

MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

17 May 2021

Present: Alastair Bell, Jack Caldwell, Barbara Govan, Debbie Hewitt, Anne King (Vice Chairman), Tina Longstaff and John McDarren (Chairman). EDC Cllr William Patterson and four members of the public were also present.

37/21 Apologies for Absence – there were no apologies.

38/21 Declarations of Interest – Cllr Hewitt declared a personal interest in item 7.1

39/21 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Resolved: that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 1 February and the Annual Parish Meeting held on 1 March 2021 be signed by the Chairman of the meeting as an accurate record.

40/21 Open Session – The following issues were raised by members of the public:

40/21/1 Use of the Pinfold at Hilton – the owners of Hilton Hall had provided a proposal for the use of the pinfold. (Appendix 1). The ownership of the pinfold is unknown but it is not thought to be owned by the PC. Two members of Hilton Commoners were present. It has been used historically for sheep storage and the Commoners do not want to give up its potential use. The tidying of the area by the proposers was commended.

40/21/2 Field 0434, Murton (Appendix 2) – Two parishioners have requested the PC's support of their planning application which was turned down by EDC. The PC supported the original application.

Resolved: to write to EDC in support of the applicants' appeal against the decision and ask for the application to be reviewed under the terms of the Eden Local Plan and to be discussed at the Planning Committee.

41/21 Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria – The PC responded to the Government Consultation. There has been no update on the outcome.

42/21 PARISH OWNED PROPERTY, VILLAGE GREENS & ENVIRONMENT

42/21/1 Parish Owned Property

- Cllr McDarren will complete the repairs to the bench at Hilton noticeboard.
- Hilton telephone box (defibrillator) needs repainting.
- A bench in the cemetery needs repainting.
- The coronation plaque disappeared from Hilton bus shelter some time after September 2020. The Clerk will obtain quotes for a replacement.

Signature
Chairman, Murton Parish Council



Date of meeting
02/08/21

42/21/2 Village Greens & Environment

- Hilton top green is looking good although there has been an incident of parking on it.
- Household rubbish has been left in the rubbish bin at Hilton. This will be pursued.
- The MOD flags on the Range are not always secured correctly. The Chairman will talk to the MOD.
- Murton top green – Cllrs King and Govan collected a large amount of metal debris from the bonfire site which has been there for at least 18 months. A resident has volunteered to keep it tidy and mown. Cllr Bell volunteered to take a tractor-towed roller over the area which has become uneven.
- New signs relating to dog fouling, preserving wildlife habitat and no camping have been ordered.

42/21/3 Village Bonfire Site - Concerns have been expressed about the location of the bonfire. It has grown bigger, non-residents use it to get rid of rubbish, some of which is not suitable for a bonfire, and metal debris has been left after the event. This is a longstanding major community event organised by parishioners and raises money for charity. However as landowner the PC has to pursue the safety and insurance issues involved in allowing this event to take place on village green close to property. It was agreed that alternatives would be pursued, and it will be discussed again at the next PC meeting in August.

42/21/4 Bridge at Stoneybeck, Murton – The householders had written to the PC for permission to build a footbridge across Murton Beck to their house. In the meantime a temporary bridge has been constructed to ease access for builders. The PC wrote to the householders to explain that there were several constraints regarding this proposal. The householders have written a letter of apology and will remove the bridge as soon as their building work is complete.

42/21/5 Pinfold at Hilton – this was discussed under Minute 40/21/1. It was agreed the Chairman will consult Hilton Commoners.

42/21/6 Hilton Drainage System – Cllr McDarren had nothing further to report on the United Utilities project to establish the responsibility for the drainage system.

42/21/7 H&S Checklists. Cllrs Govan, Hewitt and McDarren undertook to check the state of the various PC-owned items.

43/21 EDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL – Planning Applications

21/0391 Ellerholme, Appleby CA16 6JG – Replacement of existing lean-to extensions with side and rear extensions to provide additional living accommodation.

Resolved: to support this planning application. Cllr Hewitt abstained.

21/0015 Field 0434, Murton – Outline application for new build local occupancy dwelling and access. It was noted that the PC supported this planning application which was subsequently refused by EDC. See Minute 40/21/2

21/0254 Brackenber House, Brackenber – Change of use from residential dwelling to holiday let and creation of car park. The PC had objected to this application in principle and under the likelihood of increased disturbance.



21/0233 – Low Barn, Flakebridge - Outline application for the demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling. It was noted that the PC had supported this planning application.

21/0231 – Low Barn, Flakebridge – Change of use and extension of agricultural buildings for leisure purposes to include the provision of seven serviced residential units and associated communal facilities. It was noted that the PC had supported this planning application.

44/21 CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL – Highways

44/21/1 Road Gritting and Grit Boxes – Cllr Govan had undertaken an audit of current grit boxes and a list of suggestions for additional boxes had been sent to Highways who had responded that they will action them if they fit their criteria for location.

44/21/2 Update on Reported Faults:

Post and rail fence across the road from Shining Stars Nursery. Cllr Patterson reported that Highways had done an excellent repair at this location.

Poor road markings on northbound slip road from A66 near Coupland Beck – Cllr Patterson asked for an update on this issue which had been referred to Highways England.

Sign for Coupland Beck – there is no sign at Coupland Beck to indicate the hamlet. The Clerk recalls referring this to Highways several years ago. The Clerk will pursue this with Highways.

44/21/3 New Faults to be Reported:

Corner near Atlast, Hilton – the road edge is giving way. Cllr Govan to take photos.

Cllr McDarren asked the Clerk to write to Highways to ask for a site visit focusing on the longstanding winter driving problems and lack of gritting.

45/21 CEMETERY MANAGEMENT, HEALTH, SAFETY & MAINTENANCE

45/21/1 Health, Safety & Maintenance – No specific issues were reported. The grass was cut this week for the first time this year.

45/21/2 Memorial Plaques – The proposal with sample photos (Appendix 3) for a sheepfold-style wall and seating area for memorial plaques was welcomed. Cllr Govan will discuss this with local experts and investigate the possibility of a community project.

45/21/3 Annual Review of Cemetery Fees – it was noted that the next staged increase for Exclusive Right of Burial (Resolved in Minute 55/17) would be implemented as follows: May 2018 - £75; May 2019 - £100; July 2020 - £125 and May 2021 - £150.

46/21 FINANCIAL REPORTS

46/21/1 Budget 2021/22 and Current Financial Situation (Appendix 4). This report was reviewed. It was agreed that there was no need to purchase a further year's Zoom licence.

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

46/21/2 Annual Return 2020/21 – Accounting Statement

Resolved: that the Accounting Statement be signed by the Chairman.

- 46/21/3 Annual Return 2020/21 – Governance Statement**
Resolved: that the Governance Statement be signed by the Chairman.
- 46/21/4 Annual Return 2020/21 – Certificate of Exemption for Smaller Authorities**
Resolved: that the Certificate of Exemption be signed by the Chairman.
- 46/21/5 Cumberland Building Society** – the reduction in interest rate on the deposit account was noted.
- 46/21/6 Vote of Thanks to Internal Auditor** – the Council asked the Clerk to pass on their thanks to Richard King for undertaking the audit.
- 47/21 Consultation – Government Call for Evidence on Remote Meetings** – A response had been drafted and circulated which will be submitted on line.
- 48/21 Clerk’s Change of Address** – the Clerk is planning to move house and requested that the PC’s filing cabinet be relocated to the Institute. Essential files would be held in a lockable filing cabinet at the Clerk’s new home. This was approved.
- 49/21 Correspondence for Information (Appendix 5)** – there were no specific items for attention.
- 50/21 Clerk’s report on any actions taken under delegated powers not otherwise mentioned** – there were no actions taken.
- 51/21 Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda** – there were none.
- 52/21 Date of next Ordinary Meeting – Monday 2 August 3031 at 7.30 pm**

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm