

Caton with Littledale Parish Council

Minutes of the parish council meeting held at the Victoria Institute on Tuesday 14th February 2017 at 7.15pm.

Present:

Cllr G Beckett, Cllr R Elvis, Cllr R Gibbons, Cllr E Huddleston, Cllr D Nesbitt, Cllr R Paine (vice – chairman), Cllr M Skeldon, Cllr S Thompson & Cllr J Walmsley (chairman).

G Mason - clerk to the parish council.

Three members of the public.

17/14 Apologies for absence. Cllr Kynch and Cllr Hill.

17/15 To consider and approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 10th January 2017.

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by Cllr Walmsley.

Proposed by Cllr Nesbitt.

Seconded by Cllr Elvis.

17/16 Declarations of interest and dispensations.

None declared.

17/17 Open forum.

B4RN: Update from Steve Smithson and Jorj Haston.

Mr Smithson and Ms Haston presented to the parish council, information on the rural broadband B4RN (Broadband for rural north). They are currently installing B4RN at Brookhouse, with Caton Green and Moorside already live.

They explained that residents need to come together for the broadband to be installed. A group of residential properties each has a block champion who feeds information regarding installation etc to each household.

If a resident is interested in having B4RN installed they pay £150 and are given a fibre optic cable to install into the garden. The community effort helps people install these cables, if they are not able to dig themselves.

The profits are ploughed back into the community and local schools and churches have free use of the broadband. There are shares also available.

There are donations needed to help install the broadband which isn't covered by the investment.

More information is available on the Caton village website.

17/18 Planning applications.

16/01603FUL Sycamore Road - Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 21 dwellings with associated access, landscaping and parking

It was resolved that the parish council object to the planning application and submit the following observations:

Proposed by Cllr Elvis.

Seconded by Cllr Thompson.

Access - Access to the site is only through Sycamore Road, currently a quiet cul-de-sac. It is narrow, with cars parked on both sides. There are sharp bends on it. At present children play safely on the

pavements and the street. The proposed development has parking spaces for 49 cars, which will add hugely to the number of traffic movements along this road. There'll also be extra traffic from delivery vans.

Access during construction - residents are very concerned about access to the site during the building work, if the development is permitted. The narrow road is already in poor condition, and the HGVs will do further damage. Noise and dust will be unbearable, especially in the houses closest to the site. Nuisance parking by construction vehicles is inevitable

Drainage - There are already problems with surface water on Sycamore Road and residents are concerned about exacerbation of surface flooding. The existing sewage system is overloaded, as evidenced by the 30 callouts due to flooding/sewage issues in Sycamore Road since 2015 alone. There are springs on the proposed site and building on it will make flooding worse for Sycamore Road and neighbouring properties on Brookhouse Road.

Impact on neighbouring properties - A number of neighbouring properties which currently look out over fields and trees will have their views ruined by the development. Local residents regret the loss

of gardens and vegetation. There are concerns over damage to boundary stone walls and hedges. Wildlife and biodiversity Local residents dispute the results of the environmental survey, reporting bats, owls and amphibians on the site.

Site design and green spaces The site plan does include an open space, but it is behind garages and will not be subject to informal supervision and so is likely to attract anti-social behaviour and litter. Additional street lighting, unless carefully planned, will add to light pollution within the AONB. The plans do not indicate the location of any water pumping facilities or electricity substation and residents do not want to find that these are imposed on neighbours very late in the construction process, as happened at Moor Platt.

Housing mix The original approved outline planning application for this site included up to 40% affordable housing with half of this available for social renting. The plan which has actually come forward is all for properties for sale. 21 houses are proposed. 15 of these to have four bedrooms or more. 2 to have three bedrooms, 2 to have two bedrooms and two to have one bedroom. One of the two-bedroom houses and both one-bedroom houses are to be sold as "intermediate housing". There is no provision for social rented housing. This is not acceptable on a Greenfield site within the AONB.

Tree Preservation Order No. 593 (2017), Land Off Sycamore Road, Brookhouse – the parish council have no observations.

16/01310/REM Reserved matters application for the erection of 30 dwellings with associated accesses and internal roads – the parish council have submitted their response to the planning application previously. Cllr Walmsley reported that the application had been largely passed by the city council.

17/19 Parish management and maintenance.

Rebuilding of the wall surrounding the oak tree on Copy Lane.

No update.

Play park inspections and repairs review.

Cllr Huddleston reported to the parish council that the play park is in good condition but the zip-wire seat needs replacing, the sand pit needs more sand and the wood bark needs replenishing.

Cllr Huddleston was asked to enquire about the cost for a new seat and the clerk would look into the cost of chopped tyre rubber as an alternative to the wood bark.

The clerk has received the city council's playground equipment safety report which was handed to Cllr Huddleston.

Oak tree at the Fishstones.

Cllr Walmsley has attempted to contact the TPO officer and Graham Neesham. If there has been no response by March, Cllr Walmsley will arrange to have the trees planted in the war memorial garden and the sapling at the Fishstones.

Cycle rack installation update.

Cllr Walmsley has spoken to the manager of the Coop and he has informed her that non – urgent work will not be considered until the end of March and the start of the new financial year.

The Station Hotel landlord is interested in siting cycle racks on their premises. The parish council agree that racks on both sides of the road would be useful to cycle users.

There are many sites around the village that cycle racks could be installed on, which would prevent cars parking on pavements. Cllr Walmsley and the clerk will draft a letter to Highways listing the potential areas for cycle racks for approval.

Bus shelter repair and maintenance.

No update.

Cherry tree on Sycamore Road.

Lancashire County Council have cut down the cherry tree but the pavement is still lifted by the roots and the area needs weeds removing. Cllr Walmsley suggested that cycle racks could be a potential replacement.

Public toilet cleaning and maintenance costs.

Lancaster City Council have stopped the funding for the toilet cleaning. The Victoria Institute will take over the full responsibility of the cleaning and maintenance of the toilet. The parish council will continue to pay for the toilet to be locked.

Dog fouling.

Cllr Gibbons reported that there is a problem with dog fouling on the station sports field. The clerk was asked to contact the dog warden to evaluate the area and ask for dog fouling signage and an additional bin to be placed on site.

Green bin collection at the war memorial.

The annual cost for the two green bins to be emptied is £102.44. The clerk gave Cllr Elvis the green bin sticker which Lancaster City Council provided to identify the bin to be emptied. The clerk will request a second sticker for the other green bin.

17/20 Highways and footpath matters.

The pavements on Hornby Road are in bad condition due to cars and HGVs parking on them. The clerk will contact LCC Highways to review the problem with parking on the A683 and the pavement damage.

Artlebeck footpath has flood erosion and will be assessed by Lancashire County Council before being reinstated.

Cllr Nesbitt reported that the church has been successful in their bid for funding for the resurfacing of New Street.

17/21 Neighbourhood plan update.

The survey results are now on the village website and a printed version is available for consultation at the VI.

There are public meetings planned on the 9th, 11th and 14th March to examine the proposed policies. The steering group are meeting on the 15th February. The second tranche of funding has been applied for and the report for the first grant has been completed.

17/22 Lengthsman and war memorial contracts.

The clerk received a quote of £18 per hour x 16 hours per week from Lancaster and Cumbria Grounds Maintenance.

The clerk will contact Joshua France to ask him to submit his tender before the March meeting.

17/23 Teenager facilities review.

Cllr Huddleston asked if the parish council could provide facilities for the teenagers of the village. Currently, there are no resources or entertainment for this age group, since the youth club and boxing club closed. Cllr Huddleston suggested a skate park / BMX track for the teenagers but this would depend on an appropriate site.

Cllr Walmsley asked Cllr Huddleston to arrange a Sunday for councillors to walk around the village to look at potential sites.

17/24 Bee-friendly planting.

Cllr Walmsley has been approached to see if the parish council has any sites that are available for bee friendly planting. There are no sites available currently.

17/25 Accounts

Payments

Victoria Institute, administration grant (S/O)	£1000.00
Victoria Institute, public toilet cleaning (S/O)	£152.00
E Huddleston zipwire lockup (S/O)	£40.00
B Postlethwaite public toilet lockup S/O)	£40.00
Victoria Institute, room hire	£41.15
Gill Mason, clerk's wages £541.15 and expenses £41.50	£582.65
Cllr Gibbons reimbursement – tools and chain £10.80 / pic hooks £3.38	£14.18
Peter Collins - travel reimbursement	£8.40
Kirkwells neighbourhood plan preparation	£2400.00
G Mason zipwire lock and chain reimbursement	£25.39
Electricity charges - Eon	£14.06

It was resolved that the above payments be made.

Proposed by Cllr Paine.

Seconded by Cllr Elvis.

Receipts.

Mr Jackson - Fishing rights 2017/2018	£800.00
---------------------------------------	---------

9.10am – Cllr Skeldon & Cllr Thompson left the meeting.

Budget and precept 2017/18.

It was resolved that the parish council adopt the new budget for 2017/2018.

Proposed by Cllr Elvis.

Seconded by Cllr Gibbons.

17/26 Reports and correspondence.

Police report - 8 recorded crimes in our village. 7 were anti-social behaviour and one report of a violent or sexual offence, at Kingfisher Court.

Lancaster City Council - Grass cutting at Fell View – noted.

LALC report – Cllr Nesbitt

At the LALC meeting Maurice Brophy from LCC attended the meeting as well as the AONB representative from Silverdale and Arnside. Mr Brophy reported that the local plan proposal for development sites has reduced from 8 to 4 sites. Each parish council are to submit their opinions. LALC will not be submitting a response.

Previously circulated correspondence.

Residents hedges correspondence - noted

Lancaster City Council budget consultation – noted.

LALC minutes and agenda – noted.

Local plan consultation dates - noted

Openreach – schedule works Brookhouse Hall – noted.

LALC Plunkett Foundation – noted.

Lancaster City Council – planning application validation guide – noted.

17/27 To note the date of the next parish council meeting.

Tuesday 14th March 2017 at 7.15pm. Detailed agenda items to be submitted by 5pm on Monday 6th March 2017.

Signed

Date.....