

DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the Eaglesfield Village Hall on Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.30 pm

Present, Mr. Chittenden, Mr. Worsley, Mr. Haslam, Mr Thomas, Mr. Scott, Mr. Ferguson, Mr Agnew, Mrs. Moore, Mrs Pallister and Mrs. Lamb (Clerk)

Also present Councillor Andy Semple (Cumberland Council) plus two members of the public

Mr. Chittenden welcome everyone to the meeting and said he was chairing the meeting as Vice-Chairperson in the absence of Mr. Hayman

81/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Hayman and Mrs. Holmes

82/23 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Mr Chittenden explained there were two interested parties in the Parish Council vacancy, Ray Perry and Mike Smith both of whom were present at the meeting. Mr. Chittenden gave each one the opportunity to speak. This was followed by a paper ballot and the results were checked by Mr. Chittenden and Mrs. Lamb – 4 for Ray Perry and 5 for Mike Smith. Mike Smith was therefore duly co-opted to serve as Councillor on Dean Parish Council. Mrs. Lamb to forward the necessary papers to Mr. Smith and to inform Cumberland Council.

83/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

84/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

Mr. Ferguson proposed an amendment to 62/23 relating to the setting up of a Sub-Committee to address how the Council should engage with the project. It was agreed Mr. Ferguson forward the appropriate wording to all Councillors and when agreed for the Clerk to amend the minutes.

Mr. Moore asked for 76/23 217 Bus Group be amended – Mrs. Moore reported the money pledged from Grantscape had not yet been paid into the 217 Bus Account. It was agreed the Clerk and Mr. Hayman would look into this. It was agreed once the wording had been agreed the minutes would be signed prior to the next meeting.

85/23 MATTERS ARISING

Registered Land – this is still ongoing.

Land Registry – the Clerk reported there had not been a response from the Secretary of State. It was agreed Mr. Hayman write to Trudy Harrison MP in order to expedite the matter. The Clerk to e-mail copies of correspondence to Mr. Hayman. It was also agreed to seek legal advice concerning the matter.

Proposed Solar Farm – It was agreed Mr. Ferguson e-mail for Councillors interested in forming a Sub-Committee to look into working with other parishes and Cumberland Council, engagement with the community, what is happening elsewhere in the Country and community benefit. It was also agreed the Clerk would ask Distington Parish Council at their meeting on 9th January if their members were interested.

86/23 APPOINTMENT OF PARISH CLERK

Mr. Chittenden reported interviews had taken place and that Judith Morgan had been appointed as the new Clerk to the Parish Council. Judith to take over on 1st March 2024 with Mrs. Lamb providing a handover and completing the financial arrangements at the end of March.

87/23 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – none

88/23 OPEN SPACES REGISTER

Mrs. Lamb said she had been unable to source the origin of the signing of an Open Spaces Register.

Mr. Ferguson said there were other areas where the Parish Council had responsibility which were not included. It was agreed Mr. Ferguson would prepare a list of land to circulate to members prior to the next meeting. It was agreed there would be an item on the agenda – Open Spaces Register- which would give Councillors the opportunity to raise any problems but that the book would not be signed in the future. Mrs Moore said she could not take on any other areas of land in Eaglesfield.

It was agreed Mr. Chittenden would seek advice on this matter from CALC

Mr. Scott reported a tree on Deanscales Green was in need of pollarding and treatment which he was prepared to undertake.

89/23 REPORT FROM CUMBERLAND COUNCILLOR ANDREW SEMPLE

Councillor Semple gave the following report.

Cumberland Council now has its first opportunity to shape a budget which reflects the priorities in the Council Plan. This is done in a challenging context: in a recent report from the County Council network in England, 42% of councils were not confident of producing a balanced budget by 2024/25 and this rises to 68% by 2025/26

The council faces significant demand on Children's and adult services - essential support services for our most vulnerable people. Meanwhile we await the promised Fair Funding Review from government. This is particularly important for more rural and sparsely populated areas like Cumberland, where the national methods of allocating funding simply do not work and leave us disproportionately worse off.

As your council plans its spending for the year, the views of residents have been sought and the online consultation (launched before Christmas) runs until Tuesday 31 January. Hard copies of the consultation information are available from libraries or any Council office.

The link for the consultation is www.cumberland.gov.uk/consultations

I would strongly recommend completion or at least access of the survey as there is a lot of information which explains the council's key priorities, achievements so far and what the council spends your money on. There is also an explanation, that for every £100 in funding £51.50 comes from Council tax, £29.80 from Business rates and £19.20 from Government grants.

My Council activities December 2023 On 6 December I attended my first Audit Committee since I took over the vacancy once Cllr Campbell-Savours joined the Executive. Later that evening I took part in an Emergency Planning and Resilience workshop. On 14 December I chaired the third Lakes to Sea Community Panel. On 15 December I met with Michael Barry, the Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods to discuss local issues and agree future priorities. On 18 December I was at site visits in the Carlisle area ready for the Planning Committee in Allerdale House on 18 December. On 21 December I took part in the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Allerdale House – there was an excellent presentation by North Cumbria Ambulance service and I learned a lot and I can feed back more once I hear back from the contact I made. And I started the year on 3 January by attending the Place Scrutiny Committee (chaired by Cllr Tony Markley) where there was a good discussion on the council's nuclear strategy. My aunts and uncles were amongst Britain's first nuclear workers and apart from a few years in the South lakes I have lived in an area where the nuclear industry has been hugely important so it was good to hear about the proactive work we intend to do.

Lakes to Sea Community Panel – Community Investment

Members agreed community investments totalling £28,595 for:

All Saints Church Cockermouth (£10,000)

Cockermouth Town Council (£670)

Keswick Town Council (£1073)

Flimby Girls Brigade (£500)

Bothel Village Hall (£8000)

Friends of Fairfield Primary – new sensory hub for SEND children in West Cumbria (£3029)

Kirkgate Arts Book Festival (£1000)

Healthy Hopes - (£4,323)

Full details of the funding request and minutes of the meeting will be found on the Cumberland website by searching Lakes to Sea. The next meeting of the Lakes to Sea Panel will be on 21 March 2024, venue to be confirmed.

Councillor Semple also reported on speeding through Eaglesfield which he had reported to Cumbria Police but had not received a response. A complaint had been received from a Dean resident and Councillor Semple said he would also look into this together with a request from Mr. Smith regarding speeding in Branthwaite. Councillor Semple said a new PCSO had been appointed for Dean parish.

90/23 GRASSCUTTING

A request had been received from a resident in Ullock to add a further wildflower area, as a trial, on the green at Ullock near the new bench beside the ford on the sloping area towards the beck. This was agreed but the Clerk to request a plan of the area.

91/23 DEAN LOCAL PLAN

Mr. Ferguson asked all Councillors to look at their particular section in the plan and give Mr. Ferguson any update prior to the next meeting

92/23 SUSTAINABILITY

Mr. Ferguson said he felt the Parish Council should be supporting the national framework and that this should be a regular agenda item. It was agreed Mr. Chittenden seek advice from CALC.

93/23 REPORTS

Dean Community Response Group

Mr. Chittenden reported since the last meeting of the Parish Council a very successful training event in the use of defibrillators and CPR which had been held attended by 20 parishioners. It was agreed the Clerk look into the funding from Grantscape. The next meeting of the Group to be held within following two weeks when Risk Assessment would be updated.

217 Bus Group

Mrs Moore reported the 217 bus was still running despite many difficult weeks. Hobans 1923 Limited had offered an 8 seater mini bus, free of charge, to run for 5 weeks until the end of December 2023 which had been taken up by the group. The Group had met and it was agreed to negotiate an 8 seater mini bus until the end of the financial year and this had been achieved at a cost of £100 per run. In the meantime the Group are endeavouring to find another contractor to take the service on from 1st April. Mrs Moore added, with only an 8 seater, it was filled on a first come first served basis. The bus has been full each week and the feedback from parishioners is very good. It was agreed Mrs Lamb to chase up the grant from Grantscape.

Mr Ferguson said the Parish Council had gone from funding a bus service to funding a private taxi service and that the remit of the Parish Council had changed dramatically. Mrs Moore asked Mr. Ferguson what he would like to do. Mr. Ferguson said the Parish Council were publicly accountable and now the funds were being used in a different way.

Mr. Chittenden asked the meeting if they were happy to subscribe to a limited service for a limited and select number of people. Mrs. Moore referred to the new Clerk to the Parish Council not being Clerk to the 217 bus group. Mr. Chittenden said this had been discussed by himself and the Chairman and it was agreed, given the future of the bus service, any clerical services should be provided by the three parishes involved in the group and therefore any clerical support from Dean would cease from the end of March. Mr Chittenden said this was not the correct venue for any further discussion.

It was agreed to carry on with the Parish Council funding until the end of the financial year but that the future of the service lays with Cumberland Council.

Mr. Haslam thanked Mrs. Moore and Mrs Lamb for their continuing hard work.

94/23 FINANCIAL ISSUES

NALC pay rise for Clerks – The Clerk reported a £1 per hour pay increase backdated to 1st April 2023 – this was unanimously agreed. A new contract for the Clerk was signed.

Defibrillator – Mr. Chittenden reported the defibrillator for Deanscales was in hand and due to be delivered and installed shortly.

The following payments were agreed and cheques signed:

Clerks salary – January - net	£ 320.56
Tax on January salary	£ 80.14
Clerks expenses	£ 80.06
Clerks salary February– net	£ 344.83
Tax on February salary	£ 86.21
Nature Sign Design (Reg’s Round)	£2538.00
Cumberland Council	£1935.88
London Hearts	£ 900.00
Clerks salary – pay rise backdated – net	£ 242.67
Tax on back pay	£ 60.66
Clerk - memory stick etc. for handover	£ 31.57
J. A Lee Contractors Ltd	£ 50.92
Eaglesfield Village Hall	£ 30.00

95/23 PLANNING

The following application has been approved

WTPO/2023/0028 – T1 – lime tree reduce crown by approx 2m to reduce biomechanical stress on the tree and reduce wind sail area, T2 – sycamore tree reduce crown by approx 2m to reduce biomechanical stress on the tree and reduce wind said area, T3 lime tree reduce crown by approx 2m to reduce biomechanical stress on the tree and reduce wind said area Peppercoats Brow, Pardshaw – no objection – approved by Cumberland Council on 9th October 2023

The following application has been withdrawn.

FUL/2023/0193 – Concrete ring slurry store with canopy, land at Craig Plantation, Deanscales – New screening will be required – the plantation is old and sparse and security must be considered (sent to Cumberland Council)

96/23 AMENITY

Registered land and Asset Register

It was previously agreed no further action would be taken until the issue had been resolved with the Land Registry concerning Ullock Village Green. The Clerk reported she had written to the Secretary of State concerning the issue but no response had been received, not even an acknowledgement. It was agreed to ask Mr. Hayman to write to Trudy Harrison MP in order to expedite the matter.

Potato Pot Rights of Way – ongoing

Trees, The Bank, Eaglesfield – it was reported Mr. Scott had dealt with a tree as an emergency. Mr. Moore said the Parish Council needed to be pro-active and not re-active as there were some serious issues on The Bank and that a regular maintenance schedule needed to be looked into.

It was reported there were trees very near the power lines in Ullock.

It was agreed each Councillor look at trees in their own villages and report to Mr. Ferguson.

Reg’s Round – Mr Ferguson reported the signboards were waiting to be erected as was the case with the fingerposts.

Broadband – nothing to report

Repairs to noticeboards and seats – it was agreed to contact Mr Hammond to ask for a quotation for the work.

Speeding through Dean - see 89/23 above.

97/23 HIGHWAYS

Mr. Chittenden referred to an e-mail from an Eaglesfield resident concerning one of the village greens which is not protected by boulders. It was agreed Mr. Ferguson and Mrs. Moore to speak to the residents concerned as there are issues with rights of way over the green for access to garages.

It was agreed there should be a contract regarding the rights of way. This to be looked at .

98/23 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

4th March 2024 at 7.30 pm in The Kirkstile Community Hall, Dean.

Meeting ended 10 pm

Signed as a true and correct record

Date