

## DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the Kirkstile, Dean

on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 at 7.30 pm

Present: Mr. Hayman, Mr. Chittenden, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Smith, Mr. Haslam, Mr. Scott. Mr Worsley Mrs. Pallister, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Semple (Cumberland Councillor), and Rev'd. Morgan (Clerk).

### **30/24 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Holmes

**31/24 Public Participation** – no members of the public were present.

### **32/24 Approval of Minutes**

i. The amended minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March were approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

ii. Mr. Ferguson proposed an amendment to Minute 12/24 ii of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024, to insert the words 'by person's unknown' after 'lifted and moved' and to add 'and it was agreed that a permanent sign be purchased and erected, as per the Risk Assessment' after 'wording had been put up'.

Mr. Ferguson proposed an amendment to Minute 25/24 e. to reword the sentence to read "The clerk was instructed to chase up Bradley English at CC who had agreed to refund the Parish Council for the additional aggregate used on the footpath; it was agreed to refund Dave Clarkson for various items used by the working parties on the footpath project."

On the proposal of Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Chittenden, the minutes were approved subject to the amendment, and will be signed at the September meeting of the Parish Council.

**33/24 Declarations of Interest** – Mr. Scott declared an interest under grass cutting.

**34/24 Open Spaces** – Nothing to report.

### **35/24 Adoption of Policy Documents**

Draft copies of the following documents had been circulated by email prior to the meeting:

- i. Code of Conduct
- ii. Financial Regulations
- iii. Standing Orders

A lengthy discussion ensued, and it was agreed that more detail would need to be included on future Agendas in order to comply with the Standing Orders re motions, although it was noted that there is a provision to waive standing orders should it be necessary.

On the proposal of Mrs. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Pallister it was unanimously agreed to adopt all three documents, which will be reviewed annually in May.

Mr. Chittenden was thanked for his work on the three documents.

### **36/24 Reports**

#### **a. Dean Community Response Group**

Acknowledgement had been received that the £3,500 grant from Potato Pot was ready to be claimed; paid invoices would be needed in order to release the funds. The grant is ex of VAT, which the Parish Council can reclaim from HMRC. The Response Group was to meet shortly and review the emergency plan. It was hoped to have everything in place ahead of winter 2024. The group had received a donation of a 2Kw petrol generator, currently being looked after by Mr. Thomas. The Chairman agreed to write a letter of thanks to the donor.

#### **b. 217 Bus Group**

Mrs. Moore reported that the final report had been submitted to Grantscape and the balance of the grant would be released mid-July. Mr. Semple explained that the route is currently out to tender and a meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July would see a decision made on who is awarded the contract. The chairman agreed to write a letter of support from the Parish Council to Cllr Mrs. D. Rollo, portfolio holder for Highways, Cumberland Council.

Mrs. Moore advised that she and Mr. Surman would attend Arlecdon and Frizington Parish Council for further discussion of the 217 service. Mrs. Moore added that a 16-seater vehicle is more appropriate for rural roads than a single decker bus, and she had made this clear in conversations with Cumberland Council.

Mr. Semple reported on the recent AGM of the Lakes to Sea Community Panel. In the past year £28,000 had been given to health and well being initiatives, £23,000 to community involvement and £0 to transport for the community.

The panel recognised that community transport is a major issue but no applications for funding had been received. There followed some discussion of Sellafield buses and school buses, which run with empty seats but the general public is denied access.

### **c. Dean Moor Solar Farm Committee**

An email from Henry Whitelaw, received 1/7/24, was circulated prior to the meeting. Mr. Smith expressed concern that the Parish Council had not seen Cumberland Council's response and it was essential that the two bodies were in lock step. Dean Moor's response to the committee's response had been specifically around the community benefit fund and was still very prescriptive about how the money would be accessed and spent. It was agreed that the committee would prepare a response to the latest communications from Dean Moor, share it amongst the members of the two parish councils and then go to a meeting with Dean Moor.

It was noted that Dean Moor and Lostrigg Solar Farms would almost touch, with only a road between them at the closest point. It was agreed that Mr. Smith and Mr. Ferguson would attend Little Clifton Parish Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> July to begin the process of the two parish councils working together re Lostrigg. Clerk to send a holding email to Dean Moor in the meantime.

### **37/24 Report from Cllr. Semple**

- i. The Lakes to Sea Community Panel has co-opted two members who are not Cumberland Councillors, Dr. Sarah Williamson and Janet Fairbrother. Both have strong links to the area and bring their own expertise to the role. They will have no voting rights on neighbourhood investment issues but will be involved in all other aspects of the Panel's work.
- ii. As Chairman of Cumberland Council, a non-political role, Mr. Semple said he was passionate about the cultural aspects of the council's work.
- iii. In reply to a submission to Cumberland Council from Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Semple reported that water is currently being tested for chlorine. If chlorine is found to be present, United Utilities will be called in to deal with it. If there is no chlorine present a trial hole will be dug by highways engineers for further investigations to be carried out.
- iv. Mr. Smith asked whether the Lakes to Sea Panel included skill. Mr. Semple replied that Dr. Sarah Williamson was very keen to stop the brain drain from the area. Mr Smith replied that the issue is more fundamental than that as predictions show that by 2030 there will not be sufficient people of working age in Cumbria to fill the jobs.

*Mr. Semple left the meeting at this point.*

### **38/24 Finances**

**a. Balance on Community Account - £21,012.73**

#### **b. Income**

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Cumberland Council (reimbursement re Reg's Round) | £ 1810.00 |
| Lloyds group share dividend                       | £ 2.36    |

#### **b. Payments for Approval**

The following payments were agreed and cheques signed:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Clerk's salary – July - net                | £ 246.30  |
| Tax on July salary                         | £ 61.58   |
| Clerk's expenses                           | £ 47.50   |
| Clerks salary - August – net               | £ 246.30  |
| Tax on August salary                       | £ 61.58   |
| J A Lee                                    | £ 56.02   |
| CALC – Effective Cllr Training – A Proctor | £ 30.00   |
| Kirkstile Community Centre (rent)          | £ 37.50   |
| JT Décor (3 x noticeboards repairs)        | £ 60.00   |
| Land Registry (Fee)                        | £ 40.00   |
| Land Registry (Fee)                        | £ 40.00   |
| T. Scott (Grass cutting – half season)     | £3,840.00 |

### **39/24 Planning**

#### **Resubmission**

Reference No: FUL/2024/0049

Applicant: J Skelton

Proposal: Conversion of a barn to dwelling

Location: Barn Opposite Southward Cottage, Pardshaw, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 0SP

## **Applications pending a decision**

Reference No: FUL/2024/0073

Applicant: Robin Bell

Proposal: Re-submission of application FUL/2023/0193 for the erection of concrete ring tank slurry store with canopy

Location: Land at Craig Plantation, Deanscales CA13 0QY

Dean Parish Council has no objections to the above application and welcomed the additional screening to ensure the tank cannot be seen from the road or neighbouring properties.

## **Applications Approved**

Reference No: LBC/2024/0014

Applicant: R & A Cummings

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for internal alterations to connect two houses to create a single dwelling

Location: High Wadsworth, Branthwaite, Workington, CA14 4SZ – Parish Council has no objections and wishes to see permission granted.

Reference No: HOU/2024/0064

Applicant: Katrina and Matt Farnworth

Proposal: Amendments to existing first floor accommodation including installation of new roof lights below 1700mm cill height.

Location: 14 Wadsworth Park, Branthwaite CA14 4SR - Parish Council has no objections and wishes to see permission granted.

Reference No: HOU/2024/0069

Applicant: J Chippendale

Proposal: Rear single storey extension and incorporation of outbuildings to provide new garden room, study and entrance.

Location: Dalton Farm, Eaglesfield, Cockermouth, CA13 0SD – Parish Council has no objections

**40/24 Lostrigg Solar Farm** – already covered under minute 36/24 c.

## **41/24 Amenity**

### **a. Registered Land and Asset Register**

Mr. Ferguson and Rev'd Morgan had met and gone over the outstanding issues. Applications were ready to send for the Eaglesfield village greens and the Deanscales village greens, with work still to be done relating to the triangle of land adjacent to the Wild Duck, Branthwaite, the triangle at the old Smithy, Dean, the garage at the top of the bank at Eaglesfield, the Pound at Eaglesfield, and Crag Springs and Crag Spring Lane.

**b. Potato pot Rights of Way** – agreed that this be removed from future agendas.

### **c. Trees, The Bank, Eaglesfield**

CC had not responded to a request for anyone on their books who could help us with this. The Chairman agreed to ask his neighbours for details of an arborist they had used recently.

### **d. Reg's Round**

Mr. Ferguson had submitted the close out forms to Grantscape. It was agreed to 'sit on' the unspent funding for the time being. Mr. Chittenden suggested an addendum be added to the spreadsheets to show earmarked funding and this was agreed. One outstanding invoice was due from Cumberland Council.

**e. Broadband** – Mr. Haslam reported that the current best options for those properties not connected to fibre infrastructure are through cellular technology (4g and 5g) or satellite broadband.

### **f. Repairs to noticeboards and seats.**

The Clerk was asked to contact J T Décor requesting quotes to replace the back of the noticeboard at Deanscales and to repair the seat at Pardshaw. Mrs. Pallister to supply photograph of the Pardshaw seat.

Mr. Smith reported that he was looking at recycled plastic seating to replace the wooden seat at Branthwaite whilst Dean and District Sports Committee would like to fund the plaque and include their own commemoration. Mrs. Moore offered to supply details of the company the Eaglesfield seats were purchased from.

**g. Tree Survey**

There had been no feedback on any other trees requiring attention.

**h. Blocked footpath 225014 Eaglesfield to the Dubbs.**

Mr. Ferguson explained that this bridleway had been blocked by a farmer some time ago and had been reported previously to CCC. The Clerk was instructed to write to Cumberland Council asking for an update on progress. Mr. Ferguson to send previous email correspondence on this matter to the Clerk. It was hoped that re-routing of the path might be an acceptable compromise for all parties.

**i. Offer from Mr. Daniel McKay.**

The Chairman explained that Mr. McKay had offered additional sets of goalposts to the Parish Council to be sited at Barkers Meadow recreation ground or some other similar place. Mr, Ferguson had inspected the posts which are lightweight and portable and, therefore, would need to be stored away after use. It was agreed that the Chairman would respond to Mr. McKay, thanking him for his offer but suggesting the Village Hall or Paddle School might be better able to make use of them.

**42/24 Highways**

- i. The Chairman reported that notices were up giving details of a temporary road closure from Dean Cross to Lillyhall, diverted via Ullock, but the diversion was not in place.
- ii. Mr. Thomas asked that the clerk write to County Highways commending them on the good job they did repairing the bridge at Branthwaite in May. This was agreed.
- iii. Mrs Pallister had received complaints from residents of Pardshaw about speeding traffic through the village. The clerk was instructed to contact Mr. Semple asking whether there was any possibility of a 30mph limit in the built-up area.

**43/24 Reports on Meetings Attended**

There were no new reports.

**44/24 Communications addressed to the council**

Mr Thomas asked that the clerk be instructed to write to Mr. A. Dawson thanking him for the work he had carried out on the telephone box at Branthwaite and asking whether he had any expenses that the Parish Council could reimburse him for. This was agreed.

**45/24 Confirmation of date of next meeting**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 at 7.00pm in the Kirkstile Hall – representatives of Lostrigg Solar to be invited.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed as a true and correct record ..... Chairman

Date .....