

Borrowdale Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of the Bi-Monthly meeting of the Borrowdale Parish Council held in the Rosthwaite Institute on Wednesday 22nd May 2013 at 19:45

Present: Andrew Webb (in the Chair), John Bennett (Vice-Chair), David Hindmarch, Gary Metcalfe, Trevor Dowson, Sam Hicks, Gill Brocklesby

In Attendance: C/Cllr Andrew Lysser, Becx Carter (Clerk), Rev Gay Pye, Pete Barron, Neil Dowie, Joe Weir, Gnash Baxter, Nigel Dixon, Jeff Hall.

Apologies: J Hayton (LDNPA), Penny Webb (National Trust),

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the above-mentioned observers.

2. Request for Declarations

None received

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on the 27th March 2013

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

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on the 27th March 2013 were confirmed as a true & accurate record, and as such were signed by the Chairman.

5. Action Reports/Updates from Councillors & Clerks

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. DH has spoken to some people regarding quotes but has not yet received them. Once DH has received the quotes this matter will be reconsidered.

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

5.ii- Borrowdale Toilets- To the best of the knowledge of the Borrowdale Parish Council all the toilets will be open for the 2013 season. This issue to be included on the next agenda but no further action to be taken at this stage.

Action Point: BC to include on the next agenda.

5.iii- Response to queries raised with the National Trust- Following the January Borrowdale Parish Council meeting the parish councillors requested that Andrew Thompson be invited to the March meeting, unfortunately Andrew was unable to attend the March meeting, Andrew has still been unable to commit to a meeting. The clerk has invited him to either the July or September Borrowdale Parish Council meeting to enable the queries to be discussed and a public question and answer session regarding the National Trust housing policy etc to be held (30mins)

Clerk has contacted Cumbria Rural Housing Trust & ABC and requested information on the number of households in Borrowdale/wanting to live in Borrowdale. Unfortunately this information isn't available.

Action Point Ongoing: 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.

Action Point: BC to continue to liaise with Andrew Thompson to try and organize Andrew's attendance at a future Borrowdale PC meeting to discuss the above issues.

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

5.iv- Response to Hunting issue- Following the March meeting the National Trust were contacted again for their response to this matter. The National Trust have responded stating that "the National Trust's policy on the subject of Trail Following & the Exercising of Hounds/Beagles remains unaltered and locally here in the North Lakes; following our recent meeting with our neighbouring (Principle) Landowners and the Police we have agreed to work together more closely, sharing best practice and information (where applicable) to improve the overall management of the licences that are issued in respect of these activities". No further action to be taken on this matter at this stage.

5.v- SSSI @ Lodore Woods- following the March meeting the Clerk contacted Natural England for clarity on what the roles, responsibilities and liabilities of the Parish Council there are for this piece of land, and also to query that the land didn't belong to High Lodore farm. No response has been received at this stage.

Action Point: Clerk to continue to work on this matter and report back at the next meeting of the BPC

6. Public Participation

Police Matters

An update was received from the PCSO on any relevant police matters (there were no incidents to report)

C/Cllr A Lysser

Borrowdale Road- Councillor Lysser informed the meeting that he had recently been involved in three meetings with Cumbria County Council (CCC) about Highways issues (including the condition of Borrowdale Road). The Highways team at CCC is currently being restructured and a number of positions are being lost. Jonathan Smith has now been moved to the East Cumbria area and Borrowdale will have a new area lead. Councillor Lysser offered to take the any new personnel for a drive up Borrowdale Road to highlight the condition of the road, this offer was accepted and will hopefully take place in the coming months. At the meeting that Councillor Lysser attended CCC said that the road would be sprayed and chipped this year, and that next year parts of it are included in their offer of works, there are budgetary constraints but CCC recognize that there are some issues that need to be dealt with.

Derwent 7- New electoral boundaries were introduced at the recent local council elections (2nd May), these new boundaries mean that Keswick lost significant areas to Bothel & Warrels (including Braithwaite, Portinscale, Thornthwaite & Under Skiddaw). Due to the impact of this change, consideration is being given to changing the working boundaries to enable the D7 to remain together, despite the electoral boundaries having changed. Councillor Lysser suggests that it is very important that the Derwent 7 has a strong voice about keeping the D7 together.

Honister Zip Wire

A discussion took place regarding the Honister Zip Wire Proposals and the fact that Borrowdale Parish Council had objected to the most recent planning application. A summary of the key points of this discussion is provided below.

Mr J Weir following on from the January Borrowdale Parish Council meeting had circulated a questionnaire to the residents of the Borrowdale Valley. Mr Weir confirmed that the results of the survey were that 90% of the residents who returned the questionnaire were in favor (133), 8% were against it (12), and 2 % were unsure (3).

Mr Weir took the opportunity to thank the Borrowdale residents for their participation and support. Mr Weir followed this up by stating that he would like to work more closely with the Borrowdale Parish Council on any ongoing issues with regard to this planning application.

The Chair responded stating that the Borrowdale Parish Council (BPC) had spent a lot of time thinking about and discussing this matter, and that one of the issues was that the Honister Zip Wire survey application had misrepresented the purpose of the Lake District National Park (LDNP) saying that their priority was economy over conservation. Whereas the BPC stated that the main priority for the LDNP was conservation of the natural environments followed by the economy.

The Chair further stated that he felt that the question that Mr Weir had asked in his questionnaire was a leading question, and that this may have distorted the results, and also that the BPC were unhappy that the questionnaire implied a linkage to the Borrowdale Parish Council. Mr Weir responded to this stating that if the question was perceived as leading this had not been his intention, and he felt that it was a fair survey and showed the support and strength of feeling in Borrowdale for the Zip Wire, and that he would like Borrowdale Parish Council to take this information on board.

Mr N Dowie commented that he is concerned that that Parish Council is supposed to represent the views of the residents of the parish, and that in his opinion it is becoming obvious that those people who run businesses in the valley and are unable to attend Parish Council meetings due to work commitments are not been fairly represented by the Borrowdale Parish Council. Mr N Dowie stated that he as a business man and resident of the Borrowdale Valley would like to support Mr Weir and the Honister Zip Wire application. Also that he would like the BPC to keep an open mind on any future applications from Honister for a Zip Wire that come before the BPC and hear the opinion that the survey undertaken by Mr Weir has demonstrated.

Nigel Dixon arrived 20:19

Councillor A Lysser commented that at BPC meetings he wears two hats (CCC & Keswick Town Council (KTC)), and he confirmed that KTC voted unanimously in favour of the Honister Zip Wire proposal because Honister provides a wide diversity of employment for local people, and that prior to the Weir family taking the mine on it was a blot on the landscape. All of the leading authorities in Cumbria (CCC, LDNPA and the National Trust) are all backing Keswick to be the adventure capital of the UK and this can encompass a proposed Zip Wire at Honister, along with encouraging enjoyment of the area in peace & tranquility.

DH asked Councillor Lysser how he dealt with votes in his council roles where he has a personal opinion against. Councillor Lysser responded stating that the council role is about the local area and the local people not about the personal preference of the individual. Any council has to represent the community views.

Reverend Gay Pye stated that in her work within the Borrowdale Valley she has encountered a lot of frustration around the fact that the Borrowdale Parish Council doesn't represent what residents of the parish feel and want (with particular regard to the Zip Wire). Rev Pye was pleased when Mr Weir undertook the survey as it gave people a way of expressing their views.

Mr Weir commented that he gave the Borrowdale Parish Council an opportunity to be involved in the writing and wording of the questionnaire but the council rejected this opportunity so he went ahead and did the best he could.

Mr P Barron responded saying that he attends most BPC meetings and would like to point out that on most issues the council provides a reasonable representation of the views of the area, however the Zip Wire application maybe the exception to this. Mr Barron further went on to say that maybe this may highlight the need for the BPC to do more work on listening/canvassing the opinion of residents more, and this might be something that the Borrowdale Whole Valley Planning Group maybe able to provide help/support with.

GM commented that he couldn't believe that less people would visit the Borrowdale Valley because of a Zip Wire at Honister, and that Parish Councillors are elected as a voice for the community, and it is clear that the community has spoken and that the Parish Council should take note of this.

Mr N Dowie made a final comment that it is very important that if Mr Weir appeals/resubmits an application for a Zip Wire that the Parish Council support the application.

Councillor Lysser supported Mr Barron's comment regarding canvassing local opinion and suggested that Borrowdale Parish Council consider undergoing a similar process of surveying local residents (as Keswick Town

Council is currently doing) to ensure that the Parish Council know in which direction the residents of the area would like them to move.

The discussion was brought to a close at 20:50.

Mr J Weir, Mr G Baxter left- 20:50

7. Review & Adoption of Risk Register & Asset Register

Resolved: that the Risk Register & Asset Register as circulated to all councilors be adopted for 2013/14

8. Borrowdale Road

A copy of a letter from the Borrowdale Parish Council was sent to 15 different people representing 7 different organisations. The letter was also sent to local press representatives. To date responses have been received from:

Richard Greenwood- Head of Policy & Strategy for Cumbria Tourism
 Eric Robson- Chairman Cumbria Tourism
 Jonathan Smith- Highways & Transport Manger Cumbria County Council
 Andrew Lysser- Mayor, Keswick Town Council
 Richard Leafe- Chief Executive, Lake District National Park Authority
 Jill Stannard- Chief Executive, Cumbria County Council

Press coverage was given to the issue by the Keswick Reminder (Front page article, and inclusion of the entire letter on the page 3), News & Star (more than 20 comments received in response to this article), a report by ITV Border news which was broadcast on Thursday 2nd May.

Resolved: that no further action be taken on this issue at the moment, and that the relevant authorities be given the chance to act on the issues raised in the above letter. The matter to be agenda'd for the next meeting to enable updates to be given.

Action Point: BC to agenda for the next meeting.

The Borrowdale Parish Council requested that its thanks to Becx Carter & Pete Barron for their work on this matter be minuted.

9. Rural Communities Broadband Fund

It was brought to the attention of the Clerk (who contacted the Parish Council) on the 24th April 2013 that there was a probability that Borrowdale Parish Council would be in the 7% of 'rural' areas not covered by the Connecting Cumbria Broadband Project- This was contrary to the belief that had been held by Borrowdale Parish Council for a number of months (that Borrowdale would be included in the Connecting Cumbria Project). This exclusion of Borrowdale from the Connecting Cumbria Project was confirmed in a letter from Alan Cook (Programme Manager Connecting Cumbria Project) to Borrowdale Parish Council dated 1st May 2013.

The Clerk then did a significant amount of research into the possibility of submitting an Expression of Interest from Borrowdale Parish Council to the Rural Communities Broadband Fund (closing date for the 3rd and final round is 24th May 2013).

It became clear that the amount of detail required for the initial Expression of Interest was far in excess (and almost prohibitive) of anything that could be produced by a Parish Council as small as Borrowdale in the timescales that were available. A summary of the findings of the Clerk on this matter are given below:

- Defra are not offering any support to applicants wishing to complete the process- Though they did provide contact details of other small areas who had already completed the EOI (all Broadband technical experts)
- CCC has offered some limited support but couldn't offer any detailed support, and there was no way Borrowdale could be included in the RCBF Bid that CCC wrote on behalf of 6 parishes (including Above Derwent).
- BT- Have confirmed that 209 properties in Borrowdale are unlikely to be covered by the Connecting Cumbria Project

- EOI required significant evidence to support it including a fully completed Community Databook (Which would have involved contacting every household & business in the Borrowdale Parish being inputted on to a detailed spreadsheet).
- Match Funding- RCBF only looks to provide 50% to successful applicants, the Parish Council would have had to have a way of finding the match... (RCBF anticipating circa £300 per household, so BPC would have potentially been looking for match funding in the region of £30,000...)
- Technical details- The EOI needed to include a technical solution for the area applied for, the detail, knowledge & expertise required to complete this was not something that was practicable or obtainable for Borrowdale (Defra confirmed that most other EOI's were being submitted by a Local Authority/Council or were being completed by a group of broadband experts- e.g. Barry Ford who was responsible for the creation and implementation of the CLEO network in schools). Also the technical solution for Borrowdale would have required a temporary technical solution (probably around wifi or satellite broadband) due to the geography, followed by a final technical solution of burying the cables- This would all have to have been completed prior to the 24th May

Due to the above difficulties and the lack of time and potential lack of support it was with regret that the Borrowdale Parish Council decided they were unable to submit an EOI to the Rural Communities Broadband Fund.

Resolved: That no further action be taken on this matter due to the complexities, lack of support, funding, and expertise.

Mr N Dowie commented that the Clerk has obviously done a significant amount of work but to no avail, and that there was no chance of an area like Borrowdale being able to submit an expression of interest in time or to meet the technical requirements. However the lack of superfast broadband and mobile phone signal needs to be considered, and a way of raising the profile of areas like Borrowdale on matters like this needs to be considered to ensure Borrowdale Parish Council isn't left behind.

Mr P Barron supported Mr Dowie in his comments, and stated that he was frustrated at the way small parishes like Borrowdale always get left behind on matters such as this.

Councillor Lysser suggested that this matter was something else that could be included in a parish survey/plan to ensure that the views and strength of opinion of local residents are known

Action Point: BC to agenda for the next meeting and to look into any avenues for lobbying on this matter

10. Community Voluntary Projects

An opportunity for suggestions to be received for projects/jobs that need done within the parish that can be accomplished by one/a group of parishioners

Middle How Bus Shelter Repairs- Completed thanks to the work of Mr B Bland, with some support from Trevor Dowson, and David Hindmarch. It is understood that Stewart Bland provided some slates for the repair work and the Parish Council expressed their thanks for this.

Action Point: BC to write to Mr B Bland to thank him for his work on this project

Resolved: BPC to thank Billy Bland for his work & support on this project

11. Correspondence Received

Unless otherwise minuted the Parish Council did not wish to respond/action any of the correspondence received

12. Finance

The following items were authorized for payment and all cheques were signed by two signatories.

Chq Ref	Supplier	Total
1	Billy Bland (Materials for Bus Shelter Repairs)	£265.81
2 & 2a	Clerks Salary plus 30 extra hours (for RCBF & Internal Audit)	£837.30 (Gross)

3	Clerks Expenses	£132.71
4	Insurance renewal	£488.75
5	Keswick Reminder Advertising (Councillor Vacancies)	£35.88
6	Keswick Reminder Advertising (AGM & Annual meeting)	£21.52
7	VAT Repayment to Borrowdale institute	£64.96
8	Cumbria Payroll Services (quarter 1 payroll)	£12.00
9	Jackie Knights (Internal Audit fees)	£25.00
10	CALC Subscription (13/14 subscription fees)	£123.50
	Total	£2027.43

13. Planning Matters & Consultations to Respond to:

Lodore Falls Hotel- Enforcement Issue re positioning of the Gazebo & boundary concerns

It was agreed in late 2012 that this matter would be put on the agenda for the May 2013 meeting to enable the Parish Council to assess if the matter had been resolved or if a request for enforcement action would be necessary.

Resolved: BC to contact Julia prior to the next BPC meeting to ask for an update on this matter, and following receipt of this update BPC will make a final decision on if a request for enforcement action is necessary

Action Point: BC to action

Foxwood Cottage- Construction of a new artists studio. This application has been approved.

Action Point: BC to query with the LDNPA what the definition of a 'dwelling' is, and to report it back to the Parish Council at the next meeting.

Consultations

Unless detailed below Borrowdale Parish Council had no comment:

- Allerdale Local Plan (Part 1)- Pre Submission Draft Consultation- to be circulated to all councilors and individuals to make comments if they wish
- Allerdale Borough Councils draft Markets Policy- No response
- Cumbria Rural Housing Trust- Request for Information on locally owned charitable home within the Parish- No Alms houses in the Parish to the knowledge of the Borrowdale Parish Council
- MRWS- Review of sitting process for a Geological Disposal Facility – **Resolved that Borrowdale Parish Council respond supporting the CALC position.**

14. Reports back from linked groups

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

Grange Lampposts- The 3 bracket lamps are now installed and working, and press coverage was received. A further £2,000 has been received from Councilor Munby towards the remaining two pillar lamps. Mr J Hall is working with Dave Bryden on the snagging list for the three bracket lamps (colour of LED's and the painting of one of the power pillars). Written confirmation has been received from Mr Bryden that the lamps are covered on the ABC insurance, and that if they were to be damaged they would be replaced with like for like. ABC are responsible for the ongoing maintenance of them.

Mr J Hall is still looking for other funding avenues to apply to, for the remaining £4,000 to finish the project. Councilor Lysser suggested that Cumbria Community Foundation be approached.

Action Point: BC & JH to work on applying for sufficient funding to complete the project.
Action Point: JH to work with Dave Bryden to ensure the snagging list is completed to the JH's satisfaction

Derwent 7- No updates at this stage, hopefully an update should be received at the next BPC meeting once a D7 meeting has take place.

Borrowdale Whole Valley Planning- Briefing paper circulated to all Councilors-

Resolved: that the briefing paper be approved and adopted.

Rosthwaite Institute Committee Annual Report- JB provided a brief report on the activities of the Rosthwaite Institute Committee. The committee covers the insurance including public liability, building & contents. Over the past year 6-7k has been generated in revenue from the car parking, however the building is still underused. Key usages' over the past year have been the Jubilee Summer fete, and the Shepherds meet (who from September 2013 will have all their craft stalls inside the institute to try and reduce the potential weather impacts on the Shepherds Meet event).

Resolved: that the management and responsibilities for the Rosthwaite Institute be delegated to the Rosthwaite Institute Committee for 13/14

15. Upcoming Events dates

A list of dates of upcoming events was circulated as part of the Agenda to all Councilors.

16. Councilor Matters

This section of the minutes provides an opportunity for Councilors to raise new issues- No decisions can be made on these matters but the Clerk/Councilors may make further investigations/request inclusion on a future agenda

Grange Bin- The issue of a new bin having been sited by Allerdale Borough Council in an inappropriate place in Grange was raised. AW to consider if there is a more appropriate location for the bin and to report back to the clerk.

17. Date & Time of next meeting

Wednesday 31st July 2013

Prior to the formal end of the meeting Nigel Dixon stated that he would like to stand as a Parish Councilor in the remaining 1 vacancy.

Nigel Dixon was proposed by John Bennett, and Seconded by Trevor Dowson, he was elected by 7 of 7 councilors.

Declaration of Office & Registration of Financial Interest Forms were completed by Nigel Dixon following the meeting, and were witnessed by Becx Carter as the Borrowdale Parish Council's Proper Officer.

Action Point: BC to meet with Nigel and to organize an introduction to Borrowdale Parish Council

The meeting closed at 21:58