

# MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: June Watson  
Telephone: 017683 52851  
E-mail: [clerk@murton.org.uk](mailto:clerk@murton.org.uk)

Correspondence:  
The Nurse's House, 50 Scattergate Green  
APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORLAND CA16 6SP

## MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

6 February 2017

**Present:** Barbara Govan (Chair), Debbie Hewitt, Tina Longstaff, Pat Laverty (Vice Chair), Alan Taylor. Two members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

- 01/17 Apologies for Absence** – Cllr King's apologies for not being able to attend the meeting because she is on holiday were accepted.
- 02/17 Declarations of Interest** – no declarations of pecuniary interest were made.
- 03/17 Minutes of Previous Meeting**  
**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting of 7 November 2016 be signed by the Chairman of the meeting as an accurate record.
- 04/17 Open Session** – Since the previous meeting, members of the public present had raised issues regarding MOD signage in Murton. This item was already included on the agenda.
- 05/17 EDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL - Planning Application 16/0983** – Outline planning permission for single starter home at Linden House, Hilton CA16 6LU for Mr & Mrs Hogg. The PC had responded in support of this application.
- 06/17 CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL**
- 06/17/1 Highways – Cattle Grids at Brackenber** – It was noted that the cattle grids at Brackenber and Coupland Beck had been replaced, although the temporary grip at Brackenber had yet to be removed.
- 06/17/2 Highways – widening of Hilton Bridge** – The latest report states that Capita have been awarded the contract for this project. The widening will not now take place until summer 2018. The deadline for CCC to receive the results of investigative surveys and design options is the end of August 2017. The most cost effective proposal is expected to be selected. Councillors expressed concern that the aesthetic elements would not be prioritised and that the Parish Council had not been consulted regarding the specification.  
**Resolved:** that the Clerk write to CCC and ask for a copy of the specification and an outline of when and how the Parish Council would be consulted. The Clerk would also contact CCC Cllr Martin Stephenson regarding this matter.
- 06/17/3 Highway Repairs** – The clerk was asked to report potholes near Atlast, Hilton and at the bottom of Red Brow, Ash Bank.
- 07/17 MOD Warcop** – the following concerns were raised by Councillors and members of the public present:

Signature   
Chair, Murton Parish Council

Date of meeting

15/5/17

- Signs stating 'Danger Laser Hazard' have been erected at public access points to the fell. The PC has received complaints about the wording and location of the sign at Murton. It does not specify how or where the hazard occurs and is located approximately half a mile from the acknowledged danger zone. Cllr Laverty has had two conversations with Major Gallagher (Warcop Camp) regarding this. Major Gallagher has stated, following two internal meetings, that the sign will be moved to a more relevant location.
- It was agreed that the use of the Range by the MOD had increased in recent months and the presence of the sign and military is beginning to deter public access to Murton Pike and the surrounding area. Cllr Taylor had made a complaint to the MOD following an incident involving a flare and blank firing taking place when they were walking on a public footpath. Army personnel present had not warned them of the possibility.
- Concerns were also expressed about rumours that the MOD is considering applying for changes to the status of the fell as Common Land.

It was noted that Major Gallagher, who is responsible for Warcop Camp, has been helpful in providing a local liaison point for the MOD. Landmarc manages the Range.

**Resolved:** that the Clerk should write to Major Gallagher outlining residents' concerns. It was subsequently agreed that Major Gallagher, or a Landmarc representative, should be invited to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting.

#### 08/17 HEALTH & SAFETY

**08/17/1 Cemetery** – one hole in the wall had been repaired but another has appeared. The trees are still to be lopped. Cllr Laverty is liaising with the Hoggs and Schugs regarding the work.

**08/17/2 Parish Owned Property** – the noticeboard at Hilton is in a poor state. The Clerk has undertaken initial research regarding a replacement and undertook to obtain quotes.

The guttering on the bus shelter at Murton needs replacing. Cllr Taylor volunteered to undertake the repair.

**09/17 Emergency & Resilience Planning** – it was noted that the Clerk and Chair will be attending a Cumbria CVS seminar on this topic on 17 February.

#### 10/17 FINANCIAL REPORTS

**10/17/1 Budget 2016/17 and Current Financial Situation** – This report was tabled. It was noted that the invoice from EDC for the electrical connection for the defibrillator at Murton crossroads had not yet been received.

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

**10/17/2 Budget and Precept for 2017/18** – the Clerk presented the budget and explained the proposed precept. This would involve an increase of £0.04 per Band D household from £26.42 to £26.46.

**Resolved:** that the budget and precept be accepted and that reserves could be used for any unplanned expenses.

- 10/17/3 Financial Risk Assessment** – the Clerk confirmed that this had been reviewed by the Clerk and Cllr Hewitt and updated accordingly.  
**Resolved:** that the Risk Assessment be approved.
- 10/17/4 Audit Arrangements for the 2016/17 financial year** – No changes to the current arrangements for external audit are to be made nationally.  
**Resolved:** That Mrs Sue Todd be appointed as Internal Auditor as in previous years.
- 10/17/5 Audit Arrangements for 2017/18 onwards** – it was noted that PKF Littlejohn LLP had been appointed as auditors for parish councils in Cumbria.
- 11/17 CEMETERY MANAGEMENT**
- 11/17/1 Maintenance** – this had been discussed under item 08/17/1
- 11/17/2 Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial** – the Clerk had received a request that grave space 178, reserved in August 2016 by the wife of the person interred in space 179, be transferred to the brother of the person in space 178 who died in December 2016. The Clerk and Chair had discussed and agreed to the transfer in this instance, without charge. However it was considered that the guidance on the practice of Exclusive Right of Burial in Murton Cemetery needs to be reviewed. The Clerk will investigate the topic and make recommendations at the next meeting.
- 12/17 Maintaining the Parish Environment** – comments about the legality of the fence erected at The Bobbin Mill, Murton, had been made. Councillors had checked the CCC maps of Village Greens and discussed the issue with a representative of the Murton Commoners. It had been agreed that the fence is on the boundary of private property and the Village Green. The PC was informed that this was not considered to be a permanent structure but was a strategy to safeguard the occupier's dogs and reduce the hazard for drivers.
- 13/17 Correspondence for Information** – the circulated list was noted. Since the list was circulated the Clerk had received the annual application to EDC to have green waste recycling skips in Murton and Hilton. The Chair signed the applications. The EDC decision on whether or not the scheme would be going ahead would be taken later this month.
- 14/17 Clerk's report on any actions taken under delegated powers not otherwise mentioned** – The Clerk reported that the Staging Point for the Pensions Regulator had been brought forward for the Parish Council and the necessary documentation completed. Because Murton Parish Council only employs one person, and the salary is below the threshold, the Council does not need to arrange a pension scheme for employees.
- 15/17 Councillors' reports and items for future agenda** – no items were proposed.

**16/17 FUTURE MEETINGS**

**16/17/1 Next Meeting** – in order to accommodate the preparation of the accounts for the Annual Return and internal audit it was agreed that the next Ordinary Meeting and the Annual Meeting be moved from Monday 8 to Monday 15 May.

**16/17/2 Annual Parish Meeting** – it was agreed that Major Gallagher, Warcop Camp, be invited to come and discuss the topics raised in item 07/17 at the Annual Parish meeting. Date to be arranged but provisionally scheduled for Monday 6 March.

**The meeting closed at 9.10 pm**

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

Signature *Barbara I. Govan*  
Chair, Murton Parish Council

Date of meeting  
*15/5/17*