

# MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MURTON PARISH COUNCIL 3 August 2015

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

- 45/15 Apologies for Absence** – apologies had been received from Cllrs Steve Atkinson (working away), Anne King (holiday), Alan Taylor (holiday) and EDC Cllr Willie Patterson.
- 46/15 Declarations of Interest** – no declarations of pecuniary interest were made.
- 47/15 Minutes of Previous Meeting**  
**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting of 11 May and 7 July 2015 be signed by the Chairman of the meeting as an accurate record.
- 48/15 Appleby Horse Fair** – Elaine Lomas, Principal Environmental Health Officer, EDC was welcomed to the meeting in order to hear any about any problems encountered by Murton residents before, during and after the Horse Fair and explain the process available in order to deal with them.  
Elaine visits up to 70 gypsy encampments in Eden on a daily basis in the weeks preceding the fair and also manages the clean-up after the Fair. Throughout the year she makes monthly reports to the Multi Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group (MASCg). The following points were discussed:
- The area near the Flakebridge road turning (aka turnpike) was a problem this year with excessive mess and damage to trees with two consecutive encampments, ie one before and one during the Fair.
  - Police only have powers to enforce movement when posts and signs have been erected legally in specific areas. Those present considered that this strategy would help alleviate the congestion and mess on the Flakebridge road area.
  - An incident of harassment, experienced by a Murton resident, had been reported to the police. Members of the public should report any problems by ringing 101.
  - A ditch and bund approach was adopted at Sandford and this has successfully prohibited encampments. Was this something Murton residents wanted to consider on the stretch of road near the Flakebridge turning?
  - Cuts in funding may mean that the current level of policing will not be maintained, so permanent structures, eg ditch and bund might be useful in the longer term.
  - The posts and police camera presence on the Golf Course appeared to have been very effective.
- The Chair commended Elaine on the excellent work, particularly the clean-up, undertaken by Elaine and her team and thanked her for the useful information. Elaine can be contacted direct on 01768 212400.
- 49/15 Open Session** – no items were raised by members of the public.

**50/15 EDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL****50/15/1 Planning Applications**

**15/0381 – 2 Townhead Cottages, Hilton CA16 6LU.** It was noted that the PC had responded in support of the application for the first floor extension over the existing lounge. The application had subsequently been approved.

**15/0533 – Inatween, Murton CA16 6NA – variation to S106 agreement.** Further to discussion about this application at the meeting on 7 July, the PC had been informed that the application had been withdrawn.

**50/15/2 Garden Waste Skips** – Cllr Laverty and Cllr King, Tina Mason, EDC Contracts Manager, and the contract holder had undertaken site visits and risk assessments of those sites previously used for garden waste skips. The skips will arrive in first two weeks of August and will be exchanged every month. However if the skips are full, the residents must tell a Parish Councillor, who will phone EDC who have committed to exchange a full skip within 24 hours. Only garden waste will be removed and the PC will have to cover the costs of the disposal of any contaminated waste found in the skips.

**50/15/3 Eden Local Plan** – It was agreed that Murton PC should respond to the consultation on the Local Plan. Full details available here:  
<http://www.eden.gov.uk/planning-and-development/planning-policy-for-eden/informal-consultation/>

**51/15 CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL**

**51/15/1 Highways – Road Repairs** – the Cllr Govan had met with John Banks, Highways, and discussed the problems of repeated damage to Hilton Bridge from large military and agricultural vehicles. Lines will be painted on the road to indicate the ideal turning area. Potholes near the cattle grids at Brackenber have been reported and will be dealt with when the cattle grid is replaced, probably in October.  
A deep potholes between the Institute and Murton Village, near Brackenbank View and two on Spell Hill were noted. The Clerk will inform CCC.

**51/15/2 Public Rights of Way Improvement Programme** – Tony Burns had provided a brief update on work done as part of this programme which includes:  
Fingerposts replaced; improved way marking at Golf Course and Low Bank End;  
definition of PROW at Brackenthwaite; new gate by bridge and benching out near Town Foot, Murton.

**52/15 HEALTH & SAFETY**

**52/15/1 Cemetery** – Cllr Govan had undertaken an H&S check and noted necessary maintenance. Moles continue to be a problem and attempts are being made to deal with them. Cllr Laverty will ask Derek Hogg to check the condition of the pillar at the gate.

**52/15/2 Parish Owned Property** – Cllr Longstaff volunteered to undertake an H&S check of property in Murton. Cllr Laverty had organised the erection of the new bench on Middle Green.

**53/15 Defibrillators** – Brian Moncaster is co-ordinating the research, purchase and installation of two defibrillators in the parish.  
Hilton – discussions with Community Heartbeat, EDC and NW Ambulance Service regarding the use of the BT phone box and the possible maintenance of an emergency phone line are taking place.

Murton – the bus shelter is the ideal site but has no electricity supply. Discussions are taking place with Electricity North West, EDC and Urban Green (Penrith) to attempt to find a solution.

**54/15 WARCOP RANGE**

**54/15/1 Local Liaison Briefing on 21 May** – Cllrs Govan and Lavery went to this annual meeting.

- The use of Warcop Range is likely to increase as the military is withdrawn from Iraq and Afghanistan to Catterick. Concerns had been expressed about:
- Noise after midnight, especially loud gun noise. They will keep firing to the agreed times where possible but essential training includes night-time activity.
- Flares landing – these are not necessarily monitored and have fallen in fields holding stock.

If residents are concerned about any Warcop activities they should inform Cllr Lavery (or Cllr Govan) who will liaise with the base.

**54/15/2 Access Working Group on 23 June** – ex-Cllr Terry Armitage had attended this meeting on behalf of the PC. The AWG had been formed after the Public Enquiry in 2001 to discuss access matters throughout the training area with various interested groups. This was the first meeting for three years. Points covered included:

- Area Victor (Murton Pike) no longer had live firing and the permissive footpath is now a PROW.
- New Access leaflets are available for Littlefell and Mickle Fell.
- A representative from a horse riding group reported complaints about the types of latches used on gates which cannot be opened from horseback.
- There are several disused mine workings which are hazardous.
- There were reports of ‘improper’ activities, eg hang gliding which is prohibited on Access Land.
- The Impact Area was regularly cleared of ordinance but concerns were expressed that this was not always 100%.

Terry was thanked for attending the meeting on behalf of the PC and his offer to attend the next meeting in June 2016 was welcomed.

**55/15 Rural Broadband** – the PC had received a response to the request for a parish Broadband Champion. This person proposes researching the need for faster broadband by residents and contacting other parishes, outside the *Connecting Cumbria* project, where action has been taken to address their broadband needs. The PC looks forward to an update at the next meeting.

**56/15 [www.murton.org.uk](http://www.murton.org.uk)** – the Clerk reported that the PC now had a section on this website where basic information about the PC, its functions and essential documents can be found. Murton PC is now compliant with the Government’s Transparency Code for Smaller Councils. Thanks were expressed to ex-Cllr Frank Price for providing this service. Frank had made a request for photographs of the parish to enhance the website.

**57/15 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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

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

- 58/15 Maintaining the Parish Environment** – Cllr King had organised two Village Green Walks in July. A full report and update to the Village Green Management Plan will be prepared for the November meeting. In Cllr King’s absence the following points were noted:
- The Middle Green, Murton had been transformed by volunteers since the previous summer. A considerable effort had resulted in the creation of a pleasant place to sit and for children to play games. Concerns were expressed about the toys which were sometimes left on the field, and a suggestion that these were tidied away in the wood-chipped area behind the wall at the beck end of the green was welcomed.
  - A general concern had been raised about the legality of grit bins, electricity poles and access across VGs to property. It was acknowledged that the present PC was not responsible for some of the pragmatic decisions that had been made in the past.
- 59/15 Eden Rivers Trust** – the request from ERT to undertake an electrofishing survey in Murton Beck was accepted. The PC asked to be informed when this activity would be taking place as young people might be interested, and also to know the outcome. The Clerk would respond to ERT.
- 60/15 Celebrating Commonwealth Day & Flagpole** – the notification from NALC regarding purchasing a Commonwealth Flag, the possibility of purchasing a flagpole and its use was discussed. No decision was made.
- 61/15 Correspondence for Information** – the circulated list was noted. A late e-mail from ACT regarding a meeting about a proposed Community Oil Buying Group to be held on 26 August at Melmerby Village Hall was raised. Cllr Govan said she will raise it with other residents who might be interested and possibly attend the meeting.
- 62/15 Clerk’s report on any actions taken under delegated powers not otherwise mentioned** – no actions had been taken.
- 63/15 Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda** – none received.
- 64/15 Date of next meeting: Monday 2 November at 7.30 pm – Murton Institute**

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

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