

Borrowdale Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of the Bi-Monthly meeting of the Borrowdale Parish Council held in the Borrowdale Institute at Rosthwaite on Wednesday 30th January 2013 at 7:30pm

Present: John Bennett (Chairman), Andrew Webb (Vice-Chairman), Trevor Dowson, David Hindmarch

In Attendance: Mr J R Hall (Grange Resident), Mr B Bland (Borrowdale Resident), Mr N Baxter (On behalf of Honister Mines), Mr J Weir (On behalf of Honister Mines), Ron Munby C/cllr, Penny Webb (National Trust), Pete Barron (LDNPA), Becx Carter (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: Sam Hicks, Gary Metcalfe

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Sam Hicks and Gary Metcalfe

2. Request for Declarations

Dispensation has been granted in writing to all Parish Councillors in response to their requests for declarations at the 28th November 2012 meeting, to enable them to discuss and vote upon the setting of precepts. All Parish Councillors present had a copy of their letter granting dispensation with them at the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Bennett, Webb, Dowson & Hindmarch declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 11. All Councillors present as minuted above had copies of their dispensation letters relating to this matter.

4. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on the 28th November 2012

All members had received a copy of the minutes to read.

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on the 28th November 2012 were confirmed as a true & accurate record, and as such were signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

Unless mentioned below all actions from previous minutes are deemed to have been completed.

5.i- Badminton Club- This action is currently stalled due to the condition of the floor in the village hall that will need to be repaired (holes patched, and surface re polished) before the badminton club could progress. C/llr Munby requested a quote be provided to him, to enable him to review if there is any financial support available

Action Point: DH to get a quote for the works to the floor as a matter of urgency, and pass the quote to BC

Action Point: JB to pass contact details for the contractor who has previously done works on the floor to DH

Action Point: BC to communicate with C/llr Munby on this matter, once the quote has been received.

5.ii- Borrowdale Toilets- Grange Toilet is boarded up (A local business has raised this as a concern). To the best of the Parish Council's knowledge this toilet is owned & managed by Allerdale Borough Council. The parish council were concerned that this public facility was closed.

Action Point: BC to find the contact details for correct person at Allerdale Borough Council and pass them to AW

Action Point: AW to further action this point.

5.iii- Condition of Borrowdale Road- Jonathan Smith has confirmed that works are still due to take place, as and when the weather permits. C/llr Munby updated the Parish Council that the Highways department is currently

going through a revamp, and they are consulting on the idea of moving to one team (covering Copeland, Allerdale & Carlisle), and that this may have ramifications on works schedules etc. Pete Barron mentioned the fact that the condition of this road may well have significant impacts on future major sports events that maybe visiting the Borrowdale Valley area. The loss of any major sports events would have a significant detrimental effect on the local economy.

Resolved: Pressure to be put on Jonathan Smith for a schedule of works, and a set timescale, impressing the importance and potential economic effects of reparation works not being made to the road.

Action Point: BC to contact Jonathan Smith re the above.

Action Point: C/llr Munby to also mention these issues to Jonathan Smith

A Parish Councillor raised the issue of the drains near the Ashness Bridge road end, and the fact that the drains are blocked resulting in water on the road. The drains either need to be cleared, or potentially the road needs to be cambered to help the water drain (this would also reduce the maintenance costs on this stretch of road as having standing water on the road will lead to be damage).

Action Point: BC to raise Jonathan Smith re the above issue

5.iv- Response to queries raised with the National Trust- Following the last Borrowdale Parish Council meeting a letter was sent to the National Trust raising a number of queries. A formal written response has been received from the National Trust (and a copy is available on request). The letter asks a number of further questions of the Parish Council;

- What do the Parish Council perceive to be the demand for housing in Borrowdale?
- How many households are on the local authority waiting lists?
- How many Households live outside of the valley who want to move back/working in the area?
- What evidence does the Parish Council have that National Trust rents are high?
- And higher than fair market rents in the area?

The Parish Councillors raised a number of further items:

- How do the National Trust know that a farm needs National Trust Housing to support the farm?
- What do the National Trust use as a comparison for fair market rent?
- What proportion of housing stock in the Borrowdale Valley does the National Trust own?

Resolved: That Andrew Thompson be invited to the next Borrowdale Parish Council meeting, to enable the above queries and a public question and answer session regarding National Trust housing policy etc to be held (30mins)

Action Point: BC to contact Andrew Thompson & invite him

Action Point: BC to contact Cumbria Rural Housing Trust & ABC to request information on the number of properties on the housing waiting lists etc

Action Point: BC to contact the National Trust to ask how many properties/what proportion of the housing stock do they own within the Borrowdale Parish Council area.

Other issues that were raised with Penny Webb at the last meeting were the issue of the sheep feeders on the footpaths, and New Bridge. The 2010 bridge survey has been found, and it identifies a number of issues that need to be revisited ,and these will be actioned in the near future

Action Point: PW to report back at the March meeting on the progress with the sheep feeders on the footpaths

5.v- Response to Hunting issue- Following the last Borrowdale Parish Council meeting a letter was sent to both the National Trust & the Police & Crime Commissioner raising concerns of the continuation of hunting with hounds in the Borrowdale Valley, and the fact that hunt objectors were suffering victimization. A response has been received from Richard Rhodes (Police & Crime Commissioner) stating that he would keep the matter under observation.

Action Point: BC to send copies of the BPC letter and its response to Mr Bland

Action Point: BC to chase up National Trust response to this issue

5.vi- Flytipping in Grange- A further update has been received from Allerdale Borough Council that this matter seems to have settled down, and that they are hoping to re-instate the bin that was removed shortly. The matter will be monitored over the coming months

5.vii- Grit Bins- The Parish Clerk asked if all the Grit Bins were full and regularly topped up. It was identified that the Grit Bin at Fourways Road End is damaged.

Action Point: BC to report this matter to the relevant person

5.viii- Red Squirrel Warning Signs- Information has now been received on where to source these signs from.

Resolved: Information to be held on file, for reference but no extra signs to be erected at this stage. DH to speak with the resident who raised this matter.

Action Point: DH to speak with the resident regarding this matter

5.ix- Cycling on the Footpath between Lodore & Manesty- Following the last Parish Council meeting BC wrote to the resident who raised this issue, to let them know that at this stage Borrowdale PC wouldn't be pursuing this matter. The resident has responded stating that they are disappointed to hear that the matter won't be progressed, and the resident requested that all incidences/complaints received on this matter be fully minuted and reported to the relevant authorities.

6. Public Participation

Honister Mines

Mr N Baxter, & Mr J Weir attended the meeting to discuss the Borrowdale Parish Council's objection to the Honister Zip Wire Planning Application. A summary of the discussion is given below.

Mr Weir & Mr Baxter requested information on how many councillors were present at the meeting where the planning application was discussed, and what the split of the vote was. It was confirmed that at the meeting on the 28th November there were 6 Parish Councillors present, 5 voted against the planning application (with 1 declaration of interest and therefore abstention).

Mr Weir stated that he was saddened that the Borrowdale Parish Council were unable to support this application, where one of the main aims of the proposal was to help support the ongoing future of the valley. He would like to try and offer the Parish Council an opportunity to look at the planning application in a different light.

Mr Baxter wished to respond to the Borrowdale Parish Council's worry that people would be bused up to the top to use this zip wire, without having to do the Via Ferrata. Mr Baxter & Mr Weir strongly confirmed that this is not possible due to the location of the take off for the proposed new Zip Wire. Due to where the take off would be situated it would involve a similarly strenuous descent to access it from a bus, as it does to do the via ferrata. They both confirmed that if a visitor wasn't capable of doing the Via Ferrata they would not be capable of accessing the take off in any other manner.

Mr Weir confirmed in response to a query from a Parish Councillor that only 20 or so people an hour would be able to use this proposed new Zip Wire due to safety restrictions.

Mr Weir stated that if they achieved planning permission for this development for 18months if after this time it wasn't proving successful that he would be happy to take the installation down. (He did state that he was hopefully that it would prove successful and that he would be able to apply for permanent permission).

Both men confirmed that one of the key reasons that this application has been submitted, is to help support the mine remaining open, and enabling the continuous employment of their staff. The business is currently struggling due to a downturn in the number of people wanting to do mine tours and a downturn in the slate business.

Mr Baxter confirmed that contrary to a point raised by the BPC in their letter to the planning department, the Zip Wire would not be visible from the road

Mr Weir & Mr Baxter offered to undertake a poll of all the residents of the valley to gauge the opinion; they would then like the opportunity to present the findings the parish council. They further offered the opportunity for all parish councillors to go to Honister and be taken up the Via Ferrata to enable Mr Weir to fully explain where the take off/landing etc would be placed. A number of Parish Councillors confirmed that they would be willing to take up such an opportunity.

The Chair reminded Mr Weir & Mr Baxter that all Parish Council meetings are open to the public and they were welcome to attend any future meetings e.g. if the application were resubmitted

Resolved: That if Mr Weir or Mr Baxter contact the Parish Clerk with a written invitation to visit and have a go on the Via Ferrata.

Action Point: BC to circulate invitation to all Parish Councillors and liaise with Mr Weir on the organization of a visit

Police Matters

Despite an update being requested in advance of the meeting by the clerk no update was received.

Councillor R Munby

Many of the items raised by C/llr Munby were covered in matters arising (see above)

MRWS-C/llr Munby confirmed that CCC cabinet voted against proceeding to stage 4. Copeland & Allerdale both voted to proceed to stage 4. To proceed a positive vote was needed from the relevant borough and the County Council, as CCC voted NO the process is now halted. The government now has to go back to the rest of the country and recommence the search. C/llr Munby cautioned that despite the No vote from CCC a significant amount of high level radioactive waste (equivalent to 4 Albert Halls') is still being stored on the surface at Sellafield, which needs further protection. It is imperative that a solution to this waste storage problem is found.

Grange Street Lighting Project- Jeff Hall confirmed that he had contacted Dave Bryden on Monday 28th January for an update- Mr Bryden is currently waiting for a confirmed delivery date from the suppliers (DW Windsor), once this date is confirmed Mr Bryden will action the next steps as soon as possible. C/llr Munby confirmed that time was getting critical on this project now as the grant the Parish Council had received to under take the work must be spent & defrayed by March.

Action Point: BC to chase this matter up with Dave Bryden, and impress the time concerns

Action Point: C/llr Munby to raise this matter with Harry Dyke at his next meeting

Pete Barron- LDNPA

Alerted the Borrowdale Parish Council to the fact that the Stepping Stones above New Bridge will need to be replaced/edited this year (Within the window of consent they have for working in the river).

Alerted the Borrowdale Parish Council to the fact that the boardwalk from Manesty to the plastic duck boards are in poor condition and will need replaced soon. The LDNPA and the National Trust are hoping work together on this issue, and are currently looking for funds to support the work.

Penny Webb- National Trust

Notified the Parish Council that at the new bridge at Kettlewell Car the wall would be built up to push people on to the footpath and the new bridge, as opposed to walking on the road.

7. Correspondence received

Unless mentioned below the Borrowdale Parish Council did not wish to respond to any of the items of correspondence.

- Jon Raymond- Approval for a new trial run- Parish Council have no objections but should refer him to the CCC Events Advisory Group

Action Point: BC to respond to Jon Raymond

- Allerdale Area Working Proposals

Action Point: BC to forward to John Bennett

-Royal Garden Party

Action Point: AW & JB nominated. BC to process

8. Finance

Items for payment:

Clerks Salary & Expenses

£610.30 (Inc £117.50 PAYE to HMRC)

9. Precept

A draft budget was presented to the Borrowdale Parish Council.

JB Proposed. TD- Seconded- All present in favour

Resolved: The precept for the financial year 13/14 is to be set at £4,391 (Minus Local Support for Council Tax) equates to a final precept figure of £4,298.84.

10. Planning Matters & Consultations to respond to

7/2013/2009- Lonthwaite Youth Hostel- Sitting of three camping pods

Resolved- No comment to be made on this planning application

Action Point: BC to contact LDNPA regarding the fact that notice of this application hasn't been received

Consultations

Unless detailed below Borrowdale Parish Council had no comment:

Police & Crime Plan Public Consultation- Forward to AW

Go Cumbria- Passed to JB to complete on BPC's behalf

11. Matters for Information

Unless mentioned below no actions/resolutions were made or required with regard to the matters for information.

Grange Lamp Posts- Mainly covered above, however JH agreed to continue researching other funds to complete the two column lamps.

Derwent 7- Has now reformed, and are asking if all Parish Councils wish to remain involved.

Resolved: Borrowdale Parish Council to remain involved in the Derwent 7.

12. Any other business

Repairs to the bus shelter in Grange- ongoing

Action Point: Three written quotes to be provided to BC ASAP. DH, TD & JB to action

CALC Business Training Session to be held in Keswick, at a charge of £10.

Resolved: BC to attend on behalf of the Parish Council

13. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 27th March 2013- 7:30pm at the Rosthwaite Institute.