

LAKES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th November 2007 in the Library, Kelsick Road, Ambleside at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllrs. L. Johnson (Chairman), W. H Allen, E.S. Bradshaw, Mrs E.M. Braithwaite, Ms M.M. Colquhoun N.C. Martin, Mrs S. Ogden, Mrs V. Rees, J. Smith, Mrs A. Sowerbutts, Mrs F.M. Sparrow, P.A. Thompson, D Welch and J.R. Westmoreland

APOLOGIES: Cllrs, A. Green and Mrs E. Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE: PC David Buxton, 1 PCSO, Cllr Vatcher and County Cllr B Barton

ALSO: M. A. Johnson 3 members of the public, and the Press

89 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17th October 2007 and the Plans Meeting on 31st October 2007 held in the Library, Ambleside were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman accordingly.

90. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- ◆ Councillor Smith declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 4, Police Report.
- ◆ Councillor Mrs Rees declared a personal and prejudicial interest in all Planning Applications.
- ◆ There were no other declarations of interest on items contained within the Agenda.

91 POLICE REPORT

PC Buxton reported on a quiet and relatively trouble free Halloween. He reported on crime figures year on year that were down generally throughout Lakes Parish. Thefts from shops had increased. Those living in rural parts of the Parish should always remove keys from their vehicles when unattended. He reported on staff shortages and the return of PC McClennan, although he was now assigned to response duties. This will be reviewed in March 2008. PCSO's have been reorganised but coverage will continue at Grasmere. He answered questions from Members. The Clerk was asked to write to Inspector Griffiths regarding the shortage in staff and use of PCSO's. The Chairman thanked both Officers for their attendance.

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The Chairman adjourned the Meeting for members of the public to speak. One member of the public spoke on a Planning matter to be debated later in the Agenda. The Chairman then reconvened the Meeting

92. REPORTS

- a. Parish Plan Action Group 5 November. The notes from the meeting had been circulated to Members and Cllr Bradshaw highlighted relevant issues. He addressed a report by the Project Officer and informed Members of an additional bid for further funding towards community transport information.
- b. Ambleside Chamber of Trade November – Cllr Martin reported that his was to be held next week.
- c. CALC AGM 10th November – nil report.

- d. Green Business Initiative Brathay Hall 18th October – Cllr Welch reported on this meeting which had been a business forum promoting Cumbrian environmental excellence. It had been well attended with at least 60 delegates.
- e. Ambleside Masterplan – Meeting 7th November - Cllr Ms Colquhoun circulated a report
- f. Remembrance Day Services - The Chairman had represented the Council at the annual services at Ambleside Primary School and St Mary's Church.
- g. Lancaster Seat inauguration – 22nd October - Cllr Thompson reported that the family of the late Dr Lancaster had visited Ambleside to see the new seat installed by the Council and to place a suitable plaque on it. The costs of the seat and installation were fully rechargeable to the family, and the Council offered light refreshments (not exceeding £20) to those attending. A letter of thanks has been received from Mrs Whittaker, the daughter of Dr Lancaster.
- h. Public Inquiry – Old Gas Works Site, Blue Hill Road, Ambleside 30th October – The Chairman and Councillors attending reported on this day long inquiry.
- i. University of Cumbria Liaison Group – 1 November – The Chairman reported on the first meeting of this group.
- j. Ambleside Community Christmas Lights – Cllr Mrs Sparrow reported on progress and preparations for the switch on on November 24th.
- k. Lakes Line Rail User Group – Cllr Mrs Sparrow reported on the latest meeting.
- l. CALC Meeting 29th October – World Heritage Site Steering Group – Chairman reported on this meeting.
- m. LDNPA Site Visit Wateredge Hotel, Grasmere – Development Control Committee – 13th November – The Chairman reported on this meeting.
- n. Local Democracy Week 19th October – The Chairman had attended in company with SLDC and County Council members to meet with young people and talk about their issues and local politics.
- o. Cllr Bradshaw reported on a CAB meeting on 14th November 2007.

93 FINANCE

- a. RESOLVED to confirm approval the orders for payment submitted to the meeting totalling £5819.41
- b. RESOLVED to agree to the appointment of Robin Lees as Parish Handyman for a Pilot Scheme to run from 1st December 2007 to 31st March 2008. The post would be for 10 hours a week at an hourly rate of £7 per hour. The Clerk will act as Line Manager for the Handyman. The Post to be reviewed in March 2008.
- c. The Clerk presented the Budget for 2008/9 and commended it to Members. He answered questions and gave explanations for items contained therein.
RESOLVED To agree the Budget as presented and to set a Precept of £55000 for the next financial year 2008/9. That an Agenda Item to discuss and review the whole of the budget setting process will be placed early in the New Year.
- d. RESOLVED to confirm adoption of an amendment to the Code of Conduct for Members and to formally resolve to adopt paragraph 12(2).
- e. RESOLVED to donate the sum of £1000 towards the North West Air Ambulance as a one off donation.
- f. RESOLVED not to enter in to the Vehicle Activated Traffic Sign programme at £500 per post, but to request that Cumbria County Council implement 30mph speed limits in Rydal, Clappersgate and other areas of the Parish as previously requested by the Parish Council and local residents.

THE CHAIRMAN MOVED THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

- g. RESOLVED to agree the revisions to the Contract of Employment for the Clerk as listed in the revisions to the model contract of employment issued by NALC in February 2007 and also agree that the Chairman sign the new Contract on behalf of the Council. To also agree to confirm implementation of the 2007/8 National Salary Award for Local Council Clerks backdated to April 2007.
- h. RESOLVED That the Council accept the offer from Cumbria Constabulary for an initial three year lease of an Office at Ambleside Police Office. Members also agreed to pay £2705 towards the initial cost of refurbishing the Office, the work to be procured and managed by the Constabulary. The rent offered is £2000 per annum which will result in a substantial saving in rent over the 3 year period.
- i. RESOLVED To thank the existing Internal Auditor for his services but to decline his proposed increase in fees. To look locally for an Internal Auditor who will be prepared to undertake the Internal Auditor duties for a sum not exceeding the budgeted figure of £200.

THE CHAIRMAN THEN RECONVENED THE MEETING

94 PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION

RESOLVED to make the following recommendations on the under-mentioned plans:-

- 7/07/5561/62 Ambleside Parish Centre, Vicarage Lane Ambleside
New gates to Vicarage Lane.- **Approval on the grounds that it will be a great improvement to the existing gates**
- 7/2007/5582 1 St Michael's Nook, Grasmere
Cut in to banking at side of house to create a patio (resubmission)- **No Objections**
- 7/07/5593/4 The Waterside Hotel, Grasmere
Partial Demolition and alterations with extensions with added car parking and landscaping – **Refusal on the grounds that this is a very important and sensitive area and the application represents a gross overdevelopment of this existing restricted site. To break the development boundary as proposed will place in question LDNPA policies regarding development boundaries for any future application within the Lake District National Park. By reason of its massing and height it will be an unneighbourly development to nearby cottages. Lakes Parish Council are also concerned about the possible light pollution from this development. The plans as proposed represent a large urban style development and are not appropriate to a small Lakeland Village in the middle of the National Park, nor is this appropriate to a possible World Heritage site. The design and materials for the windows are not traditional. Lakes Parish Council are also concerned about the increase in staff without the required accommodation and would question where they would live. They are not convinced that the existing water treatment works can cope with a development of this scale. If the Development Control Committee is minded to approve this application, then a condition of non reflective glass to the area facing the Lake should be imposed.**
- 7/07/5601 Langdale Lodge, Bridge Lane, Troutbeck
Demolition, reconstruction and extension (resubmission) – **No Objection**

7/07/5613/4 1 Robin Lane, Troutbeck
Porch – **No Objection**

95 MATTERS OF INFORMATION

- A. From the Chairman
The Chairman had previously reported and had nothing further to add
- B. From the Clerk
 - 1 Windermere Town Council Agenda – 24th November 2007
 - 2 Clerks and Councils Direct – November 2007
 - 3. The Clerk – November 2007
 - 4. Clerk updated Members on the Low Fold (Mountain Rescue) footpath
 - 5. Clerk updated Members on the Royal Oak footpath proceedings
 - 6. Clerk informed Members of the Office being closed due to staff leave from Monday 19th November to Friday 23rd November 2007
- C From Members
 - a. Cllr Welch reported on the Cote How bonfire and the money raised for local causes and charity.
 - b. Cllr Mrs Sowerbutts expressed concern regarding the future of local Conservative Club. (Cllr Barton said it had no connection with the Conservative Party)
- D. From District Councillors.
Cllr Vatcher updated Members with the latest Health and Scrutiny information.
- E. From the County Councillor
Councillor Barton spoke on highway matters and the proposed alterations to rail services in the North West.

96 DRAFT LIST OF MEETING DATES 2008

The Clerk had circulated a draft list of Meeting dates for 2008.

RESOLVED - To agree the dates suggested.

97 PARISH NEWSLETTER

The Clerk informed Members of the deadline for the next issue – December 10th.

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98 CUMBRIA HIGHWAYS – TRIAL SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

The Clerk had circulated information on a highways reorganisation and teams that would visit locally to address local problems and issues.

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99. AMBLESIDE DENTAL PRACTICE

Cllr Mrs Rees updated Members on the latest information on Dental Services and was pleased to announce that an Ambleside Dental Practice will be retained on the retirement of the present Dentist. People should register with the PCT as soon as possible.

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100 NOTIFICATION OF APPEALS/WITHDRAWN AND AMENDED APPLICATIONS

7/2007/5416/7 – Alterations to external seating area including addition of 3 Jumbrellas – this has now been approved as permitted development by the LDNPA. The issue over whether part of the land in question is highway or not is still to be resolved with the Highway Authority and questions on the issue should be referred to Highway Authority.

7/07/5394 – 1 St Michael's Nook, Grasmere – Appeal against refusal of planning permission to cut into banking to create a patio – to be dealt with by representations

The Meeting closed at 1016pm