

Thornton in Lonsdale Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting

Monday 11th March 2019

Westhouse Village Hall

1. Attendance.

The meeting formally opened at 19.07hrs.

Present: Chair Savage, Councillors Fawcett, Dawson and Ramwell. Apologies had been received from Councillor Hunter. The Parish Clerk and five members of the public were present.

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 28th January 2019. The minutes as recorded by the Clerk had been previously circulated. Councillor Ramwell proposed and Councillor Fawcett seconded that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. All were in agreement. The Chair signed the minutes.

4. Matters Arising.

Reference parking outside Thorngarth, the Clerk reported that he had spoken to the area office and the local manager. Problems had occurred when additional staff had been on site for training days. Alternative parking would be sought. Members of the public stated that there had been further instances of dangerous parking. The Councillors agreed that they would monitor the situation but advised that concerns should be reported directly to the police at the time the vehicle/ danger was present. All other matters were covered under the substantive agenda and dealt with at the appropriate juncture.

5. Planning.

Referring to the agenda, the Clerk gave a summary of the current position in respect of each application. Reference Kirksteads/ Escape Bike Shop (C/68/626F - an application for six luxury camping pods). The Councillors were unanimous in the opinion that they should record their objections to the application. The objections being primarily based on road safety concerns. The premises are located at a point on the A65 where the national speed limit is in force. It was recognised that a relatively small number of vehicles presently access the site however an increase in vehicles driven by people without local knowledge would significantly increase the risk of serious and fatal collisions. There are no suitable footpaths for holiday makers exiting/ entering the site. The lack of lighting during the hours of darkness made the risk even greater. It was also felt that the proportion of lodge, pod and caravan type accommodation was disproportionate to the number of permanent traditional buildings in the small parish. The Clerk was instructed to document the objections with the planning authority.

6. Vacancy for Parish Clerk.

Councillor Savage reminded those present that the Parish Clerk would be standing down from his post following the AGM in May and that it was essential that a replacement was found and given time to shadow the current Clerk. Approaches had been made to neighbouring Clerks, all without success. The Councillors and public were urged to assist in finding a replacement, the advertisements in the parish noticeboards would be refreshed and the Clerk was instructed to enquire into advertising in the classified sections of the Craven Herald and the Westmorland Gazette.

7. Road Safety/ Policing.

Councillors Savage and Fawcett had attended the recent Ingelton Parish Council meeting during which the police gave an update. It was reported that a Community Watch scheme involving patrolling residents would be trialed in Grassington and that an additional sergeant was to be allocated to the Ingelton and surrounding areas.

The Clerk reported that he had, once again reported concerns to the “95 Alive” road safety partnership and went on to read a response from that organisation. In summary there were no plans to introduce additional enforcement sites on the A65. The partnership website states that enforcement takes place at speeds 10% above the speed limit plus a further 2 mph. The Clerk reminded the public that the “95 Alive” website and reporting mechanism is open to all and that they should utilise it to report their concerns.

Participation in Community Speed Watch remains an option which the Clerk will follow up.

8. Finance.

The Clerk gave an update on expenditure and income since the last meeting. Expenditure and income was as forecast.

The £860.56 cash had now been paid into the Parish Council current account on behalf of “Save a Life”.

9. Project Update.

B4RN. Councillors Fawcett and Hunter will arrange a meeting with representative of B4RN.

10. Community Emergency Plan.

The next stage is to produce a checklist of actions to be undertaken by individual Councillors. When the checklist is completed and approved, the plan will be published for public information.

11. Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean.

The Clerk advised that the campaign would run between 22/3/19 and 23/4/19. He had registered the Parish Councils desire to participate. Keep Britain Tidy did not provide equipment. Councillors suggested that they had suitable equipment to undertake the task (e.g. litter pickers and gloves). The Clerk reminded those present that he had been in contact with Craven District Council (CDC) reference problems of litter. CDC advised that if problem spots could be identified to CDC, there was a possibility of deploying enforcement officers to investigate. The Clerk suggested that a litter pick may be an ideal opportunity to identify problem locations.

12. Any Other Business.

- (a) Flooding in Thornton in Lonsdale. Mr Nutall (local resident) reported that plans were underway to introduce fifteen leaky dams in the area of Cowgill Wood. The total cost is expected to be in the region of £4,500. Local residents were making personal financial contributions to the scheme and were exploring avenues for further funding. Councillor Savage asked Mr Nutall to provide details to the Clerk, it might be that the Parish Council could provide a financial contribution.
- (b) It was reported that the generator at the radio mast near to the View Point had been emitting black smoke. Presently this wasn't occurring. Councillor Savage asked those present to monitor the situation.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 20.42hrs.

Date of Next Meeting: To follow the AGM (19.00hrs) Monday 13th May 2019 at Westhouse Methodist Church.

Signed..... Dated.....