

# **DRAFT MINUTES**

## **Parton Parish Council**

### **Minutes of The Council Meeting**

#### **Held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.30pm in Parton Village Hall**

Meeting Opened: 7.31pm

Present: Cllr S Tumelty (Chair), Cllr A Armstrong, Cllr H Elliott, Cllr L McKee, Cllr W Morton, Cllr M Rogan, Cllr M Ryden, Cllr R Sinar, Cllr J Williamson, Ward Councillor D Banks.

Clerk: Mrs J Coltman

Members of the public: 6

The Chair thanked everybody for attending and read out the following statement:

“Before we start ladies and gentlemen, I would just like to say that there is a small group of people, I must emphasise it is a small group of people, who are hell bent on bringing this council down. Other than the Clerk, councillors do this voluntarily trying their best for the community, yet they and the Clerk are being harassed daily by people hiding behind fake emails making ludicrous accusations. This all takes up valuable cost and time of the Clerk and councillors which could be better served in the community. I have invited one individual to tonight's meeting to back up their claim. Obviously, as expected, they haven't showed face. We know the people who are involved but unfortunately at this time we can't publicly name names and the people behind this know our hands are tied in this matter. The Police have been informed and the relevant names have been given to the Police. If this continues, we will not hesitate to take action against them for the sake of the community”

The Chair started the meeting at 7.35pm.

**062/2021/22 Election of Vice Chair.** WM nominated AA but he declined, passed over until the next meeting.

**063/2021/22 Approval of Minutes from the meeting, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021. Resolved to approve the minutes.**  
Proposed JW Seconded WM. Carried.

**064/2021/22 Apologies.** Councillor A Barton was absent due to a recent bereavement and Ward Cllr J Bowman had injured her ankle. **Resolved that apologies be accepted and absences authorised.** Proposed ST Seconded JW. Carried

**065/2021/22 Exclusion of Press and Public. The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.** The Chair stated that item 22 on the agenda was a confidential matter and proposed the press and public be excluded for this item. **Resolved to exclude press and public for item 22.** Proposed ST Seconded WM. Carried.

**066/2021/22 Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest for public items, any declarations of interest for item 22 would be made at the start of the confidential part of the meeting.

**067/2021/22 Public Participation.**

- A member of the public said they had read the feedback about the woodburners but asked about insurance for the garages and all the junk that was around them. They asked if any of the garage owners had come forward with any proposals. The clerk said that nobody had written in with any requested amendments and it would be discussed later in the agenda.
- A member of the public said that they thought the public participation section was going to be moved towards the end of the meeting. The Clerk explained that had it been moved to the end, the public would not get an opportunity to make their views known about the items on the agenda, or influence decision making because they would only be commenting after decisions had been made. The member of the public said that they didn't get to see the agenda until they arrived at the meeting, but the Clerk advised that it was on the village notice boards and on the website beforehand.

**068/2021/22 Reports from Ward or County Councillors.** Ward Councillor Banks updated on the landslip. He said that the children are to be educated in portacabins in Bransty. Residents were to be allowed back home. He said that the police are the ones who make the decision to evacuate and it was they who contacted County and Copeland Councils to make arrangements for temporary accommodation. The chief engineer is of the opinion that this was a well-intentioned mistake and thankfully the person's fears did not materialise. The observations and geotechnical work will

continue until they are able to prove that there is no danger.

**069/2021/22 Police Matters.** A printout of the latest crime report had been circulated and the Clerk read out an email from PCSO Kane. He said that they had met a few people when they were in Parton as part of their “Back on the beat” initiative and no concerns had been raised. The security guards had only mentioned one incident with some older children who were not believed to have been from Parton.

**070/2021/22 Clerk’s Updates.** The Clerk read out the latest update from Cumbria County Council regarding the landslip. DB said that there was no exit at the front of the school if a landslip were to happen and this may be a point worth raising with them. The rest of the clerk’s updates were in a report as below.

#### Play Area

I have sourced an inspection check list which I am customising for our equipment and Councillor Armstrong has volunteered to carry out the weekly checks once the play park is open again. The play park is on hold until the area has opened up again. Although the gravel boards are deteriorating, they are alright at the moment, but we will probably have to put money aside to replace them next year.

#### Litter Bins

The contract with Cumbria Waste Recycling has been completed. They require payment by direct debit so that is on the agenda for approval. To get things moving I have paid the first month in advance and will reclaim that through my expenses at the next meeting once the invoice has been received. Opinion was split over whether I should contest the invoice from CBC when I emailed everybody. I believe it could be a waste of time to argue back and forth over what could amount to a compromise saving about £20 at best, or nothing at worst, so I have included it with the payments for approval which you will have to decide upon later in the meeting.

#### Garages

1 tenant has still not settled the outstanding rent, although if a direct payment has been made into our account since August 12<sup>th</sup>, I would not see that until I receive the September statement.

In total now, three tenants have returned their tenancy agreements, four have not. I have not received any correspondence objecting to the agreement for any reason from those four. One tenant has completed his agreement and kindly sent a covering letter to help allay fears over the wood-burning stoves. He states, “These units are household standard issue. They are installed on concrete bases, the garages are of concrete construction and have metal roofs. These burners are only used with the owners in attendance. I hope that this will allay any concerns that there may have been.”

#### Independent Advice

Copeland Borough Council were unable to assist and suggested I ask CALC. The chief officer of CALC said that this would be beyond the normal level of service that they would offer. She has suggested an outside consultancy and I will contact them to find out their charges. She also suggested that her assistant may be prepared to take on the review outside of her normal hours, but would obviously need paying for her time. I shall try to get a cost estimate from both of these sources for the next meeting.

#### Donation to the school

I have emailed the head teacher to ask if there is anything that she requires, but have not yet received a response. I suspect until everything is set up, she may not be certain of what she may require. If I don’t hear back by the end of the month, I shall ask her again.

**Resolved to accept the clerk’s reports.** Proposed MRO, Seconded LM. Carried

**071/2021/22 To Consider any Planning Applications.** A consultation letter was circulated regarding the temporary classrooms at Bransty. **Resolved to accept without objection.** Proposed ST, seconded LM. Carried

**072/2021/22 To consider a memorial bench application. Resolved to approve the application.** Proposed MRO, seconded WM. Carried. HE said that some of the benches had turned into shrines and people were not able to sit on them. The Clerk said that our policy states that this must not happen, but unfortunately this had only been in place a matter of months, there had been no policy previously. The Chair asked if the Clerk had a list of who had benches in the garden, but she said there had been nothing prior to our policy being adopted, she had no records and no agreements at all. This was the first ever application and agreement that there had been.

**073/2021/22 To consider adopting the Unacceptable Behaviour Policy.** Copies of Copeland Borough Council’s policy had been made available for consideration. **Resolved to adopt the policy, Clerk to bring a modified draft suitable for Parton Parish Council to the next meeting.** Proposed JW, Seconded LM. Carried

**074/2021/22 To decide on a course of action over garage tenants that have not returned their tenancy agreements.** The Clerk read out the reminder letter that was sent to tenants after the last meeting which gave them a deadline of 21<sup>st</sup> August to either return their tenancy agreement, or write with reasons for any objections. **Resolved to give notice to all tenants that have not returned their tenancy agreements.** Proposed LM, seconded MRO. Carried. WM asked what was happening with the wood burning stoves. The Clerk said that an explanation had been given by

one tenant. HE said that she was concerned over carbon monoxide because there needed to be adequate ventilation. A member of the public asked if they were insured in case they caused a fire and asked if they were allowed to burn anything. WM said that it wasn't just wood that was burnt in them it was rubber and all sorts and a member of the public said that it stinks. The Clerk said that the agreement states that burning of any materials is strictly prohibited. A member of the public raised a concern that fire engines are unable to get under the arches.

**075/2021/22 To appoint a representative to the Mary Jackson Trust.** The constitution of the trust requires them to have two Parish Councillors and one ward councillor. MRy is currently a member. LM volunteered and DB suggested the Clerk email Councillor Bowman. **Resolved to appoint Councillor Mckee to represent the Council.** Proposed AA, seconded JW. Carried

**076/2021/22 To agree to the direct debit for Cumbria waste. Resolved to sign the direct debit instruction.** Proposed RS, Seconded HE. Carried.

**077/2021/22 To appoint 2 extra signatories to the bank account. Resolved to appoint 2 extra signatories to the bank account.** Proposed JW, seconded MRo. Carried. **Resolved to add Councillor Williamson to the list of signatories.** Proposed WM, Seconded LM. Carried. **Resolved to add Councillor Ryden to the list of signatories.** Proposed WM, seconded AA. Carried. As Councillor Barton was absent and there were cheques and the direct debit instruction to be signed, the chair proposed that our financial regulation 6.4 be suspended for this occasion only to allow the Clerk to sign along with himself rather than two members as a second member was not available. **Resolved to suspend financial regulation 6.4 for this occasion.** Proposed ST, seconded HE. Carried.

**078/2021/22 To amend the date of the next meeting.** To enable plans to be made for the Remembrance service it was proposed to rearrange meeting dates. **Resolved to bring forward the next meeting from November 10<sup>th</sup> to October 20<sup>th</sup> and to schedule an additional meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>.** Proposed ST, seconded JW. Carried

**079/2021/22 To form a working party to put together a plan for the Remembrance Day Centenary Service.** The chair asked for volunteers and HE, AA, WM, LM and JW offered to be involved. A member of the public, Anne Watson also volunteered to help.

**080/2021/22 Payments for Approval.**

Cheque	Payee	Details	Amount
101339	Copeland Borough Council	Election Costs	80.00
101340	Copeland Borough Council	Litter Bin emptying	168.00
101341	J Coltman	Salary	422.40
101342	HMRC	Tax on Salary	105.60
101343	J Coltman	Expenses	138.37

**Resolved to approve payments.** Proposed JW, Seconded MRo. Carried.

				Item	Total
Bank Reconciliation				£	£
Bank Statement 12/06/21				22563.89	
					22563.89
Cheques Cleared					
101329	CALC	034/2021/22		-210.36	
101333	Lowca PC	057/2021/22		-106.22	
101334	CALC	057/2021/22		-120.00	
101335	BHIB	057/2021/22		-307.89	
101336	Coltman	057/2021/22		-388.56	
101337	HMRC	057/2021/22		-97.20	
101338	Coltman	057/2021/22		-55.88	
					-1286.11
Receipts Banked					
11/08/21	Garage rent			75.00	
					75.00
Bank Statement 12/08/21					21352.78
Cheques Outstanding for Clearance					
					0.00
Receipts Outstanding for Clearance					
					0.00
Balance after all cleared					21352.78
Ledger Balance					21352.78
Variance					0

082/2021/22 Parish Councillor Matters.

- HE had a rough draft of a crisis event plan for the Council to consider. We needed to consider a phone tree.
- HE said that Beckermest had got a lot of money for the community by having a community plan.
- HE said a pamphlet, maybe once a quarter with information would be a good idea because not everybody could get online. She would be prepared to look into doing this herself and MRO and JW said they would assist.
- WM asked about the cutting of the football field. The Clerk said that it had been asked for but never seemed to have happened.
- AA said that there were still some swings on the bowling green, Copeland had only removed some of them.

The Chair thanked everybody for coming and the press and public left the meeting.

**083/2021/22 To Consider a complaint received.** The Council considered the complaint to be without merit. As it was also in part a repeat of a previous complaint and the complainant had failed to provide any evidence to support claims that they made, the Council considered it to be a vexatious complaint. **Resolved that there was no merit to the complaint and no further action was required. The Clerk to write to the complainant to make them aware of our vexatious requests policy, to ask them to change this behaviour and to outline the actions that the Council may take if they do not comply.**

The meeting closed at 9.10pm  
Minutes approved as a true and accurate record.

Chair Presiding..... Date.....

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