

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Parton Parish Council Held 9th February 2011

1. Attendance: Chairman Cllr. Quayle, Cllrs Bellfield, Bestford, Stewart, V Young, K Young Ward Cllrs Bowman and Dixon, and the Clerk.

2 Announcements and Apologies: There were apologies from Cllrs Heskett, Neen, Ostle, and Peel and from Ward Cllr Metherell

3 Approval of the minutes of the January 2011 meeting: The minutes of the meeting were agreed

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

5. Railway Station Matters The chairman welcomed Tony Potts from the Copeland Rail Users Group to the meeting. Mr Potts gave an outline of the history of the group and went on to deal with the issues raised by councillors. He said that the Harrington “hump” where part of the platform had been raised to allow easier access to the carriages had proved very successful and it was hoped that finance would allow further stations to benefit. He said the latest estimate of cost was between £25k and £26k. He said that whilst Parton station was a case where both climbing on to the train and leaving the train were difficult because of the drop it had to be accepted that it was not one of the better used stations. He said that it was accepted that some of the stations did not meet the requirements of the disability act but if it was not reasonably practical then the act did make an exception. The clerk asked if CRUG were asked to comment on the Railway Communication System which so far as Parton was concerned would require the erection of a mast beside the waste water works. The clerk raised the issue of railway traffic crossing parish council land to the detriment of the road surface and Mr Potts said he would take the matter further The chairman thanked Mr Potts for his attendance.

6. Public Participation

a) Ward/County Councillors. Cllr Dixon said that he hoped that there was now an adequate supply of grit for the bins purchased by the parish council. He said that he had again raised with the highways authorities the number of pot holes in the area. Ward Cllr Bowman reminded the meeting that a neighbourhood forum was to be held in Distington community centre on the 15th February 2011.

b) Public None

7. Police Issues. Neither PC Hellier nor PCSO Fishpool was in attendance. The chairman said that PC Hellier had taken up a different post with the constabulary. The clerk referred to the note that had been circulated with the agenda. It was noted that there had been thefts on railways property Mr Stewart said that there had also been a theft from outside the garages on the foreshore but he did not believe it had been reported to the police.

8 Finance The chairman and Mrs Young made declarations of a personal interest as members of the village hall management committee. The clerk said that the council needed to consider whether they should pay or contribute towards the cost of a number of items where the invoice had been directed to the Village Hall management Committee. He said that councillors had been given notice of the matters in the agenda.

- a) The cost of mats under the swings erected on the Brewery Brow play area. The clerk said that the parish council had met the cost of the swings and the other unit. It was agreed that the cost of the safety mats should fall to the parish council
- b) The refurbishment of the floorboards in the village hall. It was agreed to defer this matter for investigations to be made about the costs associated with earlier work.
- c) Boiler village hall. It was agreed that the parish council should pay half of the cost after deduction of any grants that were in the process of being obtained.
- d) The planning application fee for the extension to the Main Street play area. It was agreed that these costs fell to the parish council.
- e) Grit Bins. It was agreed that only because of the urgent requirement had the management committee become involved and that the cost should fall to the parish council
- f) Grit Spreader. It was agreed to defer this matter to allow further details to be obtained.
- g) New lighting in the village hall. It was noted that a grant of £500.00 had been obtained and the parish council agreed to pay the balance.

9. Traffic/Highways Mrs Bestford asked for information about the lane beside Lowca Beck which was almost always flooded. Ward Cllr Bowman said that the land belonged to Copeland B C who had set aside money to improve the surface. It was said that water from a rising main between the road and the beck was one problem. The clerk said that he would make arrangements to meet Mr Bechelli from the borough council and advise Lowca parish council.

10 Howgate Ward The clerk said that the group had recently held a meeting when a number of issues had been discussed. He said that because the Highways Agency were not now proposing to hold a twelve month evaluation of the new road he and the partnership chairman had been to see the member of parliament. He said that a meeting with the contractor who was to take up the duties of the parish lengthsman had to be arranged. He said that the Cumbria Community Foundation had contacted the group about a community fund in relation to the Fairfield Wind Farm. The group had agreed that the benefit area should be restricted to the four parishes. Ward Cllr Bowman said that he and Ward Cllr Dixon were speaking to a Copeland B C officer later in the month but not with the intention of overturning the decision. Ward Cllr Dixon expressed concern as to the makeup of the CCF funding panel and said that an individual from the benefit area should be involved.

11. Brewery Brow Play Area The clerk said that a draft lease had been prepared by the district council in respect of the land. It was agreed that the clerk should finalise the lease for signature by councillors on behalf of the parish council.

12. Correspondence

- a) Leaflets from the MRWS partnership had been received

- b) The Boundary Commission had written to say that they were deferring a decision on the number of divisions that were appropriate for Cumbria county council.
- c) North West Air Ambulance had written requesting a donation. It was agreed to send £100.00.
- d) Zurich Insurance had asked to quote for the council's insurance. It was agreed to pursue the matter.
- e) The vicar at St Bridget's had invited the councillors to attend a service of thanksgiving to celebrate the completion of the church roof project on the 13th March 2011.

12 Cheques to be approved for payment

100764	J C Shaw	(Salary January)	£180.00
100765	Howgate Ward	(Lengthsman share)	£95.33
100766	Cumbria Probation Trust	(War memorial work)	£108.00
100767	J C Shaw	(Expenses)	£13.02
100768	Copeland Rail Users Group	(Subscription)	£10.00

13 Parish Councillor's Matters

- a) Mrs Bellfield asked that Ward Cllr Branney and Julie Betteridge be asked to attend the next parish council meeting to discuss the shoreline erosion. She asked about the provision of sandbags in the village.
- b) Mr Stewart said that the pedestrian footpath lighting outside the Church hall at Church Brow was deficient.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm. The next meeting was arranged for **Wednesday the 9th March 2011** at the Village Hall Parton.

Chairman.....Date.....

