

CASTLE SOWERBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 21 September 2017 at Millhouse Village Hall

PRESENT

Councillors

Richard Little (RL)

Philippa Groves (PG)

Michael Strong (MS)

Joyce Wetherell (JW)

Jonathan Stalker (JS)

Helen Kerry (HK)

Gerald Bainbridge (GB)

Clerk - Rachael Kelly (RK)

Geoff Hine – NFG

1 Member of public

2017 / 46	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u> Resolved that apologies had been received from: Cllr Sid Ashbridge Cllr Kevin Beaty (EDC) Cllr Andrew Mallinson</p>
2017 / 47	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u> Resolved Cllr Jonathan Stalker– Planning</p>
2017 / 48	<p><u>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 20 July 2017</u> Resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 July 2017 (Pages 4 – 7) be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.</p>
2017 / 49	<p><u>Progress Reports</u> <u>Rural Broadband</u> Cllr Tom Wentworth-Waites did not attend the meeting. The Clerk advised of a Digital Inclusion event being held at Ivegill Village Hall on 05/10/2017 at 7.30pm</p>
2017 / 50	<p><u>Public Participation / Open Session</u> <u>Eden District Councillors Report</u> Resolved Cllr Kevin Beaty did not attend the meeting, but sent a report: There has been very little going on over the summer. The main things that are being progressed over the coming 6 months are as follows <u>Devolution to parishes of Discretionary Services -</u> This is an issue of fairness as well as cost. There are a number of services that EDC provides which are specific to some parishes and Town councils. Things like grass cutting, garden seats and sports pitch maintenance for instance, but also bigger items like toilets and even clocks and war memorials. Some of these services are recharged to Parishes as Special Expenses which added to the Council tax bills to householders in those parishes. On top of this there are some things, footway lighting for instance, which some parishes have more of than others where the cost is spread across the whole area. There are not many services delivered in Castle Sowerby, with only 1 footway light and no special</p>

	<p>expenses payable. The council has written to all parish and town Councils to ask them to take on any of the discretionary services delivered in their area. The main ones are obviously Penrith, Appleby, Alston and Kirkby Stephen, and we have had a fairly positive response. Parishes that take on these services will continue to have funding on a reducing scale for 4 years until they take them over and fund them themselves. This will allow very local services to be delivered very locally and possibly by local contractors outside. EDC feels this may deliver the services cheaper, and it is also fairer as some places pay for their own grass cutting and others get it free from EDC. This will allow EDC to abolish the special expenses scheme, and allow the local parishes to increase precepts to offset the new costs in 2018. this will not affect Castle Sowerby. EDC has also promised not to raise its Council tax level in 2018-19 to cushion any changes which will happen across the district. Your Council will then be ready to take on any changes to Government Funding which are set to continue into the future and if we did nothing would leave a large hole in our budget. Castle Sowerby PC may wish to consider taking on the cost of the 1 footway light in the parish. Rachel will be able to get the cost for you, but I don't think it will break the bank!!</p> <p><u>Income Generation</u> - As well as making the Council budget leaner through savings, we have also embarked on a commercial venture. A stand alone Company called the Heart of Cumbria, owned wholly by the Council. It has been set up with 3 directors from the Elected Members and 2 Non-Executive directors from outside the Council. The company has 3 aims, any project must deliver at least one of these aims</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- To deliver affordable housing in Eden 2- Create higher paid jobs 3- Return at least 3% on any investment by the Council from its reserves. <p>The Council has good Capital reserves which return very little in interest payments. We feel this money would be better invested in Eden for the good of the tax payers. These reserves cannot be used for services, but the interest on investments can. The Governance for the Company has been agreed by a large majority at the Council and will embark on projects over the coming months. The first project is a bid to purchase 86 affordable rent houses from Persimmon on Carleton Heights development, these houses were unwanted by the Housing Associations and were in danger of being turned into market led housing. The company hopes to rent pout these properties to Key workers such as nurses and doctors, but also families or older people in need of affordable housing. The returns on this investment will be ploughed back into services.</p>	
2017 / 51	<p><u>County Councillors Report</u> Resolved Cllr Tom Wentworth-Waites did not attend the meeting. CSPC noted their concerns over the lack of attendance and support to the parish.</p>	
2017 / 52	<p><u>Northern Fells Group Committee Member Report</u> Resolved – Geoff Hine advised that NFG continues to prosper, the AGM was last week, at which Geoff was elected as Chairman. NFG are going from strength to strength, and are currently looking to see if there are any people that are in need of support who the group do not currently reach.</p>	

2017 / 53

Public Participation

Resolved –

Geoff Hine advised that the road sign for Raughton Head has disappeared, and that he has witnessed 2 near misses on the B5320.

Howard Eastwood – Congratulated Andrew Mallinson on his co-option to the parish council. Howard thanked Philippa and others for the work involved in the flowers around Millhouse Village Hall. Howard asked how parish council was dealing with planning now it was electronic. Howard was advised that the clerk circulates the email received from EDC to advise the parish councillors of the application, which is then considered by the planning sub-committee, or an extension is requested from EDC if necessary.

Clerk

2017 / 54

Planning Matters

Resolved that the following applications were received from Eden District Council. The Clerk to inform EDC of the Councils’ observations as follows:

Application Number	Location	Description	Comments
17/0722	Newsham Farm, Hutton Roof, Penrith	Extension to existing cattle housing and cattle handling area	No objections
17/0723	Newsham Farm, Hutton Roof, Penrith	Midden to store farm manure	No objections
17/0760	Track in field to Jonty’s barn, Sowerby Row	Reinstatement of agricultural track to side of field in original position	Support
17/0763	Barn known as Jontys Barn, Ratten Castle, Sowerby Row	Change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house	Support

JS left the room during the discussions and vote for 17/0760 & 170763

Clerk

2017 / 55

Resolved to note the decisions of Eden District Council with regard to the following applications:

Application Number	Location	Description	Decision
17/0591	The Nook Cottage, Hesket Newmarket, Wigton, CA7 8JB	Extension & Alterations to dwelling.	Full approval
17/0505	Barn known as Jontys Barn, Ratten Castle, Sowerby Row	Change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house	Refusal

Financial Records

Resolved that the BDO external audit has been completed and returned to the Clerk. The report was noted.

2017 / 56

2017 / 57	Resolved that the funds currently stand at £6,621.29 and be received and noted.																					
2017 / 58	Resolved that the Chairman was authorised to sign the cash book / bank reconciliation																					
2017 / 59	<p>Resolved that the following payments be made:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="321 331 1377 556"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>DATE</u></th> <th><u>DESCRIPTION</u></th> <th><u>EXPENDITURE</u></th> <th><u>INCOME</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>03/07/2017</td> <td>ENWL</td> <td></td> <td>£ 9.47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21/09/2017</td> <td>A Ward</td> <td>£ 20.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>21/09/2017</td> <td>R Kelly Wages & Expenses</td> <td>£ 121.68</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>21/09/2017</td> <td>HMRC</td> <td>£ 25.40</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	03/07/2017	ENWL		£ 9.47	21/09/2017	A Ward	£ 20.00		21/09/2017	R Kelly Wages & Expenses	£ 121.68		21/09/2017	HMRC	£ 25.40		Clerk
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2017 / 60	<p>The Clerk advised £650 has been received from CALC from the Transparency Fund to purchase a laptop, printer and the required software. The clerk to arrange.</p> <p><u>Schedule of Correspondence, Notices, Publications & Matters Arising</u> Resolved that all items listed on the schedule for information be noted.</p>	Clerk																				
2017 / 61	<p><i>Devolution and transfer of assets – EDC</i> Resolved EDC have advised from 2022 discretionary services will not be provided due to funding issues. They will be passed down to parish councils. The Clerk to confirm the light at Millhouse, as CSPC believe this is an approved light, and EDC say it is not approved. The Clerk to enquire about the light being replaced with an LED one, and the costs associated with running the light. To be discussed at the November meeting.</p>	Clerk																				
2017 / 62	<p><u>Councillor Matters</u> Potholes – Newlands Speed Consultation – no update Road closure for wall repairs – 25.09.17 for approximately 2 weeks. There is a drain blocked opposite Sour Nook The road edges alongside the newly resurfaced roads are very soft The new drains are not effective There are still road signs and sandbags which need to be collected</p>																					
2017 / 63	<p><u>Date of The Next Meeting</u> The dates for the next scheduled meetings are confirmed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday 16th November 2017 – 7.30pm <p>Meeting closed 8.20pm</p> <p>Chairman.....</p> <p>Date.....</p>																					

