

MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: June Watson
Telephone: 017683 52851
E-mail: 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 (Virtual Meeting) 7 September 2020

Present: Alastair Bell, Barbara Govan (Chairman), Debbie Hewitt, Anne King, John McDarren and Tina Longstaff. CCC Cllr Andy Connell and EDC Cllr William Patterson were also present.

- 35/20 Apologies for Absence** – there were no apologies.
- 36/20 Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Hewitt made a declaration of interest with regards to item 15.2 - Cemetery Walls (Minute 49/20/2).
- 37/20 Minutes of Previous Meeting**
Resolved: that the minutes of the Ordinary meetings held on 13 July 2020 be signed by the Chairman of the meeting as an accurate record.
- 38/20 Annual Meeting** – as a consequence of the COVID-19 outbreak and associated regulations related to the Coronavirus lockdown and the implementation of the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) Regulations, the necessity for an Annual Council Meeting in 2020 has been removed.
Resolved: that the next Annual Council Meeting be held in May 2021.
- 39/20 Resignation of Parish Councillor** – Cllr Laverty had informed the Chairman of his retirement from the Parish Council. The Chairman will write to Cllr Laverty to thank him for his 17 years' service to the parish as Councillor and Vice Chairman. He was the longest standing member of the Parish Council, extremely hard working and would be a hard act to follow.
- 40/20 Co-option of Parish Councillor** – the prescribed procedure had been followed regarding co-option and had resulted in two applications. Cllrs discussed the applicants prior to holding a vote.
Resolved: that Mr Jack Caldwell be invited to join the Parish Council.
- 41/20 Election of Vice Chairman**
Resolved: that Cllr King replace Cllr Laverty as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council.
- 42/21 Signatory for Bank Accounts**
Resolved: that the practice of the Vice Chairman being a signatory on the Parish Council bank accounts be continued and Cllr Anne King's name be added to the accounts held by the Cumberland Building Society.
- 43/20 Open Session** – No issues were raised for discussion.

Signature 
Chairman, Murton Parish Council

02/11/20 20
Date of meeting

44/20 EDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL**44/20/1 Planning Applications**

20/0061 – Cross Keys, Hilton – proposed extension to agricultural building. It was noted that the Parish Council had no objections to this application which was subsequently approved by EDC.

20/0094 – Low Barn Farm, Flakebridge – restoration of 400m of river channel. It was noted that the Parish Council had no objections to this application which was subsequently approved by EDC.

20/0151 – Langton Field, Langton – variation of condition 2 to include alterations to ground floor layout. It was noted that the Parish Council did not support the application by a majority decision. Two councillors declared interests and did not vote. EDC subsequently approved the application.

20/0321 – Heather Bank, Brackenber – installation of a containerised ground source heat pump and associated underground pipework. It was noted that the Parish Council had no objections to this application which was subsequently approved by EDC.

44/20/2 Garden Waste Recycling – the contracts for the skips had been signed by the Clerk during the Coronavirus lockdown in order for the 2020 service to go ahead. An extra delivery of skips would take place in September to complete the contract.

44/20/3 Domestic Waste Collection – Cllrs Patterson and Connell were unable to provide any further information regarding an earlier query about providing wheelie bins for refuse.

45/20 CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL – Highways - the following faults were reported:

Northbound slip road from the A66 bypass at Coupland Beck – the signage and road markings indicating ‘give way’ at the end of the slip road as it joins the B6542 were considered inadequate and people do not slow down sufficiently or look to the right to see what local traffic is approaching from Coupland Beck. Cllr Connell said he would investigate this safety hazard.

Kirkber Hill – the potholes were increasing in size and number at this point on the road between Appleby and Hilton. The number of potholes on the whole stretch was growing.

Potholes in Hilton – several potholes were marked over a year ago but have not been dealt with. The markings are wearing off.

Surface water flooding into properties in Hilton – Green Tree Cottage and Lane Head had been badly affected by heavy rain. Highways had attended and made recommendations that would hopefully alleviate the problem.

Post and rail fence across the road from Shining Stars Nursery near Low Field - an update was requested on this previously reported fault.

Cllr Connell advised that a letter to Highways, and multiple reporting of faults could be useful.

46/20 Data Protection – the Clerk reported that the Parish Council’s annual registration with the Information Commissioner’s Office has been renewed.

47/20 Hilton Drainage System – Cllr McDarren gave an update on United Utilities’ investigation into the village drainage system. They had made return visits with different cameras in order to follow the route of the drains. It appears eight properties are draining raw sewage, other properties’ septic tanks are discharging foul water of a quality unsuitable for a drain and others are discharging water from downpipes all into the village system which eventually discharges into Hilton Beck at two points. Although residents have requested a meeting, there is nothing to discuss at the moment. Cllr McDarren is continuing to pursue this issue with United Utilities.

- 48/20 National Model - Member Code of Conduct** – it was noted that the Parish Council did not comment on this paper.
- 49/20 CEMETERY MANAGEMENT, HEALTH, SAFETY & MAINTENANCE**
- 49/20/1 Health & Safety** – One seat needs refurbishing. The gates have been oiled and the side gate has been freed and is functional again.
- 49/20/2 Walls** – Local wallers were contacted and asked for their views on the repairs or rebuilding the cemetery walls prior to a job specification being drafted. Following a site visit Adam Knowles, Eden Stonework, advised that the walls could be stabilised by being taken down and rebuilt with a concrete core at a reduced height. Stock fencing could be added. The project could offer training for apprentices and there may be grants available. Cllr Bell agreed to review the RPA grant and discuss options with Adam Knowles.
- 49/20/3 Paths** – Cllr McDarren was thanked for his and his friends’ hard work in refurbishing the paths around the Cemetery. 20 tons of limestone aggregate was used, 5 tons of which was donated by Russell Hogg & Sons. A wacker plate was provided free of charge by David Wilkinson. It was felt to be an excellent community effort with an extremely satisfactory outcome that will enhance the Cemetery for several years to come.
- 50/20 PARISH OWNED PROPERTY, VILLAGE GREENS & ENVIRONMENT**
- 50/20/1 Parish Owned Property** – the following faults were noted:
Murton bus shelter – the damp patch had not improved following the resiting of the grit box; Hilton bus shelter – needs some repointing. Cllrs Govan and McDarren would investigate the bus shelters further.
The Clerk reported that the defibrillators were now being checked regularly by Appleby Community First Responders and are reporting them on the NWS system.
- 50/20/2 Benches** – Cllr McDarren has obtained the necessary items to repair the bench outside Fairview, Hilton. The bench, which was next to the noticeboard at Hilton, was removed as it was no longer fit for purpose. A replacement would cost £270 + VAT from Solway Recycling. Cllr McDarren proposed donating a bench, which could be repaired for c£40. It was agreed that his offer should be accepted.
- 50/20/3 Health & Safety Checks** – Cllrs Hewitt, Longstaff, Govan and McDarren agreed to undertake health and safety checks on parish owned property.
- 50/20/4 Village Greens & Environment** – Cllr King will arrange the annual Village Green Walk which will include checks on all trees on parish property.
Volunteers would be sought for strimming the top green in Hilton.
Cllr King will check on the status of stiles along the Red Brow to Hilton bridge footpath which had previously been reported as unsafe.
A faulty gate on the path between Bankwood and Stoneriggs had been reported to CCC twice (by the landowner and the Clerk), but CCC had been unable to locate it. Cllr Govan will speak to the landowner in order to clarify the location.
- 51/20 FINANCIAL REPORTS - Budget 2020/21 and Current Financial Situation** (Appendix 1).
This report was reviewed. It was noted that following national negotiations, the Clerk was entitled to a pay rise and back pay until 1 April 2020.
Resolved: that the current Financial Report and list of Clerk’s Expenses by signed by the Chairman.
- 52/20 Website Accessibility Statement** (Appendix 2) – The Parish Council were asked to approve the Statement which is mandatory from 23 September 2020.
Resolved: To approve and adopt the Website Accessibility Statement.

- 53/20 Local Government Reorganisation** – Cllrs Patterson and Connell were invited to help put the subject, currently being discussed, into context. There are no definite proposals yet, but the discussion in this area relates to the possibility of replacing the current two-tier structure (county and district councils) with a single one and an elected mayor. Councils are being consulted and EDC has appointed a working party. Councillors agreed that with the current Coronavirus pandemic and imminent Brexit, that this was not a good time to propose such a major reorganisation. Councillors were asked to read CALC's position paper and pass comments to the Clerk.
- 54/20 Planning for the Future Consultation** – Cllr Patterson, as Chairman of EDC Planning Committee, had just received a copy of the Government's White Paper and asked for it to be circulated. One of the key proposals is that the Community Infrastructure Levy would be charged on development and used for local benefit instead of the current system which means the levy can be used anywhere in the country. Councillors were asked to read the White Paper and pass comments to the Clerk who would forward them to Cllr Patterson.
- 55/20 Local Electricity Bill** – The proposers of the Local Electricity Bill has asked Parish Councils to write to their MPs to support this bill which would allow community groups to sell the energy they make from local renewable sources to local people instead of to utility companies. The costs involved in doing this are currently prohibitive. The Local Electricity Bill has drafted a mechanism to do this with OFGEM to manage it. Resolved: that the Clerk write to Neil Hudson MP to ask him to support the Bill.
- 34/20 A Pennine Journey – A Tribute to Alfred Wainwright** – the Pennine Journey Supporters' Club has asked for the Parish Council's support for their campaign to have the status of 'A Pennine Journey' declared a National Trail. The Clerk described the circular route which started at Settle, headed north to Hexham and Alston and included Milburn and Appleby. **Resolved:** that the Clerk write giving the Parish Council's support for this campaign.
- 56/20 Correspondence for Information (Appendix 3)** - The Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the following items:
CCC Highways Strategy- this e-mail had been circulated. The Clerk will draw together any comments that Councillors would like to make.
What3words – this app provides a unique three word location indicator which has proved useful for emergency services. The organisation behind it, has asked for parish councils' support for its use. The Clerk will write in support of this initiative.
Pendragon Rally – the organisers of this rally have asked for the Parish Council's support for the rally postponed from August 2020 to 29 August 2021. This support was offered as the arrangements had previously been discussed by the Parish Council (Minute 49/19).
- 57/20 Clerk's report on any actions taken under delegated powers not otherwise mentioned** – there were no actions taken.
- 58/20 Councillors' reports and items for future agenda** – there were none.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm

Signature 
Chairman, Murton Parish Council

Date of Meeting
2 November 2020