**DEAN PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the Kirkstile, Dean

on Monday 4th November 2024 at 7.00 pm

**Present**: Mr. Hayman, Mr. Chittenden, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Smith, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Haslam, Mr. Scott. Mr. Worsley, Mr. Agnew, Mrs. Pallister, Mrs Holmes, Mr. Semple (Cumberland Councillor), and Rev’d. Morgan (Clerk). One member of the public was also in attendance.

**63/24 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Moore (on holiday). The apologies were accepted.

**64/24 Public Participation**

The member of the public wished to discuss the blocked footpath 225014 Eaglesfield to the Dubbs. He gave a history of the path and the farm and was of the opinion that the Cumberland Council definitive map was incorrectly showing a route which never existed, and which crosses hedges in places. He stated that an agricultural access path had existed along part of the route shown on the map, but then came to an abrupt stop at a gate. Some of the land had previously belonged to Border Engineering. He expressed concern for public safety as articulated waggons are frequently moved along a private lonning and he felt that should the right of way as presented on the definitive map be opened up, members of the public would wander onto the private lonning putting themselves in very real danger.

The Chairman explained the process the Parish Council had followed in its attempts to re-establish a right of way which had been ongoing for some time and the Parish Council was awaiting clarification from Cumberland Council. If it is established that the path cannot be reopened, the Parish Council would seek an alternative route.

Mr. Ferguson suggested that a compromise should be possible, providing a better, safer route for all concerned.

It was resolved that the member of the public would meet with several members of the Parish Council and Cumberland Councillor Mr. Semple on site, at a date and time to be arranged, to discuss the way forward.

**65/24 Declarations of Interest –** The chairman declared an interest under items 72/24 c & d as he is currently working as consultant on a project for RWE

**66/24 Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September were approved on the proposal of Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Haslam, and were signed by the chairman.

**67/24 Matters arising from the minutes not covered on the agenda**

Further to Minute 58/24 Mrs. Pallister reported that she had responded to David Day, Trustee of Pardshaw Quaker Meeting House. Cumberland Councillor Mr. Semple had also had a meeting with him. Mr. Day is very interested in Funding and in making the building available to the public and would welcome a visit from the Parish Council or the opportunity to attend a future meeting. It was noted that the Lakes to Sea Panel would be visiting there on 19th November. Mr. Day had raised the possibility of siting an additional defibrillator in a disused phone box adjacent to Pardshaw Hall and it was noted that the Parish Council would need to cover the costs of purchase, installation and running costs. Current planning guidance is that no settlement should be more than 500m from a defibrillator.

It was hoped that the building, once refurbished, could become part of the emergency planning.

The question was posed, could Pardshaw Hall be included in the new 217 bus route?

It was recognised that Pardshaw has no other public meeting space, and the Parish Council supports the QMH in its efforts to become more community focussed.

Mrs. Pallister is to meet with Mr. Day again after 19th November.

**68/24 Report from Cumberland Councillor Mr. A. Semple**

Mr. Semple reminded members that they can speak to him or email him at any time.

The next meeting of the Lakes to Sea Community Panel was scheduled for 12th December in Keswick and will decide on a change to its Public Participation Policy to allow members of the public to speak during meetings.

January 2025 would see an event at Strawberry Howe, Cockermouth about active travel plans, to which various groups would be invited.

£2 million has been awarded to Cumberland Council for bus improvements, including purchase of all-electric buses, and rural public transport will be carefully looked at.

**69/24 Open Spaces** – Mr. Scott reported that a large hawthorn bush at Dean needs to be cut back, and its roots are descending into the beck, increasing the risk of a blockage. Mr. Scott offered to cut the bush back and investigate the problem with the roots. This was agreed with the proviso that Mr. Chittenden speaks to the homeowner first.

**70/24 Update on Website**

The new website was now available, and Mr. Haslam had populated it with some documents. More would be added over the next two weeks before the site is to be handed over to the clerk. Mr. Haslam had paid for the first twelve months for the domain name and hosting (to be reimbursed). The new web address is [www.deanparishcouncil.com](http://www.deanparishcouncil.com)

Mr. Haslam is also trying to get the now obsolete wordpress website removed.

Thanks were expressed to Mr. Haslam for his work in getting the website up and running.

**71/24 Adoption of Policy Documents**

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

i. Publication Scheme

ii. Grievance and Discipline Policy

iii. Bullying and Harassment Policy

On the motion of Mrs. Pallister, seconded by Mr. Worsley, it was resolved that the Grievance and Discipline Policy and the Bullying and Harassment Policy be adopted subject to some minor amendments, and that the Publication Scheme would be brought back to the January meeting of the council, after some updating.

**72/24 Reports**

1. **Dean Community Response Group**

**The following report was received:**

‘Thanks to a generous grant from the Potato Pot Wind Farm via Grantscape the procurement of the agreed emergency equipment list has been completed. In addition, financial headroom was found to procure two submersible electric pumps and one petrol driven pump with associated hoses and clips etc for use in the event of flooding.

A further grant application has been approved which has enabled the door to the old “Gas House” to be replaced together with new hinges and bolts ready for the building to be adopted as an emergency equipment store.

The domestic equipment has been distributed to the three parish halls where it will be available for community use in the event of need. The remainder of the emergency equipment is in storage at Barn House, Dean, pending commissioning of the store.

Work planned for November includes emptying the store of residual items left over from the now defunct play group and the previous church gardening equipment and installing the CRG equipment with appropriate security arrangements.’

It was noted that the clerk is checking the insurance cover, and all will need to be included on the council’s assets’ register.

1. **217 Bus Group**

Mrs. Moore submitted the following report via email:

Little has happened from our end lately, but I do know Cumberland are working hard to push things on. I used the bus myself yesterday, the first time in over 12 months. It was good to speak with passengers who are very grateful for their weekly service. I was delighted to be invited to attend the Lord Lieutenant’s Celebration of 50 years of Cumbria at Carlisle Cathedral on 4 October. I was nominated in recognition of my work with our bus service over the past 14 years. It was a very special occasion and a privilege to be part of it.

The report was received.

1. **Dean Moor Solar Farm Proposal**

It was noted that Dean PC is in the centre of two very large projects which are getting very complex. Dean Moor is ahead of the game timewise and there is the potential for a lot of extra work for the clerk, involving extra meetings and longer meetings. Both projects are for 40 years duration and provide a once in 40 years opportunity for the Parish Council to obtain something big for its communities. Dean P C is probably in a unique position having two major proposals simultaneously and with a Labour Unitary Authority, Labour MP and Labour Government, it could become very political. Dean PC may want to ask to be a case study. The proposals will almost certainly take parish councillors out of their comfort zone and the stakes may become quite high.

A motion to ratify the Joint Position Statement with Distington Parish Council (already approved by Distington PC) was proposed by Mr. Haslam, seconded by Mr. Chittenden and unanimously approved. This gives a mandate for further discussions with Dean Solar, provided the Clerk attends any meeting as the Proper Officer of the Council

A motion to approve the appointment of Dean Parish Council’s representatives to a joint committee with Distington Parish Council as being Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Smith, Mr, Chittenden, Mrs. Pallister and the Clerk, was proposed by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mrs, Holmes and unanimously approved.

The clerk is to speak to Distington’s clerk following their next meeting, to confirm who their representatives will be.

1. **Lostrigg Solar Farm Proposal**

A motion to approve Dean Parish Council’s Submission to the Lostrigg Phase One Public Consultation was proposed by Mr. Haslam, seconded by Mr. Scott and unanimously approved.

A motion to approve the appointment of Dean Parish Council’s representatives to a joint committee with Little Clifton Parish Council as being Mr. Chittenden, Mrs. Pallister, Mr. Smith, Mr. Ferguson and the Clerk was proposed by Mr. Worsley, seconded by Mr. Haslam and unanimously approved.

**73/24 Finances**

1. **To receive the External Auditor’s report on the council’s finances**

The External Auditor’s report was accepted and received.

1. **To consider the Council’s Budget for 2025/26 and set the Council’s Precept for 2025/26**

The budget for 2025/26 was discussed and, on the proposal of Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Chittenden it was resolved to increase the precept by 5% to £21,400.00 for the financial year 2025/26. All voted in favour, with one abstention.

1. **Approval of payments**

**The following payments were approved:**

Already paid during October:

CALC CiLCA Training Fee £200.00 (Previous cheque cancelled)

J T Décor (noticeboard repairs) £ 57.00

J A Lee (bus shelter cleaning) £ 56.02

J Morgan (reimbursement for Barkers Meadow

 Gate sign) £ 30.00

S Worsley (reimbursements for emergency group

 Purchases) £486.46 (Covered by grant funding)

T Chittenden (reimbursements for emergency

 Group purchases) £3148.13 (Covered by grant funding)

J Morgan (reimbursement for Branthwaite bench) £ 372.00 (Covered by C. C. grant).

To pay in November:

Clerk’s salary – November - net £ 313.23

 Tax on November salary £ 78.30

 Clerk’s expenses £ 25.80

 Clerks salary - December– net £ 257.23

 Tax on December salary £ 64.30

 Kirkstile Community Centre - rent £ 27.50

 Moore (external audit fee) £ 252.00

 Webador (new website) £ 61.20

 Simon Watson (Gas house door) £ 475.00 (covered by grant)

 T Scott, grass cutting £3840.00

**Income**

Cumberland Council grant for Branthwaite Bench £ 372.00

Bank Interest £ 1.36

Second half of 2024/25 Precept £10,200.00

Grantscape Potato Pot Grant £ 3,500.00

**Bank Balance as at 31/9/24**

Balance as per statement £24,993.01

Less outstanding cheques (£ 89.08)

**Balance remaining £24,993.01**

**74/24 Planning**

**Applications pending a decision**

Applicant: Julie Waite

Proposal: Listed building consent for removal of uPVC porch to rear and replace with timber. Retrospective removal of dangerous chimney stack to rear elevations Removal of plasterboard drylining to dining room and replace with lime plaster

Location: Manor House, Dean, Workington, CA14 4TJ

Dean Parish Council has no objections.

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

Dean Parish Council had no objections

**Applications Approved**

Reference No: FUL/2024/0075

Applicant: D & K I Clemetson

Proposal: Proposed Slurry Store

Location: Lucy Close farm, Branthwaite, CA14 4SU

Dean Parish Council has no objections to the slurry store and feels that the roof is a big improvement, and biodiversity is improved with the proposed new store.

The concern was that the slurry store be maintained for full 15 years, as it is not clear from the documents how this will be enforced.

**75/24Amenity**

**a. Registered Land and Asset Register -**Nothing to report.

**b. Trees, The Bank, Eaglesfield** -Mr. Scott reported all ok for the time being.

**c. Reg’s Round** – Nothing to report**.**

**d. Broadband –** Nothing to report

**e. Repairs to noticeboards and seats.**

The seat at Pardshaw had been repaired. Repairs to Eaglesfield noticeboard were ongoing. Branthwaite new seat had arrived and needs to be secured in position.

**f. Tree Survey –** agreed, remove from future agendas.

**g. Blocked footpath 225014 Eaglesfield to the Dubbs –** already discussed.

**76/24 Highways Issues**

1. There had been some confusion about road closures to allow the Gas works in Branthwaite. Mr. Thomas and the Chairman had met on site with Stevie Sharp, Community Liaison Officer with Northern Gas Networks, and had been given assurances that road closures will be kept to a minimum. The Clerk was instructed to forward Ms. Sharp’s contact details to all council members.
2. It was noted that the cast iron fingerpost in Eaglesfield had been refurbished and the council wished to record its gratitude.

**77/24 Reports on Meetings Attended**

Mrs. Moore had submitted the following report, which had been circulated to members via email:

‘Tendley Quarry Liaison meeting Tuesday 29 October - Sue and I attended. It was good to meet the new Manager.  Brigham PC was represented too.  I'm sure Sue will mention the visit to Dean PC but the main points were; They continue to employ 15 people most of whom are local.  Tendley are looking at ways to refine blasting and have engaged an independent advisor who is challenging the present limits. Tendley have recently bought some land to the North (on the left between the quarry and Brigham) This will be made public in a few weeks. Scoping is being carried out at present and a planning application will be made late 2025.  They can work until 2034 with existing permits, but the Northern Extension will give an additional 16 years of work. A deeper layer of rock is being worked at present. They are continually working on restoration and there were positive comments on this topic from Brigham and Dean PCs.’

Mrs. Holmes added that remediation work was ongoing at Tendley and that, as a result, peregrine falcon had already returned. Mr. Ferguson pointed out that the first planning consent for Tendley had been granted in the 1990s with an expectation that it would be for 20 years and that, thereafter, a nature reserve incorporating a woodland, large lake and marshy area would be included in the remediation works.

Mrs. Holmes advised that any complaints about Tendley should be directed to Mr. Gary McNeely, the new General Manager, who was willing to give a presentation to the Parish Council if requested. It was agreed that the clerk should send Mr. McNeely a list of forward meeting dates, with an invitation to address the council.

**78/24 Communications addressed to the council –** nothing new this meeting.

**79/24 Confirmation of date of next meeting**

Monday 6th January 2025 at 7.30pm in Eaglesfield Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

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

Date …………………………