

# **Buttermere Parish Council**

Minutes of the **September Parish Council Meeting** held on 1st September 2015

in The Old School , Buttermere.

**Present:** Cllrs. R. Beard (Chairman), M. Richardson, G. Evans, A. Beard, L. Kyle,  
Y. Kahane, M. Thompson & J. Crowther.

**Apologies for absence:** PCSO Megan Jones

**Also in attendance:** Cllr. T. Annison (ABC), Mrs. Crowther & D. Smith (Clerk)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**20.15: Declarations of Interest:** None.

**21.15: Minutes of the previous meeting:**

The minutes of the May 2015 Parish Council meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair.

**22.15: Public Participation:**

The following issues were discussed by councillors:

The Honister Rambler Bus Service (77 & 77A): Further concerns were raised with regard to the problems caused when buses try to pass each other, or other vehicles, on very narrow sections of the B5289. Quite often this results in lengthy queues of traffic sometimes waiting up to thirty minutes to get past the log jam of traffic. It was suggested that both the size of the vehicles used and driver behaviour were the cause of the problems. The Clerk confirmed that he had already written to bus operator regarding this issue but had not received a response. It was agreed to contact the Public Transport Dept of Cumbria County Council to make them aware of the above concerns.

**ACTION: Clerk to write to CCC to highlight the above concerns.**

Honister Slate Mine: It was confirmed that there is still no revised 'Zip Wire' planning application to view though the idea is still being promoted by the company.

Sporting Events in Buttermere: Concerns were raised by several councillors regarding the number of triathlon type events being held in and around the Buttermere valley. Problems highlighted included the number of events, sometimes more than one a week, the number of people taking part, usually in the region of 200, and the time of day or night that the events take place, quite often local residents have been disturbed late at night or very early in the morning by runners. After some discussion the following actions were agreed:

**ACTION: Clerk to write to the National Trust highlighting the above concerns.**

**ACTION: Clerk to contact the Police to see if they have a list of all the events due to take place.**

### **23.15: Clerk's Report:**

#### Actions from the previous meeting:

- 12.15: Clerk to return all election related forms to Allerdale BC before June 4th: Done
- 13.15: Clerk to contact visitors to the area re: bus shelter: Done
- 15.15: Clerk to inform the LDNPA of the views of the Council re: planning: Done
- 16.15: Clerk to report various issues to Cumbria Highways: Done and reference numbers given for each issue.
- 17.15: Clerk to send out all payments: Done
- 17.15: Clerk to get paperwork for new signatory to PC bank account to Cllr. Richardson: Done

#### Correspondence received since last meeting:

1. CALC: newsletters
2. Cumbria Trust: GDF Call for evidence
3. LDNPA: Allerdale members reports: May, June, July & August
4. LDNPA revised car parking fees
5. LDNPA Parish Forum minutes
6. LDNPA Affordable Housing Guidance

The Clerk informed the meeting that, according to the Connecting Cumbria website, there was no date given and no plans in place to ensure the availability of superfast fibre broadband in the parish. Current broadband speeds are between 4.5Mb and 8.1Mb. superfast broadband speeds would be over 28Mb. It was agreed that the Council should pursue this issue to try and ensure that the Buttermere valley was not left without superfast broadband.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact the Connecting Cumbria team to try and get a date for superfast broadband connection.**

### **24.15: Update from the Borough Councillor:**

Cllr. Annison informed the meeting that he had recently been elected the deputy leader of the Conservative Group on the Borough Council and was sitting on a number of Committees, one of which is the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee. This committee is currently looking at the 'Ageing Well' agenda and is keen to look at examples of good practice in Allerdale. Cllr. Annison stated that much of the work undertaken with elderly people by the Melbreak Communities group is seen as a template for what might be provided in other parts of Allerdale. There followed a discussion in which the issues of transport and access to health services were both highlighted as major concerns for elderly people living in rural areas.

Cllr. Annison reminded those present that if they had any ideas for community projects requiring capital expenditure then he would be pleased to help try an access funding through the Borough Council. He also stated that the idea of two unitary authorities for Cumbria, north and south, was gaining ground within the Conservative Party in Cumbria and he would be pleased to hear views on this proposal.

### **25.15: GDF: Call for evidence:**

Cllr. Kahane spoke about the recent letter from The Cumbria Trust in which Parish Councils were urged to complete the Call for Evidence form issued recently by the Department for Energy & Climate Change. The form itself seeks views on:

- How to define a community
- How to provide effective representation, governance and decision making
- How to manage and disburse community investment
- How to deliver a test of public support

Councillors agreed that Buttermere Parish Council should respond and that a Parish Council area was, in this context, an appropriate definition of a community. It was also felt that the communities or Parish Council areas in which any repository would be based should take the lead in managing any package of community investment and that before the go-ahead was given to a repository local people in the areas effected should have the final say through a parish or parishes referendum, paid for by central government.

**ACTION: Cllr. Kahane and the Clerk to complete the form and submit it by September 4th.**

#### **26.15: Police Report:**

PCSO Megan Jones had sent her apologies for not being able to attend the meeting due to being on annual leave. Councillors had all received a copy of her report in which she stated that there had been ten incidents reported to the Police since the last Council meeting:

- On 30<sup>th</sup> May 2015 the Police attended an incident where a dog had killed some sheep, whilst on the fell. The Police attended and an agreement was made between the dog and sheep owner in regards to compensation.
- On 9<sup>th</sup> June damage only Road Traffic Collision occurred in the Buttermere area.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015 Road Traffic Collision occurred in the Buttermere area. This resulted in damage to the vehicles involved only.
- On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 a sudden death occurred at Haystacks. The casualty was a female from the Manchester area. Police investigations into this incident are ongoing.
- On 5<sup>th</sup> July the Police attended a vehicle in Buttermere, where a dog had been left in the vehicle in hot weather. The owner of the dog and vehicle were located and the dog was let out. It was in a stable condition.
- On 7<sup>th</sup> July an unattended motor vehicle was broken into and a wallet was stolen. The Police would like to remind members of the public not to leave any valuables in unattended vehicles for any amount of time. They would also like to encourage members of the public to report any suspicious persons or vehicles to them on telephone number 101 or 999 in the case of a crime taking place.
- On 8<sup>th</sup> July an unattended motor vehicle was broken into and a handbag was stolen.
- On 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015 a damage only road traffic collision occurred.
- On 8<sup>th</sup> August a damage only road traffic Collision occurred.
- On 12<sup>th</sup> August an unattended motor vehicle was broken into and two mobile phones and a wallet were stolen. Police are continuing to do regular patrols of isolated rural areas

#### **27.15: Planning:**

The Clerk reported that there were no new applications to discuss at the meeting. Councillors were asked to note the following:

Tree Preservation Order:

No: 384 - Bowderbeck Cottage, Buttermere

The Authority was informed that the Parish Council supported the implementation of the above TPO

Notice of grant of planning permission:

7/2015/2082: Turner How Cottage, Loweswater -single storey extension

7/2015/2091: Bowderbeck Cottage, Buttermere - single storey extension

7/2015/2092: Bowderbeck Cottage, Buttermere - single storey extension - Listed Building Consent

7/2015/2024: Honister Slate Mine - updating of various operating conditions

**28.15: Highways & Parish Maintenance:**

The Clerk informed the meeting that Cumbria Highways had informed him of the following works undertaken:

1. Vegetation growth between Low House and Beck House – 10.06.15 No actionable defect found, vegetation will be removed during programmed Verge Maintenance.
2. Potholes at Turpenhow Road – 11.06.15 Approx 20 potholes repaired.
3. Potholes S of Hause Point – 05.06.15 Approx 5 potholes repaired.
4. Potholes NW of Wood House – 05.06.15 Approx 8 potholes repaired.
5. Flooding at Kirk Close – 10.07.15 No issue found, Culvert running ok.

With regard to the two open calls below, these are being monitored by the Area Team and we are awaiting materials from resurfacing work which is due to be completed in the near future, once this has taken place we will organise for any actionable defects to road edges to be repaired.

6. Edge deterioration in some of the passing places on Newlands Pass
7. Deterioration of the sides at Newlands Pass

Councillors reported the following highways related concerns:

- A pot hole by Brackenthwaite Hows to the south of Beck House - Map ref: 157217
- The sinking of the road just to the NW of the bridge in Buttermere village - to be reported to United Utilities.

There followed some discussion regarding the parking of cars above the church on the Newlands road and the best way of dealing with the deterioration to the land on which the cars are parking. Suggestions are to be forwarded to cumbria highways but it was stated that the fact that the land was common Land might prohibit any works.

**ACTION: Clerk to report the above to the Highways Hotline.**

**29.15: The Transparency Code for Smaller Councils:**

The Clerk informed the meeting that as from 2017 the annual accounts for Parish Council with an income of less than £25,000 were no longer to be externally audited by a firm of

accountants and paid for by the government. To ensure continued transparency in the operation of Parish Councils and the expenditure by them of public funds, the government is telling all local councils that all the paperwork associated with council meetings and income and expenditure should be made available, for the public to view, online. Thus the public will, to all intents and purposes, become the external auditors for the council.

The Clerk has discussed this issue with the Melbreak Communities web master, Richard Easton, and he does not foresee any problems with the placement of more documents online for the council. As from this meeting the minutes, the Clerks Report and the Bank Reconciliation will all be placed on the Melbreak Communities website under the Buttermere Parish Council tab. Other documents that will be placed on the site include the Register of Assets, the Standing Orders of the Council and the Financial Regulations.

**ACTION: Clerk to send all documentation to Melbreak Communities for placement on website.**

### **30.15: Governance Documents:**

The Clerk explained that he had not been able to locate two of the governance documents that would be required for placement on the website (as above). In light of this he asked councillors to agree to the adoption of the following:

The Complaints Procedure for Buttermere Parish Council

Buttermere Parish Council Freedom of Information Publication Scheme

Adoption by the council of the two documents was

Proposed: Cllr. Richardson  
Seconded: Cllr. Kahane

All those present agreed to the adoption.

**ACTION: Clerk to send documents for placement on Melbreak Communities website.**

### **31.15: Council Finance:**

The Clerk reported that the balance of the Community Account as per the latest bank statement dated 15th August 2015 was £498.47p

The following payments were agreed by Councillors:

Clerks Salary Qtr 2:	£168.64p
Clerks expenses Qtr 2:	£43.00p
HMRC PAYE Qtr 2:	£42.00p

Taking the above payments into account, the reconciled balance of the Community Account as 1st September 2015 was £253.84p.

The balance of the Business Money Manager Account as of 15th June 2015 was £1,116.01p giving a total Parish Council balance of the two accounts of £1,360.64p.

**32.15: Election of Vice-Chair of the Parish council:**

The Clerk asked Cllr. Crowther if he was prepared to continue as Vice-Chair of the council for the coming year. Cllr. Crowther informed the meeting that he had reluctantly decided to stand down from the council due to health reasons.

The Chair thanked Cllr. Crowther for his many years service to the Parish Council and all those present proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Crowther and that it be officially recorded in the minutes.

The Clerk asked for a proposer for Vice-Chair.

Cllr. Alan Beard proposed Cllr. Richardson for the post of Vice-Chair, Cllr. Thompson seconded the proposal. Cllr. Richardson agreed to take on the post of Vice-Chair and all those present agreed.

**ACTION: Clerk to inform ABC of vacancy and advertise locally.**

**33.15: Date of the next meetings:**

Councillors noted that the date of the next parish council meeting was:

**Tuesday 1st December 2015 at 7.30pm**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

David Smith, Clerk to Buttermere Parish Council, Ivy Cottage, Blennerhasset, Wigton CA7 3QR  
Tel: 016973 23296 & 07742 224775  
Email: [davidsmith@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:davidsmith@tinyworld.co.uk)