

# MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

### 7 February 2022

**Present:** Councillors Alastair Bell, Jack Caldwell, Barbara Govan, Anne King (Vice Chairman), Jim Hardman, Tina Longstaff and John McDarren (Chairman) and six members of the public.

- 01/22 Apologies for Absence** – There were no apologies.
- 02/22 Declarations of Interest** – No declarations of interest were made.
- 03/22 Minutes of Previous Meeting**  
**Resolved:** that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 1 November 2021 be signed by the Chairman of the meeting as an accurate record.
- 04/22 Co-option of Parish Councillor**  
The vacancy had been advertised and one application received from Mr Jim Hardman of Murton.  
**Resolved:** that Jim Hardman be co-opted onto the Parish Council.
- 05/22 OPEN SESSION** – several items were raised by members of the public:
- 05/22/1 Hilton Road Sign** - An old AA road sign for Hilton, which had been removed during World War II, was offered to the PC. The donation was accepted, and it was agreed that it would not be refurbished and would be displayed at an appropriate location.
- 05/22/2 Bookshelf at Murton Bus Shelter** – The resident's proposal to have a bookshelf made were moving forward.
- 05/22/3 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June 2022**  
As several residents made suggestions about activities relating to this event the item was brought forward on the agenda. These included an Arts Council funded project to create silk flags, a barbecue at the Institute, beacon lighting on Murton Pike, tree planting etc. It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting, scheduled for Monday 7 March, would be an appropriate occasion to discuss the celebrations. The Clerk will invite all those who have expressed an interest in contributing to the event.
- 05/22/4 Various** – The following issues were raised:  
A request for a no overnight camping sign for Townhead car park, Hilton.  
A request for a 20 mph sign in Hilton, or removal of the 30 mph sign.  
Trees at Townhead car park – creation of a wildlife corridor using native trees outside Fellside House, Hilton to the car park area which he would keep under control.  
The Chairman and Cllr King will meet with the householder to discuss these issues.  
A request that the seat near the war memorial in the cemetery should be turned to face the war memorial as this might be viewed as disrespectful. This request would be considered by the PC.
- 06/22 EDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL – Planning Application**  
**21/0933 – Cragg House, Murton CA16 6ND** – it was noted that the PC wrote in support of the proposed first floor extension above the existing front elevation garage, which was subsequently approved by EDC.

Signature   
Chairman, Murton Parish Council

Date of meeting  
09.05.22

**07/22 PARISH OWNED PROPERTY, VILLAGE GREENS & ENVIRONMENT****07/22/1 Parish Owned Property**

The Health & Safety Checklists were reviewed and the following issues raised:

**Noticeboard at Brackenber** – The Chairman will discuss the maintenance with the donor.

**Benches, phone box/defib store** – Several benches need painting.

**Refurbishment of the bench at Murton fell gate** – The timber is still on order and a memorial plaque has been purchased. The family donating funds for the repair will be visiting in April.

**07/22/2 Village Greens & Environment**

**Murton Top Green children's play area** – The proposer is in discussion with a supplier of play equipment and will bring this to the PC.

**Brackenber Waste Collection** – An enquiry regarding the ownership of the land at Brackenber where the EDC waste skip is located has been received. The Chairman will research this item.

**08/22 CEMETERY MANAGEMENT, HEALTH, SAFETY & MAINTENANCE**

**08/22/1 Work Party** – The most recent work day in the Cemetery was extremely well-attended by volunteers and achieved a great deal. It was hoped to build on this enthusiasm from residents for maintaining the Cemetery and other areas of the parish.

**Storm Damage** – The branch which came down during Storm Arwen has been removed. At least two trees show damage on the lane side, and stones have been washed out at various points.

**Resolved:** that a tender be prepared for repairs to the Cemetery.

**Mowing of Grass in Cemetery** – Following the decision at the previous meeting, the tender for mowing the Cemetery from 2023 onwards will be published with a deadline of 31 March.

**Cemetery Railings** – It was noted that these require painting.

**Laurel bush** – The overgrown laurel in the centre, which covered some graves, has been cut down. It was agreed that the stump be dealt with to avoid regrowth. The laurel by the war memorial also needs trimming.

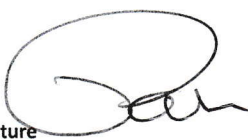
**Environmental Permitting Regulations** – DEFRA is proposing to update these regulations to improve the way in which groundwater activities and some related surface water discharge activities are regulated. Amendments to the General Binding Rules in this regulation relate to burial authorities and may affect future burials in Murton Cemetery. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is monitoring the progress of the regulations and communicating this to PCs. The Clerk will update the PC as necessary.

**08/22/2 Memorial Plaque Area** – It is hoped the wall and seating area will be completed in the next few weeks.

**08/22/3 Memorial Plaques** – A sample slate plaque with white lettering has been purchased from Pigneys, Appleby. This was considered acceptable. Enquiries have been received about installing plaques. It was agreed that a plaque to replace one already on the perimeter wall would be installed free of charge.

**09/22 EDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**09/22/1 Cumbria Local Heritage List** – The Clerk described the EDC Campaign to protect “commonplace or everyday” heritage assets valued by people locally but with no existing protection under planning law. The Clerk will nominate the water troughs in Hilton and Murton for safeguarding.

  
Signature  
Chairman, Murton Parish Council

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- 09/22/2 Eden Open Spaces Group** – This group have sent out information in advance of a proposed EDC consultation on the protection of open spaces in the parish. Copies of maps designating open spaces were reviewed and it was not considered necessary to make any amendments. The Clerk will communicate this to the EOSG.
- 10/22 CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL – Highways**  
**Chairman’s Meeting with Highways Network Engineer, Sean Mitchell** – This has been rescheduled to 15 February. The Chairman requests that details of all faults, potholes, grit box issues etc be forwarded to him to be raised at this meeting.  
**Gritboxes** – Cllr Govan reported that most of the gritboxes requested last year have been delivered.  
**Footpaths** – Councillors were asked to report any rotten waymarkers, gate or stile problems so they could be reported to Highways. Cllrs King and Govan would liaise with Warcop Range regarding any relevant issues.  
Information on how to report faults can be found here:  
<https://www.murton.org.uk/parish-council/working-with-cumbria-county-council-eden-district-council/>
- 11/22 FINANCIAL REPORTS**  
**11/22/1 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.
- 11/22/2 Budget & Precept 2022/2023 (Appendix 2)** – The proposed budget was presented. The Clerk commented that a significant change in the Council Tax Base Rate meant that a request for the same amount as last year from EDC would result in an increase of £2.98 per household.  
**Resolved:** that the proposed budget and precept be approved.
- 11/22/3 Appointment of Internal Auditor**  
**Resolved:** that Richard King be appointed as Internal Auditor for the 2021/22 accounting period.
- 11/22/4 Annual Financial Risk Assessment** – the Clerk will prepare this document for review for the next meeting.
- 12/22 NALC Policy Consultation – Remote Meetings**  
**Resolved:** that the Clerk should use the NALC model letters to write to the MP in support of the re-instatement of the use of remote meetings when appropriate.
- 13/22 NALC Policy Consultation – OFCOM Postal Regulation Consultation**  
**Resolved:** that the Clerk submits a blanket response stating that the maintenance of a local Post Office, local post boxes, daily deliveries and a banking service are essential to a rural community.
- 14/22 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. The Clerk commented that she had not had a performance appraisal or job description review since being appointed in April 2012. The Chairman agreed to undertake this task.
- 15/22 Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda** – there were none.



**16/22**

**Date of next Meetings:**

Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 7 February 2022 at 7.30 pm – to discuss the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Annual Council Meeting – Monday 9 May 2022 at 7.00 pm followed by Ordinary Meeting

**The meeting closed at 10.02 pm**