

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held in Natland Village Hall

at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 30th April 2007

07/46 Present: Cllr Peters in the Chair, Cllrs Dickinson, Mansfield, Outhwaite, Parnham, and the Clerk, Mrs A Ireland

Apologies had been received from Cllr Bowley.

Three members of the public were present.

07/47 The **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on March 26th 2007 (*circulated*) were agreed and signed.

07/48 Matters arising

a. Taxi business on Long Meadow Lane - A letter had been received from Mark Balderson of SLDC confirming that no further action would be taken unless the number of vehicles increases.

b. A65 Speed Limit - A letter was read from John Bell confirming that a review of speed limits on the A65 would take place, the Council would be consulted should there be any changes.

07/49 Casual Vacancy

Cllr Peters proposed the Council co-opt Keith Jackson - the Council supported this. Keith was unable to attend the meeting - the Clerk would take the appropriate papers for his signature.

07/50 Sedgwick Road footway

The Clerk reported a conversation with Steve Gibson who had rung to explain the Cumbria Highways position. Cumbria Highways will adopt the footway and roadside boundary. This would mean that the hedge/wall would be removed as Cumbria Highways has no hedge maintenance policy. Some other form of boundary would replace it - possibly a wall.

The Parish Council could alternatively take on the responsibility for the hedge/wall. The council would need to apply for a planting licence and take out insurance to cover damage to cars or pedestrians, and maintain the hedge/wall to its satisfaction at its own expense.

A letter confirming these two alternatives would be sent. The Clerk was instructed to write expressing the Council's concern that a replacement boundary should be sympathetic to the existing rural environment and ask for details of the proposed new boundary.

07/51 Natland Spring Litter Hunt

Cllr Peters' report (*circulated*) was discussed. He now holds four pickers and some high visibility jackets. The Council agreed to write to Rob Kitchen of SLDC requesting a litter bin near the Helm top car parking area (opposite the Council's bench).

More frequent litter-picking of target areas was considered worthwhile - the Litter Working Group to be asked about it by Cllr Parnham. Recruitment of more volunteers was needed.

07/52 Appointment of a new Clerk

The Chair moved that the public and press be temporarily excluded during this item because the confidential nature of the business (employee engagement and terms of service) meant that publicity would not be in the public interest; this was agreed.

a. Appointment Panel - Council agreed a Panel comprising Cllrs Outhwaite, Parnham and Peters. They in turn agreed a short list, time and place for interviewing.

The Clerk pointed out the considerable Council items which candidates must house - a computer and desk, a filing cabinet and several boxes of documents and piles of books.

b. Remuneration: It was agreed that the salary offered should be increased in line with the latest national guidance, namely on the basis of 282 hours per year at SCD 18-22, i.e. £2,365-£2,704

07/53 Annual Parish Meeting 23rd May 2007

Annual Report to distributors by May 2nd for distribution by May 9th.

Seating, papers, etc. to be arranged as 2006 - Cllr Parnham suggested that Councillors be conspicuous on either end of the 'horseshoe'.

It was agreed to invite Judith Derbyshire of Cumbria Rural Housing Trust, who will be conducting a housing needs survey in the village later in the year, to speak and answer questions.

07/54 Planning

a. Comments sent to S.L.D.C. since the last meeting were confirmed as follows;
- 8 Wandales Lane - single storey rear extension - no objection.

b. The following decision had been notified by S.L.D.C:
- Lowfield, Oxenholme Lane - new dwelling and garage - permission granted.
- Stable Cottage, Natland Mill Beck Lane - two storey extension and double garage - permission granted.

c. SLDC's Local Development Framework - Employment and Housing Land Search Study -

Three Councillors had attended a meeting for town and parish councils. Cllr Outhwaite reported that the discussion concerned identifying land in nominated villages which could be used for employment and housing. Elizabeth Scott-Clarke from S.L.D.C. and Sally Nash from the appointed consultants, Gillespies, took the meeting. Both speakers now have copies of Natland Parish Plan 2004 and its 2006 review. Consultations on the draft 'Allocations of Land' Development Plan Document are expected in due course.

07/55 Finance - Annual Return for year ending 31.3.07

a. The Statement of Receipts and Payments (circulated) was approved.

