

Borrowdale Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of the Bi-Monthly meeting of the Borrowdale Parish Council held in the Rosthwaite Institute on Wednesday 27th January 2015 at 19:30

Present: Andrew Webb (in the Chair), David Hindmarch, Trevor Dowson, Gill Brocklesby, John Bennett, Gary Metcalfe, Nigel Dixon

In Attendance: Becx Carter (Clerk), Billy Bland (resident), C/Cllr Lysser, Pete Barron (resident), PCSO Adele Lyall, PC Philippa Meunzberg.

Apologies: Sam Hicks, Jeff Hall, Cath Johnson (LDNPA)

01/15 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the above-mentioned people

02/15 Request for Declarations

None received

03/15 Declarations of Interest

None

04/15 Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on the 26th November 2014

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

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on the 26th November 2014 were confirmed as a true & accurate record, and as such were signed by the Chairman.

05/15 Public Participation*Police Matters*

PCSO Lyall informed the meeting that there had been 4 incidents since the last meeting one in particular was of note; on the 30th November two men were reported to be in the woods near the Leathes Head Hotel with rifles. A search was conducted and nothing was found.

PC Pippa Meunzberg (Wildlife Officer for the area) attended the meeting to discuss the matter of Hunting. She informed the meeting that breaches of the licence to hunt is the responsibility of the body that issues the licence (National Trust in Borrowdale), the police do not get involved in breaches of the licence as this is a civil matter.

However if there is evidence that offences are being committed the police will investigate. If an individual believes offences are being committed they should phone the police to report it, this helps the police build up an intelligence picture. It is important that concerns/issues are reported at the time of occurrence so evidence can be gathered if possible. If the intelligence suggest something illegal is going on, then the police will investigate.

Mr B Bland raised a concern that he had written to Mr T Cunningham in 08 & 14 asking the police to liaise with landowners and the hound packs to organize a drag hunt demonstration, this still hasn't been arranged. Mr Bland feels that the organization such an event would be beneficial to all parties and would hopefully reduce the risk of any confrontation between supporters & opposers.

Action: PC Meunzberg agreed to chase up this matter and get back to the Clerk with a formal response.

PC Meunzberg informed the meeting that over the coming months she would be aiming to introduce herself to the relevant persons on both sides e.g. landowners and hound packs. The Police are also working to try and get a list of fixture from all packs. Part of her role will be to attend hunt fixtures where possible.

A query was raised regarding the rules on lamping. PC Meunzberg informed the meeting that lamping wasn't completely illegal, as long as written permission is obtained (and carried) detailing what will be being shot, the area of land it is on, the time period & date then they would be within the law (there are specific laws for some species e.g. Deer Act). PC Meunzberg also confirmed that whilst lamping can be legal subject to the above there are also other laws that would come into play e.g. gun legislations.

If anyone is concerned that illegal hunting of any form is taking place they should report it to the police for them to investigate.

Borrowdale Parish Council thanked PC Lyall & PC Meunzberg for attending the meeting.

C/Cllr Lysser

- He has requested that all the road drains be cleared, this request has been logged but not sure when it will be actioned.

Action: Clerk to report the drainage issues as well and continue to chase up the issue

It was noted by the meeting that water management is a big issue, if the water running onto, pooling on the road was managed better the road surface would last longer. C/Cllr Lysser confirmed to the meeting he had asked for another drive through the valley to identify water issues but he wasn't sure when this would happen.

Pete Barron identified there were three areas in particular that were a hazard to cyclists where culverts under the road have sunk.

Action: All to report areas of concern on Borrowdale Road to the Better Highways Hotline and obtain reference numbers to enable progress to be monitored

Action: Clerk to circulate Better Highways Hotline contact details to all councilors

Pete Barron noted a particular issue with the condition of the footpath from Keswick along the side of the B5289 between the roundabout and Bowe Barn

Action: Clerk to report this location again and request a progress up date.

Billy Bland raised concern regarding the saplings/vegetation that are growing out of grass verges/footpaths and are starting to encroach on footpaths, the carriageway and risk damaging walls etc. In the past the council used to remove these but have ceased doing. Could volunteers undertake this work or would that cause problems?

Action Cllr Lysser to look into the above matter and feed back to the clerk.

Action: Clerk to raise this matter with Stagecoach to see if they are concerned regarding this matter and also to contact the National Trust to see if they will be cutting back their hedge lines.

Cllr Lysser informed the meeting regarding the Thirlmere Main Line Water Project connecting water from Thirlmere to the West of the county as Crummock, Ennerdale & Overwater are ceasing to be used in the future (due to environmental issues) This will enable sufficient water to be available in the West of the county, and also connects the west of the county to the rest of the water network.

Concern was raised regarding if this project was to provide a water supply to the nuclear industry, or for a future nuclear waste repository.

Action: Clerk to obtain an answer to this question.

06/15 Action Reports/Updates from Councillors & Clerk

SSSI Lodore Woods

The clerk informed the council that the land registry had quoted either £300 or £600 for a map to answer the question of landownership within the boundaries of the SSSI Common Land area in question. **Resolved** that the council did not have the budget for this expenditure.

Resolved Clerk to contact the relevant authorities to find out what happens if Borrowdale Parish Council are unwilling to accept responsibility for any of this area.

Action: Clerk to contact the relevant authorities to find out what happens if the Parish Council don't wish to accept responsibility for this area of land

Action: Clerk to contact archives service to see if they have any copies of maps covering the Borrowdale Parish Council area.

Football Pitch Rental

The clerk informed the council that an area had been detailed on an image and sent to the National Trust for their consideration when writing the tenancy agreement for the new tenant of Yew Tree Farm.

Action: Clerk to contact the National Trust to discuss terms, conditions, fees etc for this possible piece of land.

National Trust Matters- Housing

No further update- Clerk to report on this matter at the March meeting

Action: Clerk to progress and report back at the next meeting.

Hunting

The clerk updated those present that she had requested a fixtures list from both of the hound packs that cover the Borrowdale area:

Melbreak Foxhounds- Confirmed that no fixtures were planned within the parish for the remainder of the season
Blencathra Foxhounds- Have not provided a fixture list and have asked for more detail on why the council would like this information.

Action: Clerk to continue communicating with the Blencathra Foxhounds to try and obtain their fixture lists.

Billy Bland noted that there hadn't appeared to be any activity from the Blencathra Foxhounds within Borrowdale on their 'by-days' (days when they don't fix in advance where the meets will take place). They seem to be hunting elsewhere which Mr Bland believes is because they are aware that hunts within the parish are being monitored.

It was suggested that the clerk contact the LDNPA to ask for a copy of any information they have regarding hunting fixtures or activity within the Borrowdale Valley as they are obliged to provide the information.

Action: Clerk to action this point.

Greta Gardens Housing Costs

All present were aware of the proposed costs for the units at the new Greta Gardens Housing Cost. **Resolved** Borrowdale Parish Council were disappointed and disgusted at the proposed costs for this development, the proposed costs will not encourage the downsizing and freeing up of larger family properties which the development was intended to do.

Action: Clerk to write to the developers with the opinion of Borrowdale Parish Council

Action: Clerk to research comparable costs elsewhere in town.

Vodafone Sure Signal Project

The Clerk informed the meeting that an initial site meeting had taken place with the proposed sites. An installation is required on Middle Howe to ensure coverage across Rosthwaite because of the location of the Howe. The Clerk informed the meeting that it is hoped the project will go live after the superfast broadband cabinets go live. All costs of the sure signal project will either be covered by the project itself or by the parish council (£30 a year ongoing costs)

Action: Clerk to send an email to the councillors of Middle Howe with details of what is entailed in being a sure signal host.

07/15 Highways & Transport Matters

Borrowdale Bus (78) –The Clerk informed the meeting that as of the 2nd of February two later services would be returning. Clerk is continuing to work with Stagecoach to get some indication of the level of usage of this service during the Winter in comparison with how many customers are needed to make the service viable.

Action: Clerk to continue work on this matter.

08/15 Broadband

The Clerk informed the meeting that written confirmation had been received confirming that a superfast Connecting Cumbria Cabinet would be being installed in Rosthwaite. The go live dates for both the Rosthwaite & Grange cabinets are estimated at being between April-June 2015.

09/15 Community Voluntary Projects

No suggestions were received

10/15 Correspondence.

Unless listed below all correspondence listed on the agenda is noted as having been received by no action was required.

-Buckingham Palace Garden Party nomination. **Resolved** that Andrew Webb be nominated to attend on behalf of Borrowdale Parish Council.

Action: Andrew to complete and submit the relevant paperwork

-Public Toilets- Receipt of a letter from ABC stating that they would no longer be managing the toilets at Grange and requesting a meeting with Grange Bridge Teashop to discuss on going provision. **Resolved** that at this stage Borrowdale Parish Council would like to be kept informed on the outcome of the meeting between ABC & the Teashop.

Action: Clerk to contact David Bryden with this resolution.

11/15 Finance

a) Accounts for payment

There were no accounts for payment, the Clerk confirmed she would submit an expenses claim for the period November-March at the March meeting.

b) Proposed budget for 2015

The clerk had circulated a draft budget to all prior to the meeting. Following a robust discussion it was **resolved** that the draft budget be accepted and the precept for 15/16 be raised by 4.8% to £4925. The rationale for this increase is that the CTRS grant is being reduced year on year, the potential cost of an election if it were to be contested, and also the ongoing risk that at some point capping on precept increases may be imposed by the government.

Action: Clerk to submit the Precept request to ABC.

C) Email Costs

The clerk informed the council that her email was starting to fill up, and the only way to increase its capacity was to upgrade the system. The clerk informed the council that many emails were stored in the inbox for historical/reference purposes, and also so if anyone ever had to step in and take over the job the records were all there. The costs of upgrading would be an £80 one off cost and then circa £7 a month. This would increase the capacity to in excess of 15GB (Compared to the very small mailbox size currently) with no limit on the number of emails stored. **Resolved** by all present that the clerk proceed with this proposal to ensure smooth ongoing delivery.

Action: Clerk to work with Claranet to organize this upgrade prior to the March Meeting.

d) Training Costs

The Clerk requested council support for the cost of two training courses for the CiLCA qualification. It was noted that the cost of the registration and examination as part of the course had been paid by two of the clerks other councils.

Resolved by all present that the clerk undertake the necessary training and that Borrowdale Parish Council would pay the £79 training costs.

Action: Clerk to organize.

12/15 Planning Matters & Consultations

Planning Applications for Consideration

Fencing on Whelpside, Steel End, West Head, Armbroth, Bleaberry & Wythburn Fells Common- It was noted by the meeting that this fence was being constructed to exclude stock from a large area of land to help improve the water quality.

Resolved that Borrowdale Parish Council had no objections or comments with relation to this matter.

Action: Clerk to inform the relevant parties of the position of Borrowdale Parish Council.

Planning Decisions

The following decisions were noted:

Ashness Farm, Borrowdale Retrospective approval of installation of a flue- APPROVED

Action: Clerk to contact LDNPA to request further information on the enforcement regarding the timber building.

13/15 Consultations to respond to

LDNPA Management Plan 2015-2020

The document had been circulated to all councilors.

Resolved that Borrowdale Parish Council had no comments to make regarding this consultation.

ABC Council Plan 2015-19

Resolved that Borrowdale Parish Council had no comments to make regarding this consultation

Government Consultation on Parish Polls

Resolved by all present that the Parish Council wee fully in support of the proposals laid out in this document.

Action: Clerk to submit these comments.

ABC Consultation on budget

Resolved that Borrowdale Parish Council had no comments to make regarding this consultation.

14/15 Reports back from Linked Groups

Derwent 7- The next meeting takes place on Monday 16th March 2015, with a Transport Sub Group meeting being held on Friday 6th February 2015 at 14:15 in the Braithwaite Institute.

15/15 Councillor Matters

None raised

16/15 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 25th March 2015 at 19:30 at the Rosthwaite Institute.

The meeting closed at 20:53