

Buttermere Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st December 2015

Present: Cllrs. R. Beard (Chair), L. Kyle, Y. Kahane, M. Thompson, M. Richardson & A. Beard.

Apologies: Cllr. G. Evans, G. Davies (LDNPA Rep) & Cath Johnson (North Distinctive Area Ranger).

Also in attendance: Cllr. T. Annison (ABC), Cllr. A. Bowness (CCC), PCSO A. Lyall, PCSO K. Smith & Dave Smith (Clerk).

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

34.15 Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

35.15 Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the September meeting were accepted as an accurate record by the councillors present and the Chair duly signed them.

36.15 Report from the Police:

PCSO's Adele Lyall and Katherine Smith introduced themselves to those present. Katherine explained that both her and Adele were based at the Keswick Police station and she was currently covering the Buttermere Parish area.

The Police report for the area highlighted three incidents that had occurred in the Parish since the last meeting:

On 21st September 2015 a vehicle was broken into. This was on the Buttermere side of Honister Pass and occurred between 07:45 am and 08:00am. During the incident several items were stolen including a computer tablet, a camera and kayaking equipment. Police investigations into this incident are ongoing.

On the 27th September the Police were contacted after a sheep was hit by a vehicle near to Buttermere. The Owner of the sheep was alerted and the injured sheep was retrieved from the scene.

On the 26th October a public order incident occurred in the area of Buttermere. This was after a motorist became verbally abusive towards another motorist. Police investigations into this incident are ongoing.

Cllr. R. Beard raised the issue of 'lamping' and stated that he felt there had been a recent increase in the number of people visiting the Parish with dogs and guns who were intent on badger baiting and other illegal activities. He had noticed a small white van with the number plates obscured in the area on several occasions over the past weeks. Katherine explained that the Police had a Wildlife Officer, Helen Branthwaite, who dealt with this type of crime. She encouraged all those present to report any suspicious behaviour to the 101 number with the dates and times and this information would be followed up by the Police. She emphasised that any type of suspicious behaviour should always be reported.

The Chair thanked Katherine and Adele for their attendance.

37.15 Public Participation:

No items were brought forward under this agenda item.

38.15 Clerk's Report:

Actions on the Clerk from the previous meeting:

- 22.15: Clerk to write to National Trust re: Sports Events in the valley: Done & response received
- 22.15: Clerk to contact Police re: sports events in the valley: Done and contact provided
- 23.15: Clerk to contact Connecting Cumbria team re: date for superfast broadband in the valley: Done & response received.
- 25.15: Clerk Cllr. Kahane & Clerk to complete & return GDF response form: Done and acknowledgement received.
- 28.15: Clerk to report issues to Highways Hotline: Done (see below)
- 29.15: Clerk to send all documentation for placement on Melbreak Communities website: Done
- 30.15: Clerk to send all documentation for placement on Melbreak Communities website: Done
- 31.15: Clerk to send out all payments: Done and all cleared through the account
- 32.15: Clerk to inform ABC of vacancy and place notice on notice-board: Done and agreement to co-option has now been received.

Correspondence	For information	For action
Letter from Stagecoach	X	X
Letter from the National Trust	X	
LDNPA Allerdale Members Report: Sept, Oct & Nov	X	
CALC Newsletter: Sept, Oct & Nov	X	
BDO Conclusion of External Audit	X	
CALC Annual Report	X	
Letter from Allerdale BC: re co-option	X	X

Connecting Cumbria: Response received sent out to councillors on 5th October: '*Now that detailed survey work has been carried out we realise that this postcode area is too far from any cabinets to benefit from a significant increase in broadband speed.*'

Response from Stagecoach: The response from Stagecoach, explaining that the buses used on the Honister Rambler service were the smallest in the fleet, was discussed by Councillors. It was agreed that a further letter should be sent explaining that communication between drivers was key to preventing the problems caused by buses trying to pass each other in particularly narrow sections of the route.

ACTION: Clerk to respond to the letter from Stagecoach.

Letter from the National Trust: the response from the National Trust stated that they had licensed five sporting events on their land in Buttermere between March and September in 2015 and that they had a policy of allowing no more than one event per month in the area during spring and summer. It was agreed that councillors should keep a list of all the events that occurred in the valley during the coming year, in particular the cycling events that do not appear to require licensing but do cause problems for local residents.

Councillor Vacancy: The vacancy on the Council was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk should approach Edward Beard to see if he would be interested in being co-opted onto the Council.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Edward Beard.

39.15 Report from the Borough and County Councillors:

Cllr. Annison (ABC) reported that as a result of a number of emails he had received from local residents he had pushed for a debate on the Allerdale response to the Syrian refugee crisis. The Leader of the Council had agreed that they would follow government guidelines on this issue. There are currently no Syrian refugees in Allerdale. As a member of the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Cllr. Annison was looking into youth unemployment which in many parts of Allerdale was both high and persistent. The idea of two unitary authorities for Cumbria, north and south, is gaining ground within the Conservative Party in Cumbria and he would be pleased to hear views on this proposal.

Cllr. Bowness reported that he was aware of the slow progress being made to make superfast broadband available in the more rural parts of Cumbria and that the County Council officers were pressing BT for dates by which this would be available. He asked councillors to let him know if there were any highways related issues that they felt he should be aware of.

40.15 Radioactive Waste Management:

Cllr. Kahane reported back from a meeting held in Carlisle in October regarding the National Geological Screening project which has the aim of identifying areas with suitable geology for housing an underground repository for medium and high level nuclear waste. There were over 50 people in attendance, which was a much higher attendance than meetings held elsewhere in the country. Members of the Cumbria Trust, the group that led the opposition to the original MRWS process, were in attendance. The Trust, which is not anti-nuclear, wants to ensure that a safe site is found for the repository.

Concerns were expressed at the meeting that the results of the British Geological Survey work would be deliberately skewed to ensure that areas that had previously been described as unsuitable would this time round be classed as areas that are suitable.

It was agreed that Cllr. Kahane should complete the online response form on behalf of the Parish Council.

ACTION: Cllr. Kahane to complete the online response form on behalf of the Parish Council.

41.15 Planning:

There were no planning applications to be dealt with at the meeting.

One planning application was dealt with between meetings:

Ref: 7/2015/2251
Location: Bowderbeck Cottage, Buttermere CA13 9XA
Proposal: Resubmission of application number 7/2015/2092 - single storey extension to house, deck area and relocation of gate in existing stone boundary wall.
Reply by: 19th November 2015

A response of '**No Objections**' was sent.

42.15 Highways issues:

Councillors reported that all the issues, and more, reported at the September had been dealt with by Cumbria Highways. However, the dip in the road above the bridge in the village was starting to re-emerge, probably due to running water under the road.

ACTION: Clerk to report the above issue.

43.15 Draft Budget 16/17:

The Clerk took councillors through the various budget headings in the proposed draft budget for the coming financial year. Most of the expected costs associated with each of the budget headings would remain the same for the coming year with the exception of office costs which would increase by £36.00 to reflect the increased cost of internet and phone charges.

The expected expenditure for 2016/17 was given as £1,365.00 and the Clerk recommended that there should be no change in the precept of £1,400.00.

The draft budget for 2016/17 was agreed by the councillors present.

44.15 Finance:

The Clerk reported that he had now received the End of Audit Report from BDO the external auditors. No issues of concern had been raised in the report.

The Clerk informed the meeting that balance of the account as of the most recent bank statement dated 15th November 2015 was £944.63p. This figure included the second payment of the precept from Allerdale Borough Council of £700.00p

The Clerk reported that following payments were outstanding:

i: D. Smith - Clerk's salary Qtr 3	£168.64p
ii: HMRC PAYE Qtr 3:	£42.20p
iii: D. Smith Expenses Qtr3:	£55.00p
iv: Cllr. Evans - costs associated with repair of notice-board:	£16.48p
v: Hall Rent for 2015:	£45.00p

As there is no meeting scheduled until the end of May 2016 the following payments were also outstanding:

vi: D. Smith - Clerk's salary Qtr 4:	£168.64p
vii: HMRC PAYE Qtr 4:	£42.20p
viii: D. Smith Expenses Qtr 4:	£35.00p

Councillors agreed all the above payments.

Taking all the above into consideration the reconciled balance of the main PC account as of 1st December 2015 is £371.47p. The balance of the reserve account is £1,116.17p giving a total balance of £1,487.64p

ACTION: Clerk to send out all payments.

44.15 Items for the next meeting:

- Geoff Davies: the LDNPA Parish Rep for the Northern Distinctive Area

46.15 Date of next meeting:

**Tuesday 31st May 2015 at 8.00pm in The Old Schoolroom.
The Annual Parish Meeting will be followed by the May meeting of the Council**

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____