Council on the proposal and asked that he be kept informed of developments and would help if asked.

Mr Hayman explained that the money concerned was £500,000 over 40 years, which equated to £12,500 per annum. This is significantly less than the money disbursed by the Potato Pot Wind Farm, but Solar Farms are not tied to the same government rules about community benefit money, Dean Moor will be 'massively bigger' than Potato Pot.

On the proposal of Mr Thomas, seconded by Mr Chittenden, it was resolved that the Joint Position Statement be adopted.

It was further agreed that, in the event Distington Parish Council did not adopt the document, Dean Parish Council would use the same criteria unilaterally; Messrs Ferguson and Smith to attend Distington Parish Council's meeting on 11th March and Mr Hayman to forward the document to the developer once the result of Distington's deliberations were known; Messrs Hayman and Smith to be Dean's representatives for an opening dialogue with the developer and to ask for a meeting after the public consultation has taken place.

101/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

Mr. Ferguson proposed an amendment to 82/23 that the phrase 'list of land' be replaced with 'tree survey' - Mr Chittenden reported that he had asked CALC about the Open Spaces Register and had discovered that there is no legal requirement to hold one, but that, under the terms of Dean Parish Council's H & S Policy, play areas and seats need to be checked for safety monthly.

Mr Ferguson also asked that the wording of the final sentence of that minute be altered to replace 'was prepared' to 'agreed'.

Mr Ferguson proposed an amendment to 96/23 to read 'Mr Ferguson reported that the information boards were waiting to be erected. The order for the fingerposts has been placed with CCC to source and erect them.'

Mr Ferguson proposed an amendment to 97/23 to read 'permitted access' in place of 'right of way'.

The clerk to amend the minutes to be re-presented at the May meeting.

102/23 MATTERS ARISING

Goal Posts at Barker's Meadow

Mr Ferguson reported that the goal posts had been lifted and moved by persons unknown, and the pegs driven back in again to secure them. This had been done responsibly but not in line with the risk assessment. He had ensured that a temporary sign with the agreed wording had been put up but requested a permanent sign be purchased and erected, as per the Risk Assessment.

Mrs Moore stated that in her opinion the goal posts had been erected illegally and were therefore not insured. She said that she had archive documents from between 1995 and 2001 which prove that there is a covenant on the recreation area saying that no permanent structures should be erected on it. She felt that the matter needed a thorough discussion but was not prepared to let the documents out of her sight. Mr Hayman said that the council could not hold a discussion on documents it had not seen and agreed to meet Mrs Moore and look at the documents with her. The matter is to be placed on the agenda for the May meeting of the council.

104/23 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – none

015/23 OPEN SPACES REGISTER

It was agreed that it was time to abolish this document and to report by exception in future, although the topic of Open Spaces would remain as a standard agenda item.

Mr Thomas reported that he had affected a temporary refurbishment of the seat at Branthwaite which had rotted, although a replacement for the bench would be needed.

105/23 REPORT FROM CUMBERLAND COUNCILLOR ANDREW SEMPLE

Councillor Semple gave the following report.

i) **Full Council:** Cumberland Council will meet on Wednesday 6th March to agree its £319 million budget.

ii) **A Waste Services Review** was underway, and an online survey was commended to members. Clerk to circulate the link to councillors. The first implementation of the review's findings is scheduled for August 2024, to be fully implemented by 2026. Councillor Semple explained that the top line for Government policy is 'Simpler Recycling' and he has requested a Cockermouth roadshow for the proposals.

iii) **Local Transport Fund.** The Government had recently announced funding from the now shelved HS2 budget: £21 million per year for Cumberland Council over the next 7 years (2025 – 2032). This was intended to fund new roads and junction improvements, pothole repairs, better street lighting, community transport, improving a refurbishing bus and railway stations, and making streets safer for children.

Councillor Semple also thanked Messrs Thomas and Smith for driving him around and stated that the Lakes to Sea Panel had open spaces as one of its priorities and a new bench for Branthwaite could be funded from community money so long as the cost was less than £1500.

Mr Hayman thanked Councillor Semple for his report and asked council members to look at the online waste survey and respond. He asked whether the HS2 money could fund a bus service under council control and Councillor Semple agreed to action this and seek a reply from Graham Innes.

Mr Chittenden felt that the HS2 money would come under the Dept of Transport's Capital budget and any subsidy for running a bus service would be from a resources budget and asked whether any of the HS2 money would be released to underwrite community bus services. Councillor Semple replied that some money had been released for bus services some months ago – not HS2 money – and would be aimed at making bus routes sustainable. Mr Chittenden stated that the parish council needs to make some decisions on the future of the 217/218 buses quickly, and Mr Hayman said that the bus service was a vital component of community health and wellbeing.

106/23 DEAN LOCAL PLAN

Mr. Ferguson suggested that this be placed on hold for now. This was agreed.

107/23 SUSTAINABILITY

Mrs Pallister referred to an online carbon footprint report which showed Dean parish's carbon consumption to be greater than that of Greysouthern. Mrs Pallister agreed to send the link to the Clerk, to be circulated to all members of the council.

108/23 Defibrillators

- i) The Deanscales defibrillator had been delivered to the Old Posting House, Paul Russell to assess on Thursday 7th March with a view to installing it shortly after.
- ii) Replacement pads were needed for four defibrillators registered with the Community Heartbeat Trust. Mr Chittenden had ordered them and would pay for them then reclaim the money. Cost to be £448 + VAT. A £200 donation previously received would offset half of that but there was a need to look at budgeting for replacements. It was thought that the first responders fund might be able to contribute, with the Dean district committee due to meet on 5th March. Mr Thomas explained that the Branthwaite responders haven't met but do have some funds, and that the people to speak to were either 'Mona' or 'Jennifer'.

Councillor Semple left the meeting at this point – 8.30pm

109/23 REPORTS

a) Dean Community Response Group

This group had been due to meet but has held off until there is clarity on how to access the Potato Pot funding. Mr Hayman to contact Matt at Grantscape to advise on the new Clerk's contact details and to ask how to unlock the money from the fund. Once the money is available, procurement can be undertaken.

b) 217 Bus Group

Mrs Moore stated that the £3,200 from Grantscape had not materialised. Additionally, there had been no luck in finding an operator and Hobans were not pursuing a PSV licence. The last run would be on 27th March and the service would end after twelve and a half years. Mrs Moore said she was saddened by this as she and Mrs Lamb had put in a lot of work over the last six months, to no avail.

Mr Chittenden advised that an explanatory note had been posted in the bus stop at Ullock, presumed by Cumberland Council. Mr Hayman agreed to take a photograph of the notice and send it to Mrs Moore, and he would also take the matter up with Denise Rollo.

Mr Ferguson asked whether other local councils were providing similar services. Mrs Moore replied that this was the only Parish Council run bus service.

c) Dean Moor Solar Farm Committee

Already covered under Public Section.

110/23 FINANCIAL ISSUES

a) The following payments were agreed, and cheques signed:

Barbara Lamb salary- net	£ 344.83
Tax on Barbara lamb salary	£ 86.21
Barbara Lamb expenses	£ 34.55
Clerk's salary – March - net	£ 246.30
Tax on March salary	£ 61.58
Clerks salary April – net	£ 246.30
Tax on April salary	£ 61.58
Kirkstile Community Centre	£ 116.00
CALC – training	£ 60.00

Payment for the defibrillator pads was also approved at £448 + VAT, cheque to be issued in May.

b) It was noted that bus shelter cleaning had increased from £42.43 + VAT last year to £46.48 + VAT in line with price increases elsewhere. This was accepted.

c) On consideration of the balance sheet, circulated by Mrs Lamb, and on the proposal of Mr Scott, seconded by Mr Thomas, the following requests for donations were approved:

i	GNAAS	£650.00
ii	Dean Church	£700.00
iii	CAB	£350.00

111/23 PLANNING

The following applications were pending decision:

VAR/2022/0006 variation to condition 2 (approved plans) and condition 4 (approved drainage) on application FUL/2019/0215 to reflect design change and drainage details, High Croft Dean – Parish Council commented that the faceted SW elevation is inappropriate to the historical context of the original building.

CON/2022/0027 – compliance with condition 6 (face water) 7 (surface water) 8 (surface water) 11 (desktop study) of application 2/2021/0577, Mellfield, Dean – no objections.

FUL/2023/0143 – Change of use of derelict barn into 4 bedroom house with attached garage, Cragg Farm, Eaglesfield – no objection.

HOU/2024/0013 – rear 2 storey extension to create additional bedroom and extended ground floor living space (amended drawing and survey), 1 Moores Terrace, Eaglesfield - no objections.

The following application had been withdrawn:

OUT/2023/0017 – outline application for redevelopment of farm steading involving the erection of 7 dwellings and associated infrastructure with all matters reserved except for layout and means of access, Well Head Farm, Dean - implied in this application is the removal of the commercial farming activity to a new site. The two planning applications should be linked since they are dependent on each other - the culverted beck under the village overflows after heavy rain. Whilst the development should not make this worse, we would like assurances that extra run off channelled into the culvert has been assessed and measures considered to minimise occurrences of flash flooding in the village.

112/23 AMENITY

Registered land and Asset Register

Ullock Village Green - Mr. Hayman had not needed to write to Trudy Harrison MP as a reply had been received from the Land Registry and the correct address was now on the document. Full title can now be claimed. Mr Ferguson to liaise with the new clerk re the outstanding issues with registration of land.

Potato Pot Rights of Way – already covered.

Trees, The Bank, Eaglesfield – it was agreed to obtain professional advice on which of the trees were dangerous and in need of felling. Three quotes would be required for any work to be carried out. Lazy Lawns at Papcastle would be asked for an opinion, and to contact Mrs Moore for the exact location of the trees.

No other problems with trees were reported.

Mrs Lamb stated that she did not have the password for the Council's website, and it was agreed that Mr Haslam and Mr Hayman would look at the website and see what needed to be done with it.

Reg's Round – Mr Ferguson reported the signboards had been erected, aggregate added to the steps and access to the village improved. The dry-stone wall was under construction and Cumberland Council would install the fingerposts.

Broadband – Mr Haslam reported that the CA14 4TB area is experiencing very slow broadband speeds. Project Gigabit is seeking to roll out super high-speed broadband but hard to reach properties were not in the scope, although they may be in the scope of the commercial fibre optic project. Dean Parish is in the scope of Project Gigabit and their representative would be happy to meet with Parish Council reps via Teams or Zoom. Mr Haslam agreed to set up such a meeting and invite other members of the council to join it.

Repairs to noticeboards and seats – Mrs Lamb had contacted Mr Hammond, but he is not undertaking any new work. It was agreed that the clerk should ask J T Décor for a quote to revarnish the notice boards at Branthwaite, Pardshaw and Dean and to repair the gate leading to Barker's Meadow. Mrs Lamb to supply contact details for J T Décor.

It was agreed that a recycled plastic seat be purchased to replace the seat at Branthwaite. As Mr Lewthwaite had cut the grass around it and maintained the seat for many years, it was agreed that a plaque in his memory should be attached to the new seat. Mr Smith agreed to speak to Councillor Semple about a grant to purchase the seat and plaque, and to Mr Lewthwaite's family about the plaque.

Mrs Lamb advised that a VAT refund of around £1500.00 can be claimed.

Mrs Moore advised that the Pound Wall had been damaged, probably by a wagon clipping it, but felt that there was no point in repairing it until building work on the adjacent property is complete. Agreed – keep a watching brief for now.

Tree Survey – nothing further.

113/23 HIGHWAYS

Mr Chittenden reported that potholes are often patched, then the patch comes out and the road is left in a worse state than before.

It was agreed that the Clerk should invite the new Community Police Officer to a future meeting to introduce themselves to the council.

114/23 Report on Meetings Attended – none.

115/23 Communications addressed to the council – none.

116/23 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 13th May 2024 at 7.00pm in The Kirkstile Community Hall, Dean – Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm with a presentation of flowers and a gift to Mrs Lamb, retiring Clerk.

Signed as a true and correct record Chairman

Date