

MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF MURTON PARISH COUNCIL 1 November 2021

Present: Jack Caldwell, Barbara Govan, Anne King (Vice Chairman), Tina Longstaff and John McDarren (Chairman) and three members of the public.

- 83/21 Apologies for Absence** – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bell (holiday). Cllr Hewitt had submitted her resignation as she felt she was no longer able to offer the PC the involvement and commitment needed. A vote of thanks was made for Cllr Hewitt's service to the PC.
Resolved: that the apology for absence be accepted; that Cllr Hewitt's resignation be accepted.
The Clerk will inform Eden District Council about Cllr Hewitt's resignation and publish the necessary notifications.
- 84/21 Declarations of Interest** – No declarations of interest were made.
- 85/21 Minutes of Previous Meeting**
Resolved: that the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 20 September 2021 be signed by the Chairman of the meeting as an accurate record.
- 86/21 Open Session** – No items were raised.
- 87/21 General Data Protection Regulations** – the Clerk had reviewed the PC's compliance with the GDPR and reported there were no issues to be discussed by the PC.
- 88/21 NALC Policy Briefing on Local Nature Recovery Strategies** – it was noted that the PC chose not to make a response to this consultation.
- 89/21 Hilton Drainage System** – the Chairman reported that United Utilities had accepted the legal obligation to provide drainage and that work on this issue would be in the 2025 budget. UU reported that the system was in better condition than expected with the current low levels of occupation in Hilton housing. The Chairman will contact those residents who have septic tanks regarding possible developments in the village drainage system.
- 90/21 PARISH OWNED PROPERTY, VILLAGE GREENS & ENVIRONMENT**
90/21/1 Parish Owned Property
Murton Bus Shelter – a request to donate and instal a shelf/bookcase had been received.
Resolved: to accept the offer in principle and the PC would like to see a sketch of the planned installation.
Murton Bus Shelter – a proposal that a member of the PC undertake the tidying of the bus shelter had been received. The Chairman undertook to put a request in The Villager for volunteers to take on this task.
Bench at Murton Fell Gate – a request for a memorial bench to be placed at Murton Fell Gate had been received. The Clerk had communicated with the proposer and it had been agreed that the current bench would be refurbished, the costs donated by the proposer, and a memorial plaque be added.

90/21/2 Village Greens & Environment

Annual Village Green Walk – Cllr King reported on the annual check which took place on 24 October. Volunteers will be sought for general tidying and some planting on all village greens and in the cemetery, probably in January. A rotting bench needs removing from Murton Middle Green. A septic tank cover near the bridge requires making safe. The mature trees in the Cemetery looked to be in good condition and not presenting any risk. The ash tree at the corner of the green in Hilton has ash die back. This has been reported to Electricity NW. The Hilton phone box, housing the defibrillator needs painting.

Murton Top Green children's play area – an offer to create a children's play area had been made by a resident. This was discussed and issues relating to use by Commoners, the age range of and type of equipment to be installed, available funding, proximity to local business traffic and insurance were raised. The Chairman will ask for a feasibility study to be undertaken by the proposer.

Tree Planting to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – an offer to provide five trees for Murton and a proposal to plant a tree on Hilton top green were discussed.

Resolved: to accept the offer of trees and research a suitable location for a tree at Hilton.

91/21 Health & Safety – checklists for parish assets were handed out to Cllrs McDarren, Govan and King.

92/21 CEMETERY MANAGEMENT, HEALTH, SAFETY & MAINTENANCE

92/21/1 Mowing of Grass in Cemetery – a quote for £140 x 5 cuts for 2022 had been received from the current supplier. As this supplier is no longer VAT registered this would effectively result in a £20 per cut increase on 2021 prices as the PC is able to reclaim any VAT paid. The current supplier is reducing his workload and moving towards retirement.
Resolved: to accept the quote for 2022 and put the task out to tender for 2023 onwards.

92/21/2 Memorial Plaque Area – Following the discussion at the Extraordinary Meeting the stone for the plaque area has been ordered. The Chairman and volunteers will continue to work on the project.

92/21/3 Memorial Plaques – the specification for the plaques was discussed. The Clerk will continue to develop the draft procedure and template for plaques. A fee of £150 for parish residents and £250 for non-residents was proposed.

92/21/4 Rural Payments Agency – the deadline for the use of the RPA funding is 31 December 2021. It had been agreed earlier that the funding for replacement of the Cemetery walks would not be pursued and that the walls would continue to be repaired on a need to do basis.

93/21 EDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL – Planning Applications

93/21/1 21/0519 – Land adjacent Brackenbank View, Murton – it was noted that this outline application for a new build local occupancy dwelling and access had been approved by EDC Planning Committee meeting on 14 October. The Chairman had spoken on behalf of the PC in support of this application.

93/21/2 21/0254 – Brackenber House, Brackenber – to note that this application for change of use from residential dwelling to holiday let had been approved by EDC at the Planning Committee meeting on 14 October. The Chairman had spoken on behalf of the PC to object to this application. The PC had also written in support of the residents of Brackenber who had complained that they had been denied the opportunity to speak against the proposal at the meeting owing to an apparent communication error.

93/21/3 21/0698 – Kirkber Farm, Appleby CA16 6JG – replacement of barns, creation of new vehicle access and extension to the slurry lagoon. It was noted that the PC wrote in support of this application.

- 93/21/4 21/0718 – Fairview, Hilton CA16 6LU** – it was noted that the PC wrote in support of the application for tree removal due to ash dieback which was subsequently approved by EDC. Cllr McDarren (the applicant) had abstained from the decision.
- 93/21/5 21/0730 – Land at Brackenber, Appleby** – it was noted that the PC wrote in support of this outline application for an agricultural worker’s dwelling.
- 94/21 CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL**
- 94/21/1 East Cumbria Unitary Authority Consultation** – the PC discussed the response to the consultation circulated by CALC on the reorganisation of the County Council. It was agreed that the focus for all topics listed should be to provide good services at a reasonable price and the discussion of this level of detail was not practical and, in some cases, not relevant to Murton PC. The Clerk will draft a summary response.
- 94/21/2 Highways** – Sean Mitchell has replaced John Banks as Area Engineer. The request for him to make a visit to the parish has been forwarded. The Clerk will pursue the request for extra gritboxes made earlier this year.
- 95/21 FINANCIAL REPORTS**
- 95/21/1 Budget 2021/22 and Current Financial Situation (Appendix 1).** These reports were reviewed.
Resolved: that the current Financial Report and list of Clerk’s Expenses be signed by the Chairman.
- 95/21/2 Budget & Precept 2021/2022 (Appendix 2)** – The proposed budget was presented. Items discussed included:
An increase to the S137/Village Environment budget to cover the costs of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee tree planting, beacon etc.
A review of the Clerk’s hours following the increase in November 2020. The Clerk did not consider any change to be necessary.
There was general agreement of the scope of the draft budget. The Clerk will produce another scenario before it is confirmed in the New Year.
- 96/21 The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations** – the purchase of a beacon was discussed for the lighting event on 2 June and tree planting in Murton and Hilton.
- 97/21 Remembrance Sunday – 14 November** – the Chairman and Cllr Govan will lay the wreath at the War Memorial in the Cemetery.
- 98/21 Pendragon Stages - 28 August 2022**
Resolved: to approve the request from the organisers of this rally for the road closure from the A66 across the range as per previous years.
- 99/21 Clerk’s report on any actions taken under delegated powers not otherwise mentioned** – there were no actions taken and no specific items of correspondence which had not already been raised.
- 100/21 Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda** – there were none.
- /21 Date of next Ordinary Meeting – Monday 7 February 2022 at 7.30 pm**

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm