

MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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NOTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF MURTON PARISH COUNCIL 8 March 2016

Present: Steve Atkinson, Barbara Govan (Chair), Anne King, Tina Longstaff, Pat Lavery (Vice Chair), Alan Taylor. The Chair welcomed approximately 40 members of the public to the Annual Parish Meeting.

18/16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Hewitt.

19/16 Cumbria Highways and Transport

**Jonathan Smith, Senior Manager – Network Management (East)
& John Banks, Network Engineer**

Jonathan described the task of Highways Maintenance, how the County Council tackles it and the way members of the public can help ensure that a safe and efficient highway and transport network is provided and maintained. John's presentation is available to view on the Murton website www.murton.org.uk

John Banks is the local steward for Murton Parish and is based at the Skirsgill Depot, Penrith. Any faults should be reported to Betterhighways.Eden@cumbria.gov.uk, or on the Highways Hotline 0845 609 6 609.

20/16 Questions & Discussion

The culvert at Coupland Beck is 100 years old and inadequate for the task, particularly during the Storm Desmond flood on 5 December 2015. What is the process involved with regard to getting this sorted? We need to establish that it is a Highways issue and not Highways England who manage maintenance of the A66. If it is Highways, then it will be investigated and if possible, the situation will be improved. It is not always possible to find a complete solution, particularly dealing with water. If the problem is a Highways drain, then the drain is there to accommodate water draining off the highway. Although water draining off land or from higher up becks may also be taken by the culvert. John Banks would respond to the specific enquiry.

Is it the landowner's responsibility to keep brambles etc in check? The overhanging branches on the road at Ash Bank causes cars to drive in the centre of the road on the bend. The verges are maintained by Highways and the brush cutting is due. It was noted that it did cause (some) drivers to slow down. *[It was subsequently noted that brush cutting was under way on the Murton to Appleby road that afternoon.]*

Is it possible to have squirrel signs on the road at Ash Bank? As the squirrel signs are not legal Highways signs, contacting the local Red Squirrel group was suggested.

What can be done near Ash Bank where the beck is undermining the road? Whose jurisdiction - Highways or the Environment Agency? Although EA would be involved, Highways has the power to protect the highway and is unlikely to let a road suffer to protect the river. It will involve a lot of discussion. The Parish Council has already raised the problem with Highways but, following Storm Desmond, it is on a very long list of tasks.

What can be done about the wooded bank at Ash Bank, the recent water has meant gradual erosion over and under the road? It has been an unusual winter and the level of saturation is unprecedented. It has created situations which have not had to be dealt with before. It presents problems planning for the future. What is normal now? What do you plan for? The PC had already raised the problem. *[The site was inspected the same afternoon.]*

Question from John Banks: How would the community feel about Hilton bridge being widened by 1.5m to reduce the number of repairs from vehicle damage? Highways have a plan to have a design drafted this financial year with work done the following year during the school holidays. In a straw poll about two thirds of the audience were in agreement with the principle of the proposal. Further consultation with the parish and discussion at a PC meeting would be needed if Highways were to produce a definitive proposal.

Is there any chance that the bridge between Murton and Keisley could be replaced? It also suffers repeated minor damage from lorries. John promised to inspect the bridge. *[This was inspected the same day, it is not a straightforward issue but they will give it some thought.]*

Can anything be done about the sunken manhole cover at the Murton crossroads? Vehicles swerve to avoid it and drive extremely close to Lyndene. John promised to inspect it. *[This was viewed and John will take this up with United Utilities.]*

There are potholes on the road access to the Range from Hilton. John had already been informed by the PC about these potholes. *[This was inspected the same afternoon and the surface erosion will be attended to.]*

Part of the road from Murton crossroads to the fell gate has been washed away and needs repair. John promised to inspect it.

Jonathan and John were thanked for taking the time to come to talk to residents and explain the process for reporting faults and the huge task that is facing them in the months to come.

21/16 Date of next meetings:

Annual Meeting of Murton Parish Council – Monday 9 May at 7.30pm, followed by Ordinary Meeting of Murton Parish Council

The meeting closed at 2.30 pm

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