

CROSTHWAITE AND LYTH PARISH COUNCIL

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on **Tuesday 1 February 2022**
at 7.30pm in the Parish Church

Present – Cllrs. Mary Harkness (Chair), Angela Dobson, Matthew Dobson, Andrew Metcalfe and Edward Sharp;
County Cllr. James Bland; District Cllr. John Holmes; the Clerk and 17 members of the public

01/22 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. Robert Sykes (reason accepted and noted)

02/22 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2021 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair

03/22 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Metcalfe declared an interest with regard to the item in 21/22b concerning Lakes Landscapes

04/22 Requests for Dispensation

None

05/22 Chair's Announcements

The Chair welcomed the new Clerk, Malcolm Richardson, to the first meeting after his appointment. She wished to take the opportunity to state that the Council wants to reach out to all parts of the community and is hoping that residents will support the Council and talk freely to their elected councillors about issues they are concerned about. She stated that it is easy in this internet age to create division, misunderstandings and discord but she hoped that, as we start a new year of Council business, all of us will make the effort to start afresh and rebuild community relationships; communities are hard to make and easy to break; let's support each other constructively; let's take helpful, kind, positive actions to make this a happy place to live again; we have achieved so much together to make this special community what it is; we are all human beings; we may all make mistakes sometimes; all councillors are volunteers doing their best; and this is a new year when we can all start afresh and show goodwill, respect and kindness towards each other

06/22 Public Participation

None.

District Cllr. Holmes reminded the members of the public present that the public were not part of the debate on any of the following agenda items

07/22 Reports

- a. District Cllr. Holmes reported regarding progress on local government reorganisation, the Handy Person scheme (see 22/22d); opening "My Account" on the SLDC Customer Connect service for quicker access to council services; and applications for Omicron Business Grants
- b. County Cllr. Bland reported regarding various highways matters including the work soon to be done on the A5074 ground sinking; Helsington Moss Bridge awaiting Environment Agency approval; the Scar road to Kendal having been improved; and steady progress being made on the A590/A5074 roundabout
- c. Police Report: PCSO Park had emailed a report stating that there had been a high value burglary, business and commercial reported just yesterday and that the Police had been attending J36 auction marts over the last couple of weeks with a view to recruiting volunteer farm watch members from the Lyth Valley area, who would help on night time operations

08/22 Planning

- i) It was noted that the following planning applications had been submitted to LDNPA and circulated to members of the Council since the last meeting:
 - 7/2022/5009 Green Acre Barn House, The Howe, Lyth valley**
Proposed installation of a sewage treatment plant to replace the existing septic tanks at Greenacre Barn House and Greenacre Cottage
The Council had **no objection** to the above application
 - 7/2022/5051 The High, Crosthwaite**
Demolition of a redundant steel formed agricultural building
This was for information only and not a consultation
- ii) It was noted that the following planning applications had been notified as approved by LDNPA since the last meeting:
 - 7/2021/5319 Thornrigg, Lyth**
Proposed extension, loft conversion and refurbishment of existing bungalow
 - 7/2021/5816 Cannydale, Lyth**
Demolition of existing barn, wood store, stabling & shed. Erection of new single timber clad building to contain a barn, workshop, storage, utility room and ancillary accommodation comprising bedroom, bathroom and kitchen/living/dining space
 - 7/2021/5833 Damson Dene Hotel, Crosthwaite**
Site 1 pre-fabricated pod accommodation unit in grounds of hotel with dedicated parking
 - 7/2021/5845 Broad Oak Farm, Crosthwaite**
Amendment to design for barn 1, condition 2 (plans) on planning permission 7/2019/5588 for conversion of two barns to three dwellings

7/2021/5897 Wood Yeat, Crosthwaite

Approval of details reserved by condition 8 (landscaping scheme) on planning permission 7/2018/5080 for a detached dwelling

7/2021/5952 Barn 2, Broadoaks, Crosthwaite

Construction of two dwellings (in lieu of planning application 7/2018/5295)

7/2021/5956 Barn 3, Broad Oaks Farm, Crosthwaite

Continuation of the construction and conversion of Barn 3 to include minor alterations to doors and windows, removal of timber cladding, erection of detached garage & extension of curtilage (resubmission of 7/2019/5588)

09/22 Highways & Footpaths

Highways:

- a) Road safety on the narrow section of the A5074 was discussed including the possibility of additional slow signs, cones and reflectors. County Cllr. Bland said that he would investigate that and the possibility of funding to widen the section
- b) The delay in the toll road bridge repair was discussed and County Cllr. Bland said that this would be resurfaced with a weight limit but that the work was in the hands of the Environment Agency. It was **resolved** to ask Helsington Parish Council to support a letter to Highways.
- c) It had been reported to Highways that there was erosion on Mill Lane but no action had yet been taken

Footpaths/Tracks:

- i) It was reported that the new Walkway was much appreciated. It was agreed to leave the details for the opening ceremony until the next meeting. It was agreed to plant a rowan tree.
- ii) It was reported that the repair work to the Oak Lane track would be administered by LDNPA
- iii) It was agreed that it should be reported to LDNPA that the footpath from the church to Mill Lane was in urgent need of repair

10/22 Trees, Woods & Hedges

- i) No trees and woods matters were discussed
- ii) Several hedges were overgrown and it was agreed to have the urgent highways work done and to ask landowners to tidy their hedges

11/22 Emergency Planning Group

There was no such group at present but the possible forming of a group were discussed including making an arrangement with the utilities for emergencies; clearing of roads; and volunteer neighbourhood contacts

12/22 South Westmorland Village Maintenance Association

District Cllr. Holmes reported on the difficulties experienced by the Association as the contractor no longer wished to do the gritting work on a reactive basis. Efforts had been made to source a replacement contractor, who had to be authorised by CCC, but these had been unsuccessful. It was therefore being proposed that the Association should be closed and the remaining funds distributed to the Parish Councils. It was agreed to support this proposal, which would result in £353.78 being returned to the Council. The Clerk was asked to write to District Cllr. Holmes thanking him for his work for the Association

13/22 Neighbourhood Plan

The following statement was read by the Chair:-

Following the calling of a Parish meeting for next Monday 7th February, three councillors have requested that the decision taken at the 10th November 2021 meeting to pause the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) process indefinitely be revisited.

The Council recognises there are electors who very strongly wish to have a NP, as well as those who do not believe it is effective or cost efficient. The pressures on the Council to accede to the group in favour of a NP have been considerable. Council wishes to foster a spirit of mutual cooperation and open minded, respectful engagement. The Council notes that the majority of those demanding a NP live in Crosthwaite village. Councillors also note that most of those who have expressed reservations about having a Plan live out of the village area. This polarisation and anger has to be addressed. The Council wants to do whatever is in its power to start a healing process that leads to effective communication and respect. In the interests of community relations, the Council is reaching out to try to bridge divisions.

Here is the proposal:

The Parish Council will resume work on the NP on the following conditions:-

1. Terms of Reference will be drawn up by the Council to ensure standards of best practice are met and the Plan stands the best chance of passing the required tests. The terms of reference will include the criteria that Council will apply to the selection of the Group to ensure a representative range of members. The terms will also include a requirement that members of the new Group follow the Nolan Principles and Council Code of Conduct.
2. The working group will be appointed by the Council in accordance with the terms of reference. It is hoped that at least 2 of the former Plan group will be appointed. Mediation will be commissioned, if Council deem it necessary, to ensure effective communication is established and maintained within the Group, and between the Council and the Group.
3. All information gathered thus far must be lodged with the Clerk to the Council; Including all emails sent and received in the name of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, records of all meetings and agendas, contact details of all those consulted, or involved in any way, and all the evidence generated.

4. In recognition of the wish in Crosthwaite village to have a NP, the Parish Council may seek to redesignate a revised NPDevelopment area to include Crosthwaite Green, Churchtown and Starnthwaite areas. This would be subject to consultation with LDNPA and the community. (This has been agreed in Burneside where circumstances similar to ours arose, so there is precedent for this)

The proposal was carried unanimously

The Clerk asked District Cllr. Holmes as one of the signatories and one of the email addresses for replies on the letter calling the Parish Meeting (the other being the email address of the Clerk) whether the Parish Meeting would still go ahead in view of these resolutions and what the Clerk believed to be the disenfranchisement of parishioners by the removal of the Parish Council minutes and the Neighbourhood Plan Group minutes from the parish community website without authorisation by the Parish Council. Cllr. Holmes replied that it was not his decision

14/22 Appointment of Councillor to fill Casual Vacancy

It was agreed to follow the necessary procedure and place a Vacancy Notice on the main noticeboard

15/22 Speed Restrictions and Speed Indication Devices

It was agreed to enquire as to available funding for two speed indication devices

16/22 Parish Council Website

It was agreed to appoint A2A Advertising Ltd of Milnthorpe to design a parish council website at a quoted cost of £300 plus VAT plus domain registration fees, hosting fees and a SSL certificate that authenticates a website's integrity and enables an encrypted connection

17/22 Email Addresses for Councillors

It was agreed not to proceed with this proposal

18/22 Post Office

Approaches had been received regarding a possible location for one or two days per week

19/22 Litter Pick

The Chair undertook to organise the 2022 litter pick

20/22 Parish Jubilee Picnic

It was agreed to join with the Crosthwaite and Lyth Landowners in inviting parishioners to a Grand Jubilee Picnic on Saturday 3rd June 2022. This will be a bring your own picnic and bottle and will take place at the square limestone outcrop at the top of Row Lane. After the picnic the plan would be for those who wish to walk to the Landowners' recently purchased new section of woodland on the north end of Whitbarrow where there will be a formal opening ceremony

21/22 Finance

- a) It was noted that no receipts had been recorded since the last meeting
- b) The following payments were approved:
 - PCC of St Mary's Church – Hire and associated costs of meeting - £15.00 – cheque 987
 - Argles Memorial Hall – Hire of room - £10.00 - cheque 988
 - Lakes Landscapes – Parish walkway signs - £220.32 – cheque 989
- c) The proposed renewal of the parish noticeboards was deferred until the next meeting
- d) The appointment of Jean Airey as Internal Auditor for 2021/22 was confirmed
- e) The Clerk confirmed that the precept demand had been forwarded to SLDC
- f) It was **resolved** that cheques should be signed by any two of the councillors; that all councillors should be added to the bank mandate; and that the Clerk should not be a cheque signatory
- g) **Resolved** that it be noted that the closing bank balances at 31 December 2021 were £16,476.69 in the current account and £11,340.91 in the savings account, which had been reconciled with the bank accounts, and that the bank summary statement be signed by the Chair

22/22 Correspondence

The following correspondence received and not included as an item on this agenda was noted:

- a. Further items giving information re coronavirus (covid-19) matters
- b. Further items concerning local government reorganisation
- c. Items concerning the multi-agency response to Storm Arwen, the restoration of power and compensation
- d. SLDC – Handy person scheme helps people maintain independent living (emailed to Cllrs 24/1/22)
- e. CALC – Developing your skills programme (emailed to Cllrs.24/1/22)
- f. CALC – South Lakeland District Association minutes of 16/9/21 and agenda for 27/1/22 (emailed to Cllrs24/1/22)
- g. Desmond Holmes – Letter concerning the Kendal Market Act 1978 dated 19/1/22. The Council confirmed that it was unable to help in this matter

23/22 Items for Information- no decisions or action permitted

None

24/22 Councillors' Issues to be Raised – no discussions must take place on these matters but will be placed on the next Agenda

None

25/22 Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 1 March 2022 and will commence at 7.30pm in the Parish Church

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

