

# **Buttermere Parish Council**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th December 2016**

**Present:** Cllrs. R. Beard (Chair), Y. Kahane, M. Thompson, G. Evans, E. Beard, A. Beard & M. Richardson .

**Apologies:** Cllr. L. Kyle

**Also in attendance:** Dave Smith (Clerk).

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **33.16 Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **34.16 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.

### **35.16 Public Participation:**

The Clerk explained to those present that Stuart Woodall from the architects Day Cummins had been in touch to explain that he would not be attending the December meeting of the Council as previously arranged to discuss the planning application associated with Hassness House as the Nation Trust had expressed some concerns, in their role as covenant holder, with some aspects of the proposal. The application would now be delayed and was expected to be brought back to the Parish council in the first quarter of the new year.

### **36.16 Clerk's Report:**

Actions on the Clerk from the previous meeting:

23.16: Clerk to invite Phil Rushton from BT to the next meeting: See below

24.16: Clerk to inform MP of support for his proposal re: Coast to Coast trail: Done

26.16: Clerk to inform the Melbreak Com group of the views of the Council re: insurance: Done (see below)

28.16: Clerk to inform Allerdale BC of the views of the Council: Done

29.16: Clerk to inform Cumbria Highways of the concerns of the Council: Done (see below)

29.16: Clerk to request from Allerdale BC that the road sweeper visit the Parish: Done (see below)

29.16: Clerk to inform NT warden re: fallen trees across river: Done

30.16 Clerk to send out all payments: Done

<b>Correspondence</b>	<b>For information</b>	<b>For action</b>
CALC Newsletter Sept, Oct & Nov	X	
Local Govt. Boundary Commission: Electoral Review	X	
Report from Allerdale Parishes LDNPA member: Sept & Oct	X	
Invoice: Buttermere Old School 2016	X	X
Information re: Hassness House proposals	X	
Information re: Muddocks Path	X	X
Letter from HSBC re: bank closure	X	
Email from Pensions regulator re: need for enrolment	X	

The Clerk explained that he had informed the LDNPA of the support of the Council for the Muddocks Path proposals.

After some discussion it was agreed to keep the Council bank accounts with HSBC despite the closure of the Cockermouth branch.

The Clerk explained that the Council would not have to register with the Pensions Authority as he did not meet the criteria for receipt of a pension.

### **Updates:**

**Cumbria Highways:** The Clerk met with John Smitham, the new Highways Engineer for the area, and Ian Mayson who is in charge of the gully cleaning team for the area. They had a drive around the parish with the Clerk showing them the various highways issues that were outstanding, a list of which is given below. The Clerk was assured that work on these would be undertaken shortly. The Clerk has also requested that the road sweeper visit the Parish but has been told by James Irving from Allerdale BC that because of cut backs they only have one large road sweeper and three smaller ones. The large one was the one that would be used for the rural parishes but he had been told to prioritise the three towns in which flooding was bound to be an issue in the coming months, i.e. Cockermouth, Keswick and Workington, where homes would be under direct threat. He stated that he would aim to get Buttermere done early in the new year.

Issues raised with Cumbria Highways:

- A number of the Passing Place signs were missing from the road (B5289) along the banks of Crummock Water.
- The drains at Hause Point need to be inspected and dealt with as water is constantly flowing onto the road (B5289). It is believed that some of the road drains were covered over when this part of the road was re-surfaced
- The road banks are collapsing and covering the double yellow lines on the main road into Buttermere village from the Lorton end.
- Two large pot holes coming down Newlands pass into the village.
- A sunken narrow strip of road, crossing the road, where United Utilities had been working on a pipeline, just above the bridge in the village.
- A pot hole by Lisa Beck Bridge
- Road flooding along stretch between the village and Honister
- Vicarage Brow down into the village needs drains attending to constantly overrunning with water.
- On-going problem - roadside along Crummock Water has collapsed and has not been fully repaired – B5289.

Councillors confirmed that the gully cleaning team had been working in the area and that a number of pot holes had been filled.

**Openreach/BT:** The Clerk met with Kevin Miller, Network Solutions Manager, and Stephen Southwell, the Engineer who covers Buttermere and is based in Whitehaven, in Buttermere on 15th November. They showed the Clerk around the Buttermere Exchange and explained that though the Exchange was the smallest in England, it was a modern exchange with exactly the same equipment in it as the Whitehaven exchange, albeit on a smaller scale. 54 properties were served by the exchange. They were aware of some of the issues that were recurring issues but the team from Whitehaven can only respond if a fault is reported. At the present time there were no outstanding reported faults in the area. However, partly because of the concerns that the PC have raised with Openreach, they are going to proactively investigate the line that

serves Syke Farm and the 'node' where five properties take their connections from the line in the Glebe House area. This work has been sanctioned from Manchester, the regional HQ.

Connecting Cumbria/Superfast Broadband: After discussions with Connecting Cumbria staff the following has become clear: Buttermere is not in scope for connection in the 2017 phase of the project. During January of next year a list of areas yet to be connected will be put together for initial investigations regarding feasibility and options. If Buttermere is on this list then there will be a period of waiting for the outcome of the investigations. If Buttermere is not on this list then it has been suggested that local residents might want to look at forming a Community Fibre Partnership. The Clerk will contact Phil Rushton in February to find out if Buttermere has been included in the above list.

### **37.16 Planning:**

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

One planning application was dealt with between meetings:

Ref: 7/2016/2259  
Location: Bridge Hotel, Buttermere CA13 9UZ  
Proposal: Installation of solar thermal collecting pipes on the roof  
Reply by: 16th November 2016

A response of 'No Objections' was sent with regards to this application.

### **Notices Received:**

Councillors were asked to note the following:

Notice of refusal of Planning Consent:

7/2015/2287: Croft House Farm - laying of grass reinforcement mesh to protect ground in part of field.  
The Clerk read out the reasons for the refusal of the application which essentially were that the Authority did not believe that the mesh system would work and this would lead to the land in question being taken out of agricultural use.

Notice of Planning Consent:

7/2016/2167: Palace How - various works

### **38.16 Highways issues:**

Councillors had no additional issues to raise other than those mentioned above.

### **39.16 Report from the Borough Councillor:**

Cllr. Annison was unable to attend the meeting.

### **40.16 Report from the Police:**

Apologies had been received from PCSO Smith for her not being able to attend the meeting.

Councillors noted the new style of Police Report that had been received and agreed that the new format, in which Councillors were directed to two police websites for information was not fit for purpose as it did not give an accurate, up to date view of incidents reported to the Police in the Parish.

**ACTION: Clerk to write letter of complaint to the Police with regard to this matter.**

#### **41.16 Report from the Melbreak Communities:**

Further to the issue of insurance cover for the Melbreak communities raised at the last meeting, the Clerk confirmed that because the group did not meet the following criteria they would require their own public liability insurance cover:

1. The minutes of the meetings of the Committee form part of and are incorporated into the minutes of the Parish Council.
2. Any accounts of the Committee form part of the accounts of the Parish Council and are subject to the Council's audit.

Mr. Poole from the group has been informed of this by the Clerk. Councillors agreed that the Melbreak Group should have their own insurance cover.

Cllr. Kahane reported back from the October meeting of the Melbreak Communities at which a number of grants were awarded to both individuals and local groups. Community Energy schemes are to be discussed at the upcoming Coffee Morning with a view to developing a sustainable community energy project in the Melbreak Communities area.

#### **42.16 The Draft Budget 2017/18:**

The Clerk presented Councillors with copies of the proposed budget for the forthcoming financial year. After some discussion the proposed budget as presented was agreed as:

Proposed by: Cllr. Richardson  
Seconded by: Cllr. Evans

There was no proposed increase in the precept for 2017/18 and this was agreed as:

Proposed by: Cllr. Thompson  
Seconded by: Cllr. Richardson

**ACTION: Clerk to inform Allerdale BC of the precept requirement for 2017/18**

#### **43.16 Council Finance:**

The Clerk informed the meeting that balance of the account as of the most recent bank statement dated 15th November 2016 was £957.06p with all payments now having cleared through the account and the second tranche of the precept having been received from Allerdale BC.

The Clerk reported that following payments were outstanding:

i: D. Smith - Clerk's salary Qtr 3:	£168.68p
ii: HMRC PAYE Qtr 3:	£42.16p
iii: D. Smith Expenses Qtr3:	£71.00p
iv: Rent for the Old Schoolroom 2016:	£60.00p
v: D. Smith - Clerk's salary Qtr 4:	£168.68p
vi: HMRC PAYE Qtr 4:	£42.16p
vii: D. Smith Expenses Qtr 4:	£49.00p

Councillors agreed all the above payments.

Taking the above payments into consideration, the reconciled balance of the main PC account as of 6th December 2016 is £355.38p. The balance of the reserve account is £1,116.87p giving a total balance of £1,472.25p.

**ACTION: Clerk to send out all payments.**

**44.16 Date of next meeting:**

After some discussion it was agreed that all the Council meetings to be held in 2017 would start at 8.00pm. The following dates were agreed:

- **Tuesday 30th May 2017**
- **Tuesday 5th September 2017**
- **Tuesday 5th December 2017**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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