

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Parton Parish Council.

Held on the 12th June 2019

1. Attendance: Chair Cllr K Young, Cllrs A P Barton, K Barton, J I Huck, RM Huck, W Morton, S Peel, S Rogan, J Williamson, V Young County Cllr Barbour, Ward Cllr Banks and the clerk. Six members of the public were present

2 Announcements and Apologies: The chair welcomed David Banks to the meeting the new ward councillor for the Distington Lowca and Parton ward.

There were apologies from Cllr Bestford and from Ward Cllr J Bowman.

5. Presentation by Heather Holmes and Clare Taylorson (Copeland BC)

The Chair said that item 5 would be taken before the meeting moved to other items. Heather Holmes and Clare Taylorson from Copeland Borough Council were introduced to give a brief overview of their function and the service requests dealt with by their team at CBC. Heather Holmes said that she was the Customer Service team leader with 7.5 staff based in Whitehaven and Millom. She said she reported to Julie Betteridge and Cllr Stephen Morgan was the portfolio holder.

Heather noted that like many other councils across the country CBC are facing a number of challenges including increased financial constraint due to central funding deficits, and as such the area needed to move forward from the reliance on the nuclear industry. She said that everyone in the council has a role to play in identifying opportunities to increase income and develop new services. She stated that the challenge imposed upon them was to reduce costs, whilst at the same time improving services to match customer expectations. Heather confirmed that the Copeland vision was “Copeland Borough Council is a commercially focused organisation with a national reputation for high quality services” and that was what the council aimed to achieve.

Heather said that whilst some organisation adopted a digital by default approach that was not the CBC way and for some, face to face will always be required. She explained how customer service officers were trained over a 12 month period and noted the departments that customer services mainly worked with, which included waste collection and the parks and Open Spaces. Reception officers predominately dealt with revenue and benefits, homelessness, payments and parking permits but sometimes it was simply a matter of redirecting the customer to the correct organisation. Her team helps the waste department by recording missed refuse collections and dealing with requests for new or replacement bins. The environmental health department were assisted by logging pest control requests and noise and food complaints. She said that the enforcement team were helped with

information about fly tipping and littering. Information on performance statistics was provided for one month which included over 6000 face to face enquiries

Clare Taylorson then spoke about the work of her department. In advance of the meeting she had also printed a map of ownership (colour coded) for the village noting that not all areas of open land within Copeland is maintained. Some areas may be leased out and some may have historically been removed from a maintenance routine as part of our historical Council cut backs.

Maintaining a selection of Copeland Councils Open Spaces Assets

Clare did however state that her team Council do carry out works on other Open Spaces not owned or controlled by Copeland Borough Council, acting as a contractor to provide specific services as part of long term or single offering Contract works for various customers, and that her team can be approached to provide quotations for both commercial and domestic works.

Trees on Copeland Land. CBC has had a tree survey carried out late 2018. On the back of this works a list of priority works was carried out on any high priority trees. CBC will only carry out works on their own assets. Any trees on private land will need to be reported to the land owner. **CBC can carry out quotations and contract works at a cost in relation to tree removal or surgery work.**

Questions were asked including about the trees behind Main Street but Clare said that they were not on Copeland BC land.

CBC Footway lighting. Clare Taylorson noted that footway lighting also forms part of her remit of work, and she provided a list of some of the areas of footway lighting for which she is responsible; but this is not all of the area. CBC are currently reviewing street lighting policy and assets and updating their maps to show the position of all such lighting using the GIS data currently being recorded. Replacement is only considered if there are H&S issues.

Japanese Knotweed. The area of CBC land opposite Bank yard Road has been sprayed in October of last year and within the last 3 weeks by our Parks Technician. If formally approached, CBC can carry out quotations and contract works for the treatment of Knotweed elsewhere in the village.

Play areas – CBC has a number of play areas that they are responsible for and they also carry out RoSPA safety checks on Play areas for third parties as part of contractual works.

Sand Bags – CBC Parks department delivers Sandbags to the residents of Copeland at risk of Flooding when adverse weather conditions hit.

The Chair thanked Clare and Heather for a most interesting presentation

3 Approval of the minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the May annual meeting 2019 were agreed.

4. Note of the annual parish meeting May 2019 and any matters arising there from: The note was agreed subject to a minor alteration within section 9a that should read the number of Parton Reunited members is 259 rather than 25.

5a. Declaration of Interests. It was agreed that declaration of interests would be made if issues on the agenda arose.

Before commencing with item 6 the Chair sought to draw the attention of the parish council to the decisions taken at the last meeting with respect to items 8a, 8b, 8g and 8h. He reminded all present that at that time a group of three councillors were appointed to form a Task and Finish group to review the matters to which those items referred, and report back to the July meeting. The chair noted that each councillor appointed to this group, were currently subject to a code of conduct complaint and as such he was uncomfortable with these councillors proceeding to undertake this work. It was therefore agreed that the matter be postponed, until after clarification has been provided by NALC or other such bodies, on how they should proceed. The Clerk undertook to seek advice on the matter.

6. Criffel Road Bus shelter. Alwell Glass have agreed to undertake the repairs to the Criffel Road bus shelter therefore the chair moved that the shelter be repaired at a cost not to exceed £90. This was agreed.

7. Community Asset Transfer - Football Field Ramsay Brow. The Chair proposed that an expression of interest be made with a view to reducing the football field and incorporating a number of allotment plots on the remaining land. He said that the matter would be brought back to the council before a business case was submitted.

Mr Morton said that not all residents in the area would be in favour and a petition might be forthcoming. It was agreed to consider the Expression of Interest form at the July 2019 meeting.

8. Donation to Copeland Citizen's advice Centre. The matter was taken after item 9 and it was agreed by 6 votes in favour to 3 against with one abstention to donate £100.00.

9a. To progress Social Inclusion initiatives in conjunction with Copeland B C.

9b. To support the principal authorities in Cumbria in their efforts to eradicate child poverty especially within the parish.

The motions were composited and it was agreed to ask Julie Wedgewood a consultant working in South Whitehaven for the district council to speak at the next meeting.

Mr R Huck requested, and it was agreed, that social inclusion becomes a standing item on the agenda of future council meetings.

Mrs J Huck asked that the chair forward her email address to Julie Wedgewood, and that she be contacted to discuss further ideas - including the provision of cookery courses that she would happily run.

10a To ask Home Housing to progress immediate action in respect of the replacing of the cladding on their properties on Seven Acres

10b To arrange an estate inspection with the home Group housing manager

The motions were composited and it was resolved to take the required action.

11 To seek tenders to replace the damaged table and seats on the play area

It was agreed and that the clerk would work with Mrs Bestford, Mrs Rogan and Mrs Young on this issue.

12. To ask the ward and county councillors to join with the Chair of the parish council and hold a combined surgery once every three months. It was agreed to make the request.

13 To seek tenders for the maintenance of the non conformist graveyard. It was agreed that the clerk would seek tenders together with the work required at item 21 and to ask both Lowca and Moresby parish councils whether they would contribute towards the costs associated with the graveyard.

14 Donation of £250 to Parton Re-united towards the cost of the Christmas tree and festivities. Mr Barton, Mrs Barton, Mr Huck and Mrs Huck all declared an interest in this, and item 15, so left the meeting. In their absence it was resolved to donate the amount requested.

15 To reimburse Mr Huck the cost of a wreath for the D Day commemorative service It was agreed to reimburse Mr Huck in the sum of £22.98.

16 Mrs J Huck proposed a motion that tenders be sought for the maintenance of the war memorial. The chair queried exactly what works Mrs Huck envisaged being included within a rolling maintenance programme – Was it just the memorial itself or was it also envisaged to include works to the surrounding walls and railings etc? The reply provided from Mr Huck was that this should include for all elements of the memorial to be maintained on a cyclical basis, say every three years.

Mr Young noted that he has arranged for the painting of the walls by a local contractor, however he can only do so on a weekend, and each attempt recently has been thwarted by the wet weather.

All organisers and contributors to the recent memorial service were thanked.

At this moment Mr Young noted that circa £57 was raised in donations for coffee and cakes sold within the village hall at the recent memorial service. This money has been donated to the Bransty branch of the Royal British Legion who have written a letter of thanks (read out by the chair). The Legion have also pledged future support and donated a wreath amongst other things, so it was agreed that a good contact has been made for the Council there.

Returning to the motion on the agenda, the chair suggested that this be withdrawn and be brought again in July with details of what and how often each element of the memorial should be cut, painted, cleaned etc to allow an informed decision to then be taken. All parties agreed to this.

17 To seek tenders for the grass cutting and removal of bushes at Queenies. It was acknowledged that this land belongs to the County Council and a request has already been sent in to maintain this path. Mr Williamson withdrew the motion and said he would report back to the next meeting.

18 To require Copeland B C to remove the broken lamp standard on Queenies Mr Williamson withdrew the motion and said he would report back to the next meeting.

19 To require the county council to repair the broken footpath sign at Queenies Mr Williamson withdrew the motion and said he would report back to the next meeting. County Cllr Barbour said he would also make enquiries.

20 The parish Council to seek tenders to replace the steps and the handrail at what is known as Parker's steps. It was noted that this land is neither owned nor controlled by Parton Parish Council and the suggestion was that this is actually Cumbria County Council land. Cllr's Barbour and Williamson to conduct a site visit to review the issues. Mr Williamson withdrew the motion and said he would report back to the next meeting.

21 In field path Church Brow See item 13.

22 To form a sub committee to consider the issue of dog fouling and agree an effective plan to include costings. The motion in the terms of the title was withdrawn. Mr Huck said he would report back at the July meeting.

23 To seek tenders for the maintenance of the Long Arch having first obtained permission from Rail track to undertake such work It was agreed no tenders would be sought pending a request to the railway company.

23a Council resolves to inform residents of the availability of a two day mental health course run by MIND. The motion was withdrawn and Mr Huck said he would seek further information.

24 Police Report The clerk said that the PCSO who submitted a report was now on Maternity Leave and the report received by her successor was not in a suitable form. The clerk said he would contact the officer.

25 Clerk's Report

a) Training The clerk said he had spoken to Calc and the training officer had given dates when she was available He said he had spoken to the clerk at Lowca who had agreed that the session could be held in Lowca village hall. He was in contact with Distington P C and Moresby PC to run a joint session and would finalise one of the following dates July 16th 23rd or 24th 2019.

b) Japanese Knotweed The clerk said he had spoken to the officer at Copeland B C who confirmed that their land at Parton Brow was on the list for treatment.

c) Parish Precept Information The clerk said that for the current year 2019/2020 the precept at Band D was £39.40 per annum. He said that precepts in Copeland ranged from £81.92 (Whicham PC) to £4.66 (Ulpha PM) He said that 9 parishes precepted more than £39.40 and 19 less than the Parton figure.

d) Boat on Foreshore The clerk said that he had been asked to include this matter although there was no proposal. It was suggested that the clerk spoke to the police.

26. Correspondence. None - other than that already read out by the Chair, received from the Royal British Legion.

27. Planning. No applications

28 Cheques to be approved for payment

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| 101242 | F G Hoyle | (Internal Auditor) | £50.00 |
| 101243 | J C Shaw | (Salary May arrears April) | £320.00 |
| 101244 | Copeland Borough Council | (High Viz Jackets) | £100.98 |
| 10245 | RM Huck | (Wreath)) | £22.98 |
| 101246 | J C Shaw | (Expenses) | £56.77 |
| 101247 | Inland Revenue | (Tax) | £180.00 |
| 101248 | Parton Village Hall | (Rent) | £180.00 |
| 101249 | Parton Reunited | (Donation) | £250.00 |
| 101250 | Copeland Citizens Advice | (Donation) | £100.00 |

29. Public Participation

a) Members of Public

A resident has expressed concerns to Mr Huck regarding the bus service within the village being reduced or stopped. The resident queried if any information has been provided to the

parish council about the bus route to Lowca not using Foundry Road. Mr Huck noted that he has already approached Stagecoach regarding this matter and is dealing with a Mr McFarlane there, to seek confirmation if this rumour is indeed correct and the reasons why? An update will be provided to the council at the next meeting.

Another resident expressed concern about the brambles overgrowing at the bottom of Foundry Road.

A question was also asked by a member of public within the meeting about the costs of hiring the village hall. Whilst noting that this is not a matter for the Parish Council but instead for the Village Hall Management Committee, Kevin Young in his role as chair of both committees provided an answer based on discussions earlier that evening.

It was also suggested by a resident that the coastguard be approached about the boat mentioned at item 25d to determine ownership of the boat and identify those responsible for removal of it.

b) Ward and County Councillors

Cllr Banks introduced himself and said he would attend parish council meetings unless prevented by other engagements but that he had missed very few Cleator Moor town council meetings. He said that he was a member of the Nuclear energy and licensing committees and Cllr Bowman was on the planning panel and scrutiny committee. He said that the political parties had agreed to work together.

Cllr Barbour said he would take action on matters raised at the meeting which concerned the county council. He said he had spoken to the appropriate officer about the Ghyll but expressed caution in relation to ownership of land in the parish because he knew that at least one parcel of land was subject to dispute.

He said any speeding issues were now referred to the CRASH group made up of the Police, the County Highways and other agencies.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm. The date of the next meeting was fixed for 10th July 2019.

ChairDate.....