

# MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

2 November 2015

**Present:** Steve Atkinson, Barbara Govan (Chair), Anne King, Pat Laverty (Vice Chair), Tina Longstaff. Two members of the public were welcomed to the meeting which was the first to be held in the new Murton Institute.

- 65/15 Apologies for Absence** – apologies were received from Cllrs Debbie Hewitt (child's illness) and Alan Taylor (unwell).
- 66/15 Declarations of Interest** – no declarations of pecuniary interest were made.
- 67/15 Minutes of Previous Meeting**  
**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting of 3 August 2015 be signed by the Chairman of the meeting as an accurate record.
- 68/15 Open Session** – no items were raised by members of the public.
- 69/15 EDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL**
- 69/15/1 Report on EDC Planning Briefing** – Cllr Govan had attended this training session. Since the meeting the *Eden Local Plan* had been issued for consultation with a view to becoming official policy in late 2016. It was notable that there was no designated building land in the parish therefore each planning application was considered individually. 92% of planning applications were delegated to Planning Officers who were depending on PCs to provide practical local knowledge. All comments must be based on the plans submitted and come under the headings of 'material considerations'. The *EDC Planning Charter* is available on their website.
- 69/15/2 Planning Applications**
- 15/0446** – EDC's approval of the full application for change of use of garage and barn to a brewery, storage and office for Mr & Mrs Alistair Maltby, Ellerholme, Langton, Appleby CA16 6JG was noted.
- 15/0632** – Murton Parish Council wrote in support of this planning application. However EDC Planning Committee's rejection of the outline planning permission for a self-build Starter Home of four bedroom house with garage and garden at Linden House, Hilton for Mr & Mrs Hogg was noted.
- 69/15/3 Garden Waste Skips** – The skips had been well-used this summer but it had been necessary for Councillors and residents to remove non-biodegradable rubbish, eg plastic and stones at times. The Clerk will contact EDC to ascertain if a similar service will be available in 2016. Notices regarding the type of rubbish to be put into the skips will be put up if the scheme is to continue.

**70/15 CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL**

**70/15/1 Highways** – it was noted that the cattle grids at Coupland Beck and Brackenber had been replaced and a grit box had arrived on Spell Hill.

**70/15/2 Footpaths** - Cllr Atkinson reported several stiles requiring repair. Cllr King will notify Tony Burns.

**71/15 HEALTH & SAFETY**

**71/15/1 Cemetery** – Cllr Govan had tidied the Cemetery emptied the bin at the gate. It was agreed that the bin would be removed and replaced with a notice asking people to take their rubbish home.

**71/15/2 Parish Owned Property** – Cllr Longstaff had recently undertaken an H&S check of property in Murton. Cllr Atkinson undertook to check Hilton and Cllr Govan the Cemetery and Brackenber.

**72/15 Defibrillators** – Brian Moncaster gave a report on the provision of defibrillators in the parish. The First Responders, BT, North West Ambulance Service, Community Heartbeat, Electricity NW and EDC are all involved in the process.

**Hilton** telephone box has been decommissioned by BT and could be one of the first of 300 in the country to house a defibrillator under the *Adopt a Kiosk* scheme. This is expected to be installed this month. This will be purchased and installed using the £2,000 donated by Appleby Age UK. The c£126 annual contract with Community Heartbeat for documentation, insurance, liability cover and annual service would have to be paid by the PC.

**Murton** does not have an ideal location for a defibrillator. Brian is in discussion with Electricity NW and EDC regarding the use of the power supply to the lamp at the crossroads for the defibrillator. (The defibrillator battery needs to be heated in cold weather.)

The purchase, electrical connections and maintenance costs were discussed. These are higher than the PC budget provisional allocation and would have to be reconsidered when the 2016/17 budget is set at the next PC meeting.

**First Responders** - the Murton, Hilton & Appleby First Responders are always looking for new recruits. There are currently nine active First Responders, but none are based in the parish. Brian Moncaster and Eileen Ormrod can provide information for anyone interested in training to become a First Responder.

**Resolved:** that Brian should go ahead with the application for the BT Box at Hilton in the name of the First Responders, with the ongoing financial support of the PC. Brian was thanked for his work in developing and progressing this project on behalf of the community.

**73/15 Rural Broadband** – Cllr King presented a report from Peter Davies, Hilton who had volunteered to be the parish broadband champion. By its location, Murton is part of the 5% of areas excluded from the EU funded *Connecting Cumbria* project to provide superfast broadband. Alternatives are available but will need a community effort to work on the project. 100 questionnaires had been distributed to residents to determine the interest in superfast broadband, 35 had been returned, 10 of which mentioned it was necessary for business.

A meeting with Rory Stewart is proposed, possibly at the annual parish meeting, but it is essential to be able to demonstrate the level of need for superfast broadband in the community. The questionnaire will be re-circulated. Residents are urged to register their interest with the *Connecting Cumbria* project at [www.connectingcumbria.org.uk](http://www.connectingcumbria.org.uk)

#### **74/15 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**74/15/1 Budget 2015/16 and Current Financial Situation** – this report was tabled. Cllr Laverty had undertaken the pre-meeting audit.

**Resolved:** that the current Financial Report and list of Clerk's Expenses be signed by the Chair.

**74/15/2 Draft Budget 2016/17** – The proposed budget, which included the costs of the Murton defibrillator and a contribution towards building a small reserve at the bank would mean an increase in the precept which may exceed that allowed. This would be considered again at the next meeting when the precept is finalised. The work of mowing the Cemetery must be put out to tender as David Kipling had completed the current three year agreement.

**74/15/3 Annual Return** – the comments from the External Auditor were noted.

**Resolved:** that the Annual Return be accepted and approved by the PC.

#### **75/15 MAINTAINING THE PARISH ENVIRONMENT**

**75/15/1 Village Green Management Plan** – Cllr King had updated this document.

Following the VG Walks in the summer Councillors and a Fellsiders representative had met with Mandy Oliver, North Pennines AONB to discuss introducing wild flowers (pollinators) to the triangle of VG in Hilton and to Murton Top Green. Mandy had responded with a series of proposals, offers of funding and practical support as part of their *Nectarworks* project. Both areas would need a close cutting soon and the dead grass removed. Mandy had made suggestions about how this could be done at Hilton by mowing, scything or strimming. The length and quality of the grass on the Top Green at Murton presented more of a problem and Cllr Laverty undertook to obtain a quote for the work, although the PC may not have the funds to cover this cost.

It was agreed that this project could go forward as a community project facilitated by the PC. The Clerk will write to the Hilton Commoners to ascertain their consent to the grass cutting.

**75/15/2 Application for Deregistration of Village Green at Bridge House, Murton** – Under the terms of the Commons Act 2006 Schedule 2(8) Mr & Mrs Cawson had made an application to correct the mistaken registration of Village Green. The map of VG7 held by the Commons Registration Service at Cumbria County Council indicates that an area which falls inside the boundary of Bridge House was registered as VG in 1966. The Cawsons request is for this to be deregistered. Following a review of the application documents, a meeting with Mr & Mrs Cawson, a site visit to Bridge House and research into the Parish Council archives the opinion is that the area under discussion was registered as Village Green in error. A statutory declaration made by the previous owners at the time of their purchase of Bridge House, concurs with the PC's understanding of the boundaries of the Village Green. There appears to be no record of what was originally a

farmyard and garden at Bridge House being used for community recreation purposes prior to the registration in 1966.

**Resolved:** that the PC supports Mr & Mrs Cawson's application for deregistration of VG7 as identified in the application papers.

- 76/15 Dog Fouling** – complaints of dog fouling in both Hilton and Murton had been received by Councillors. This is caused mostly by dogs roaming free. EDC had provided a leaflet which has been circulated with the latest edition of *The Villager*. Complaints should be made to the EDC Community Warden who can investigate and prosecute if necessary.
- 77/15 Correspondence for Information** – the circulated list was noted.
- 78/15 Clerk's report on any actions taken under delegated powers not otherwise mentioned** – The Clerk had registered Murton Parish Council with the Pensions Regulator
- 79/15 Councillors' reports and items for future agenda** – none received.
- 80/15 Date of next meeting: Monday 1 February at 7.30 pm – Murton Institute**

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm

**A LARGE PRINT VERSION OF THESE MINUTES IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM THE PARISH CLERK**

**AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE MINUTES IS AVAILABLE HERE:**

[www.murton.org.uk](http://www.murton.org.uk)

Signature  
Chair, Murton Parish Council



01/02/2016.

Date of meeting