

MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

3 February 2020

Present: Barbara Govan (Chairman), Anne King, Pat Laverty (Vice Chairman), John McDarren and Tina Longstaff. Major Lynch, MOD Warcop Training Area was welcomed to the meeting.

- 7/20 Apologies for Absence** - Alastair Bell (holiday), Debbie Hewitt (last minute engagement).
- 8/20 Declarations of Interest** - there were no declarations of interest.
- 9/20 Minutes of Previous Meeting**
Resolved: that the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting on 20 January 2020 be signed by the Chairman of the meeting as an accurate record.
- 10/20 Open Session** – No issues were raised for discussion.
- 11/20 EDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL**
11/20/1 Planning Applications
It was noted that EDC had approved the planning applications discussed at the Parish Council:
19/0671 – Langton Field Caravan Site, Longton
19/0763 – Langton Field – alterations to ground floor layout.
- 11/20/2** 20/0061 – Cross Keys, Hilton – proposed extension to agricultural building for Mr N Frith. This application had been forwarded to the PC after the agenda was drawn up. Details had been circulated to Councillors.
Resolved: to support the planning application for the extension.
- 11/20/03 Refuse Collection & Recycling**
There had been comment in the local press about changes to refuse and recycling collections in Eden. The PC had not been consulted on this matter. The Chairman had consulted EDC and had received the following information:
Garden waste skip service to Murton- to be continued for a further year. Contracts would be issued shortly.
Changes to domestic waste collection – various proposals were under discussion including changing from a contractor to an in-house service, fortnightly collections, supplying wheelie bins for refuse. No decision had been reached at this point.
- 12/20 CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL - Highways**
The Clerk was asked to report the following faults:
- Poor state of post and rail fence across the road from Shining Stars on the Low Field side of the road.
 - The labelling of potholes last Autumn in both Hilton and Murton which have not yet been filled. Several have deteriorated since then, including outside Fairview, Hilton, where the road forks in Hilton and outside Ascot House, Murton.
 - The repair to the pothole at Kirkber reported at the last meeting has been filled but has already washed out.
 - A pothole on the Hilton-Murton road outside the Cemetery (close to the War Memorial).
 - The problems of saplings and poorly kept verges was listed as one of the parish priorities for the EDC Rural Issues Group. This causes hazards for motorists where the road narrows (see Minute 15/20/02).
- 13/20 VE Day 75 Celebrations – 8-10 May 2020**
Information had been received on suggestions for community level commemorative events including the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' at 3 pm on Friday 8 May. (Full details at www.veday75.org)
Major Lynch said he would check which groups were booked in for that weekend at Warcop and check if there might be a bugler or piper who could contribute to an event. He will also check the access to the range for that weekend. The Chair will consult the Institute Committee.

An invitation to contribute to marking the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain (7-13 September) had also been received but the discussion focused on the VE Day Celebrations because of the local connections with the army.

- 14/20 CEMETERY MANAGEMENT, HEALTH, SAFETY & MAINTENANCE**
- 14/20/1 Cemetery Walls** – The PC had been successful in obtaining a Rural Payments Agency (RPA) grant of £4,325 for rebuilding the cemetery walls. This would cover approximately 50% of the estimated cost and can only be claimed once the work is completed and has to be claimed by 31.12.2021. The current stone is in poor condition and replacement stone might have to be purchased. It was suggested that Newton Rigg’s dry stone walling course students might be involved.
The Chairman proposed a small working group be set up to research the task and make recommendations. The Chairman will discuss this further with Cllrs Bell and Longstaff.
- 14/20/2 Paths** – the gravel paths had been laid over twenty years ago. The middle and bottom paths need most attention. The Clerk will contact Messrs Hogg for quotes for supply of gravel.
- 15/20 PARISH PROPERTY, VILLAGE GREENS & ENVIRONMENT**
- 15/20/1 Parish Owned Property** – The H&S checklists were distributed.
The Coupland Beck noticeboard will be replaced with the board originally supplied to Hilton, was found to have some water ingress but the company did not want it returned.
- 15/20/2 Village Greens & Environment**
Footpaths – the stiles along the Red Brow to Hilton bridge footpath are unsafe. The gates currently used by people will be tied shut during lambing.
Footpaths – the steps en route to Scordale are in a poor state with rotten boards on the bridge. Major Lynch will investigate Landmarc’s role in the maintenance of the bridge.
Major Lynch was thanked for the improved signage and improvement work at the extended Hilton car park.
The annual Hilton to Langton verge clean-up was discussed. The Clerk will request trimming of the verges in advance of this task. Cllr King will liaise with the organisers regarding a possible date of Sunday 23 February.
An annual parish clean- up day is provisionally timed for Sunday 29 March which will coincide with the national ‘Great British Spring Clean’.
Trees – Cllr King had attended a course on Managing Trees. The PC has a landowners’ duty of care, which involves taking note of mature trees on PC land and producing a written record monitoring their state. It was agreed that this task should be added to the annual Village Green Walk in the summer.
- 15/20/3 Hilton Drainage System** – Cllr McDarren had been successful in contacting United Utilities who had made several visits to Hilton and undertaken a survey of the drainage and sewers from all properties. There were more properties than previously thought using the ‘village system’ and raw sewage is flowing into Hilton Beck at two separate points. The upper village properties use the pipe which exits between the bridges and has been known about for many years. Lower village properties use a pipe that exits immediately above the new bridge and there is evidence of both waste and foul water. Historical research has shown that the responsibility lies with United Utilities.
The PC will organise a public meeting when the research is complete and proposals for the future are available.
- 16/20 FINANCIAL REPORTS**
- 16/20/1 Budget 2019/20 and Current Financial Situation** (Appendix 1). This report was reviewed.
Resolved: that the current Financial Report and list of Clerk’s Expenses be signed by the Chairman
- 16/20/2 The Pensions Regulator** – it was noted that the Clerk has completed the necessary re-declaration to comply with workplace pensions regulations.
- 17/20 Clerk’s report on any actions taken under delegated powers not otherwise mentioned** – there were none.
- 18/20 Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda** – there were none.
- 19/20 Date of next meetings:**
Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 2 March 2020:
Chairman’s Report & Alistair Lockett, Field Officer, North Pennines AONB Partnership will explain the work being done on Murton and Warcop fells to restore bare peat.
Annual Council Meeting – Monday 4 May at 7.00 pm
Ordinary Meeting – Monday 4 May at 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Signature
Chairman, Murton Parish Council

Date of meeting

A large print version of these minutes is available on request from the parish clerk. All documents relating to this meeting are available here: www.murton.org.uk