

# **Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Parton Parish Council.**

**Held on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**1. Attendance:** Chairman Cllr Bestford, Cllrs A Barton, K Barton, J Huck, R Huck, Morton, Peel, Rogan, Williamson, V Young and Ward Cllr Bowman and County Cllr Barbour

**2 Announcements and Apologies:** There was an apology from Cllr K Young and Ward Cllr Banks.

**4. Presentation by Julie Wedgewood from the Mobile Food Pantry.** Julie said that she had been approached by the chair to explain what her group was aiming to achieve. She said that it was a membership organisation with funding from Sellafield and help from Inspira.

Whilst the hope was to be able to recycle a full range of goods the start was with food and linking with Food Share they were able to save food from going to landfill. The scheme had only just started and the group were in Millom today. They had taken crates containing £20 in food value which were then resold for £3.50. The plan was for organisations to sign up and arrange for residents to pre-order, and pay for, these food crates. These would then be collected at a pre-agreed time - in the case of Parton – from the village hall. All crates ordered must be paid for upon delivery and Parton Village Hall would take responsibility for managing this.

The group would try to improve social inclusion by talking to the residents who may have problems. Julie said that new resident groups were not being signed up until September but she took note of the wish that Parton hope to be able to show that five crates (which is the minimum) could be delivered and paid for on a regular basis. Julie said she would speak to the chair and keep in touch with the parish council.

**5 Home Group** Following the estate walk Home Group officers had been asked to attend the parish council meeting. They did not attend and the clerk said he would speak to the manager.

**3. Declaration of Interests** Mrs Young and Mrs Rogan declared a pecuniary interest in item 8 and it was agreed that declaration of interests would be made if any further issues on the agenda arose where a declaration was appropriate.

**4. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the June 2019 were agreed subject to the addition of “Mr Huck proposed that an amendment to include discussion about why parish councillor matters were omitted from the agenda.

Mr Huck had asked for a proposal to re-introduce this to the agenda. Mr Barton agreed because there were occasions when residents asked for something to be included for

discussion inside the seven-day period. Mr Huck explained that other parish councils had this as a regular item on the agenda. The clerk responded by saying that Copeland B C did not have this as an item. Mr Huck then asked it be “considered by the standing order working party when it is formed.”

**5a Standing Orders review.** The chair referred to the paper that had been circulated with the agenda. The clerk said he wished to amend paragraph n) so that it now read “.....new working group made up of the vice chair and two councillors (not currently associated with this matter), with the clerk acting in a purely administrative role.....”

Cllr Andrew Barton initially questioned why the clerk would be involved in this process and was reminded that the clerk would simply be acting in an administrative role, collating papers etc.

Cllr Bestford then informed the meeting as follows “ We the council have decided that Billy and Stan would be on the working group to assist the vice -chair” This was met with strong opposition from both Cllrs J Huck and A Barton who both exclaimed that there was no way – when Cllr Morton asked Cllr J Huck if she didn’t trust him to which she replied “It’s not that Billy , we are continually ostracised, and it’s not fair.

At item 7 “At this point Cllr J Huck turned round to see who was heckling her husband and the member of the public replied “Git turned back round woman and git on wid your job” to which several councillors and other members of the public intervened to berate him for his rudeness” The amendment was agreed by 4 votes to 1.

After a heated debate on the matter Cllrs A Barton and J Huck asked that the matter be deferred and a decision taken as how the council shall proceed be taken in September 2019. Mr Williamson seconded the proposal which was passed by 5 votes to 4.

**6. To progress matters of seeking to improve the quality of the Bowling Green area** Mr Williamson withdrew the motion on the grounds that there were more important matters to deal with.

**7. Council requests a joint meeting with ALL agencies responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of Parton ASAP.** Mrs Huck moved the motion. When queried on the matter she explained that the organisations to which she referred included Stagecoach, Network Rail, United Utilities, the Environment Agency, and both principal authorities, and that they should all meet at one time.

County Cllr Barbour noted that a level of pragmatism in the council’s approach to this matter is needed, noting that a blanket invitation to United Utilities and other statutory undertakers, in addition to social housing providers, CBC and Network Rail would not be achievable because each organisation will have their own differing agenda.

Ward Cllr Bowman agreed with the pints made by Cllr Barbour also noting that it would be near impossible to organise a meeting attended by all of these agencies on the one date, so in the first instance the two principal authorities should be invited and thereafter a future meeting established with the remaining agencies.

Mr Huck said that the Open Spaces and the Waste Management teams were the principal departments to be invited. The clerk said they had both given presentations at earlier meetings but Mrs Huck said they had only spoken in general terms. Mr Williamson said the Cumbria County Council Highways Area Manager would also need to attend.

At this point Cllr J Huck turned around to see who was heckling her husband and the member of the public replied "Git turned back round woman and git on wid your job" to which several councillors and other members of the public intervened to berate him for his rudeness

The clerk said he would write in terms of the motion which was agreed.

**8. To consider request to donate £250 to the North Copeland Youth Partnership for youth club's summer activities** Mrs Young and Mrs Rogan left the room. Mr Huck proposed and it was seconded by Mr Barton that the motion be agreed. It was carried.

**9. Expression Of Interest Football Field (Further Consideration)** The clerk said that in view of comments made by Mr Morton at the last meeting he had brought it back for further discussion and to consider whether a tenancy agreement which had been discussed with the district council some time ago was a more suitable way forward. Following further debate, it was agreed to progress the Expression of Interest (EOI).

Mr Morton repeated that there would be objections from some residents to the allotment's element. His comments were noted and it was agreed that the location of the allotments and their proximity to nearby houses would need to be confirmed within the business case to be presented following the EOI.

**11 Play Area Units** The chair said she had met earlier with Mrs Young and Mrs Rogan and they were recommending that the basket chair be replaced and the Glasdon Table and Bench was purchased. There were objections to replacing the basket chair which could be repaired, but by the casting vote of the chair it was agreed to replace the basket chair and purchase the Glasdon item.

**12 Non-Conformist Graveyard** The clerk noted that he had received two tenders for undertaking this work and explained the content and price of each.

Cllr R Huck noted that he had been in touch with a local solicitor whom have identified that funds of circa £1600 exists for use by the trustees of the graveyard from whom these costs for cutting the grass, organised by the parish Council, could be recovered.

It was agreed to accept the tender to undertake the cutting works for £200.00 and thereafter to send a copy of the invoice to Peter Bailey of Brockbank Solicitors.

**13. Parton War Memorial (Progress Report)** Mr Huck said that he had obtained a quote for painting the Walls, Railings and Benches at the war memorial which Parton re-united would meet on the understanding that the parish council paid for the paint which would not exceed £180. Notwithstanding that only one quote had been received in reply to Mr Huck specification, it was agreed to proceed.

The clerk warned against the potential for problems using well-meaning amateurs instead of professionals to work upon the war memorial – recognising the problems that Whitehaven themselves experienced recently when carrying out cleaning of their cenotaph. Considering this advice it was agreed that future cyclical maintenance to the war memorial will be considered and agreed at a later date.

It was further agreed that Mr Bennett be asked to put in summer plants but that there will be no further expenditure in the current financial year.

**14. Dog Fouling and Waste issues (Progress report)** Mr Huck referred to a community action plan produced by Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury councils which he said contained a number of useful proposals that could be adopted within Parton.

He said he had contacted the district council for more details but as yet had received no response. Some of the suggestions made in that action plan would be implemented now by Mr Huck but he said that there should be no expenditure falling on the parish council.

The issue of dog fouling could also form a regular topic within the parish newsletter that Mr Huck himself plans to develop, that he suggested could include information from the Parish Council and other user groups. Preparation of a parish newsletter was not considered at this meeting - further details of which will be provided from Mr Huck at a future meeting.

In the interim, the clerk said he would ask for more no fouling signs to be stencilled onto the pavements within the village and to pass on the aforementioned action plan to other councillors when more details are received.

**15. Grass Cutting Queenies Broken lamp Queenies Footpath Signs Parker's Steps (Mr Williamson to report).** The clerk said that the county councillor would be able to assist with this item. Mr Williamson said that no action had been taken to cut back the path at Queenies. County Cllr Barbour expressed concern about the unsubstantiated responsibility regarding the ownership of this area of land by parish councillors. Cllr Barbour said that no action would be taken concerning the footpath sign as it did not follow the legal alignment as shown on the definitive map. Mr Morton said that Parker's steps had been cut back by Home Group.

Mr Barbour also asked that it be minuted that he is here to assist the council with specific matters. He cannot however accept that others within the parish council are assigning responsibility to him, of matters beyond both his, and the County Councils responsibility.

The cutting of queenies path was then discussed in detail and the votes carried to seek tenders for cutting the path and a short space either side of it.

**16 Long Arch Maintenance** The clerk said he had written to Network Rail about regular maintenance of the railway arches. He had not yet received a response. Mr Huck said he was discussing the matter with a local contact.

**17 Mental Health Course (Mr Huck to report)** Cllr Barbour has passed details of a mental health training course (programme of dates) to Mr Huck for review.

Mrs Huck said that she had looked at the Every Life Matters website and noted that a weekly meeting took place in Mirehouse each week.

It was agreed that the parish council website could be updated to include reference to these.

**18 Stagecoach Route on Foundry Road\_(Mr Huck to report)** Mr Huck said he understood that the route was not to be changed and that the company were working with Cumbria Highways about the damage to the kerbs.

**19. Police Report** The clerk said that 5 matters had been logged. These were a) Road traffic collision Criffel Road b) Road related offence Foundry road c) 3 concern for welfare. The police use this title for various reports which may be a mental health issue or an individual who lives alone and may not have been seen for a day or so by neighbours. Domestic incidents which may or may not lead to further action are initially logged under this title.

## **20. Clerks report**

a) Training It was noted that the training session arranged for July at Lowca had been cancelled due to a number of interested parties being unavailable on the proposed date. Five councillors have expressed an interest in completing a councillor's course therefore the clerk said he would contact the Calc officer who dealt with training to seek alternative dates.

b) Boat on Foreshore The clerk said that the police said that there had been an initial call to the police and the coastguard but it transpired that no rescue was required and no further action was taken. It was agreed to contact the district council to seek removal.

## **21. Correspondence**

a) The district council had forwarded a notice to be placed on the notice board setting out the consultation timetable for the review of polling stations

- b) HSBC had sent a general notice of changes to terms and conditions for business banking.
- c) Product information had been received from Creative Play

## **22. Planning** No applications

**23. Social Inclusion** There were no other issues following the presentation at item 4

## **24. Cheques to be approved for payment**

101251	Copeland B C	(Elections)	£779.20
101252	Copeland B C	(Grass Cutting)	£206.57
101253	Copeland B C	(Waste Bin Collection)	£24.31
101254	J C Shaw	(Salary June 2019)	£260.00
101255	J C Shaw	(Expenses)	£19.31
101256	North Copeland Youth Partnership	(Donation)	£250.00

**24a Accounts** The clerk said in response to a request from Mr Williamson that since the start of the financial year £8340 had been received with payments including those authorised today amounting to £4346.08 which left a balance of £13488.71

## **25. Public Participation**

### i) Members of the public

- a) A resident asked whether enquiries could be made about the work to repair or replace the outflow flap. The clerk said he would contact Mr Bechelli.
- b) A resident expressed concern that Boy Racers were misusing the beach and causing a nuisance. The clerk said he would contact the PCSO.
- c) A resident complained about the state of the toilets in the village hall. The clerk said he would pass the complaint on to the Village Hall Management Committee
- d) Mr Huck said he was speaking on behalf of a resident who was not at the meeting in requesting a notice board in the Criffel Road Bus shelter. It was agreed that Cllr Huck would raise a motion for consideration at the next meeting to cover this and that he would provide details of the information to be included within that notice board that is too large for the one that already exists nearby.
- e) Mr Barton said he was speaking on behalf of a resident who was not present complaining that the bin beside the foreshore memorial garden was not emptied
- f) Mr Huck said he was speaking on behalf of a resident who was not present that a plaque was promised at the memorial garden by the sponsors.

### ii) Ward and County councillors

Ward Cllr Bowman said that she was a member at the district council of the planning panel, the audit panel and the personnel panel but not the scrutiny panel as was reported at the

last meeting. Ward Cllr Bowman gave details of activities at the Beacon in the coming weeks.

County Cllr Barbour said he had raised some matters under 15 and repeated that the parish council had to understand that making demands that were unrealistic would not in the long term benefit the community.

He said that the Crash Group would look at concerns about speeding in the village. The request made by the community group for village entrance signs had been considered but the survey showed that the only suitable junction was at Church Brow. Cllr Barbour provided further information about the proposed Whitehaven Relief road and said he had been assured that the Moresby Embankment was stable

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm. **The next meeting was fixed for 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

**Chairman .....****Date.....**

