

Minutes of the Meeting of Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council held on 6th January 2011

PRESENT: Messrs M L Dobson (Chair), Mr J Bownass, Mr M Casson,, Ms M Harkness, Mr C Smith, Mr M J Dobson,

In Attendance: Cllr J Bland (CCC) Mr G Pitt (Clerk).

1. **APOLOGIES**, Mr D T Dobson, Cllr J Holmes (SLDC),

2. **MINUTES** of the meeting held on 18th November 2010 (already circulated) were approved

NB1: Four members of the Parish Council met informally on 16th December, visiting 9 of the 12 quarries registered in the name of the PC (and held in trust for the Parish).

NB2: Four members of the Parish Council also met informally on December 17th to discuss actions in response to the continuing severe weather and Cumbria Highways' policies on gritting of minor roads. Reports from these meetings are included in these minutes and actions have been formally approved where appropriate.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (not covered elsewhere in this agenda)**

re: Environment Agency – Lyth Valley Drainage: No change

re: CALC SL Meeting 25th November: The meeting had been attended by ML Dobson (Chairman) and G Pitt (Clerk). The first half of the meeting had been of considerable interest, including briefings on the new 'Better Highways' initiative (local Maintenance Teams) and the results of the Winter Gritting Review. The latter stated that in effect no additional funds were available so no significant changes could be expected, although some funds had been found to provide up to 111 new grit bins – but none for Crosthwaite & Lyth. Members of the (CCC) Local Committee, Highways Group had allocated funds for the renewal of the Parish Salt Scheme (see below). Briefing papers were included for circulation

3a Winter Gritting of Minor Roads

Parish Salt Scheme: The Scheme had been renewed for the current winter season. Formal conditions had been applied (but largely ignored?) – see notice. Two batches had been delivered to the Memorial Hall. A plastic sheet cover had been provided. There were some reservations about the use of this material off the highways and there was a need to warn local inhabitants (see below)

2010/11 Gritting contract: An urgent informal meeting was held on 17th December to consider how best to respond to requests for help from settlements serviced by minor roads not routinely treated by Cumbria Highways/Amey. After discussing various alternatives, it was agreed to approach David Wilson of Skelsmergh (who already treated priority 2 roads under contract to Amey) with a view to placing a contract for him to grit minor roads to Starnthwaite, Row and Howe. M L Dobson and M Casson were delegated to meet David Wilson and to negotiate terms. Terms were agreed and the first treatment was carried out on the same evening (17th Dec). A written contract was signed on 18th Dec based on costs at £28 per hour plus £94 per ton of material after stocks received under the Parish Salt scheme had been used up. Subsequently the lane from Tarnside towards Bowland Bridge was added to the roads to be treated. This report, the actions taken and the terms of the contract were all approved by the full Parish Council. It was accepted that this contract would have to be funded from reserves with a limit of expenditure of £1000.

2011/12 Gritting arrangements: Cllr J Bland (CCC) and Cllr J Holmes (SLDC) had been actively encouraging local parishes (Underbarrow, Brigsteer & Helsington, Cartmell Fell and Winster/Crook) to discuss possible arrangement for a combined contract for future years, based on a local contractor, shared equipment and pooled material stocks provided by Cumbria Highways. The Parish Council agreed that this made sense and they would be happy to share in joint discussions. The clerk had emailed SWLAP asking for an agenda item to discuss the principle and the availability of funds (meeting of 13th January). It was agreed to increase the 2011/12 precept by £1000 to cover the possible revenue costs of our share of such an arrangement.(see also finances below)

It was also agreed that a note should be inserted in the next Two Valleys magazine explaining the PC's actions and the reason for the increase in precept in 2011/12.Clerk's draft was accepted. **Action: Clerk**

4. PARISH PLAN – PROGRESS REPORTS

4.1 Housing:

MGS: re possible development adjacent to St Mary's Green – No further contact..

Dobson's re possible developments of land (field) to East of Rock Lea. – The Clerk referred to copies of correspondence from solicitors on behalf of householders owning land used for access to this field.

This correspondence makes it clear that those householders are willing to allow passage over their land for agricultural purposes but will not allow passage for construction traffic or for access to finished properties. Clerk tabled his written response which was approved by the Council.

Following the Public Meeting 'Housing Matters' in the Memorial Hall on Wed 11th Nov, a number of initial 'pre-application' discussions had been held with LDNPA planners. There was some concern about the application of sustainability criteria to rule out otherwise sensible applications. Clerk to obtain more information and, if appropriate would write to the Development Management team. **Action: Clerk**

4.2 Community Events: 4.3 Employment and Business: No new matters reported.

4.4 Roads and Traffic:

The new 'Better Highways' project, currently being rolled out, would replace Highway Stewards with two man 'find and fix' teams working within LAP boundaries and with direct contact with Parish Councils, although problems should still be reported through the Highways Hotline. Teams should visit each parish every 6/7 weeks. Agreed that PC should discuss the best way to collate problems and to maintain contact with the teams, bearing in mind John Handley's work over the past two years.

J Bownass was highly critical of the state of the A5074 between Damson Dene and Hubbersty Lane end and his comments were endorsed by others. J Bland commented that this section was scheduled for resurfacing but the date was not yet set. Clerk asked to write to Cumbria Highways (Tony Beatty) to ask for action to reduce dangers. **Action: Clerk**

4.5 Community Web site; No change

4.6 First Responders: No Change but see finances below.

4.7 Crime & Disorder: Dec newsletter received but detailed crime statistics not available. **Action: Clerk**

5. Governance

5.1 SL Strategic Partnership – Local Area Partnership:

A report showing confirmed project funding by the SWLAP in 2010/11 was tabled and circulated. This confirmed that £12,175 had been allocated to village hall improvements in 5 villages, £3,700 towards setting up the Helsington CLT and £9,520 towards gritting machines. The agreed view of the PC was that use of LAP funds on village halls was inappropriate.

A new LAP co-ordinator (Janet Draper) had been appointed.

A first review of SWLAP is to be carried out and LAP members have been asked to contribute. It was considered that a review at this point was too soon to assess the performance of the LAP and would be a waste of time.

Next meeting 13th January. Clerk had contacted the co-ordinator and agreed that the prospective joint gritting exercise could be raised under item 6 on the agenda. Several members offered to attend.

5.2 LDNPA Consultation on governance of National Parks – meeting of 14th December at Brockhole

The meeting was called to brief Parish Councils and to take their advice on governance of the authority; the Clerk attended on behalf of the PC. Turnout was reasonable, given the road conditions and both LDNPA and CALC expressed themselves as satisfied with the results. However presentations and discussions were limited to the numbers and representation on the Authority's main board; the actual governance of the Authority through sub committees and membership of partnership based structures was not discussed. The Clerk had been moved to write to the LDNPA Chairman and CALC CEO after the meeting commenting that the results had little value without having had a chance to discuss the underlying requirements for effective governance of the Authority's activities. (Letter tabled and approved by PC). Responses to DEFRA had been invited for 1st Feb. There was no inclination to add to comments already made to LDNPA

6. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 AGE UK (SL): (formerly Age Concern): Confirmation of Big Lottery funding to maintain & expand current pilot (9 agents). PC had doubts on the need for this service and the availability of volunteers.

6.2 SW Neighbourhood Forum: Notes on the meeting of 10th December (Dallam) were circulated. Boundaries are now defined on the same basis as SWLAP – ie with Wtherslack, Meathop etc. It was agreed that this arrangement was acceptable. **Action: Clerk**

6.3 CCC Public Consultation on priorities and budgets: end date 31st January
Circulated

6.4 SLDC Budget Consultation: end date 31st January
Circulated

7. Planning Matters

Permissions granted: - none

New application – no objection

7/2010/5593 – Replacement sun lounge at Crosthwaite House for Mr S Dawson

8 FINANCES (Since last meeting)

Income:	NSI interest (November)	£ 11.32
	COIF (charitable dons)	£304.40
	Quarry rent	£ 12.50

Expenditure approved:	Marcus Knipe for grass cutting	£120.00
	Eon for electricity	£ 38.33
	SLCC Subs (for Clerk)	£ 44.00
	D H Wilson for gritting contract (Dec)	£343.68
	Land Registry for Parish Room	£150.00

Parish Room registration: Clerk reported that he had completed the necessary paperwork and required only a cheque (for £150) before sending off the registration application. (see above)

Precept 2011/12 In view of the contract for gritting of minor roads in 2010/11 and the likely joint efforts to be made in 2011/12, it was agreed to increase the precept for 2011/12 by £1000 making a total charge of £2750. **Action Clerk**

Snooker Club: No movement

Action: Clerk

Quarries: 9 out of 12 quarries had been visited on 16th December. It was agreed that ownership of the quarries should be retained by the PC. Clerk to advise DT Dobson and suggest a tenancy.

It was noted that a number of the plots could benefit from basic maintenance/coppicing and the possibility of finding local people who might wish to look after individual quarries was discussed. No firm decision was made.

The Clerk was asked to press on with new agreements and increases to rents for existing tenants.

Action: Clerk

9 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC; None

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS;

M Harkness asked if there had been any progress re John Harrison's drain at the Old Post Office. M Dobson reported that he had shown the problem to the Highway Steward who should now alert the local highway team.

Date of next Monthly Meeting: It was agreed to move all future meetings to the 1st Thursday in the month so as to have a reasonable chance of inserting a report in the next edition of Two Valleys magazine.

Hence the next meeting would be on **Thursday 3rd February 2011 at 7.30pm, at the Parish Room..**