

MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MURTON PARISH COUNCIL 1 August 2022

Present: Barbara Govan, Jim Hardman, Anne King (Vice Chairman), Tina Longstaff, John McDarren (Chairman), EDC Cllr Willie Patterson and CCC Cllr Andy Connell (until item 14).

50/22 Apologies for Absence – Cllr Alastair Bell.

Resolved: to accept Cllr Bell's apologies for being unable to attend the meeting because of holidays.

51/22 Declarations of Interest - No declarations of personal or pecuniary interests in respect of items on this Agenda were made by elected members.

52/22 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting and the Annual Council Meeting held on 9 May 2022 be signed by the Chairman as accurate records.

53/22 Open Session – Cllr Patterson updated the PC on an environmental issue which has become more important in planning decisions. Natural England provided new rules to state that councils must achieve "Nutrient neutrality", i.e. reduce the level of phosphates entering watercourses and rivers. Property developers have to state how much sewage will be produced and how it will be dealt with. During the consultation process, expert opinion is sought (usually United Utilities) and an opinion on whether or not the current sewerage facility is adequate is provided. Where it is deemed inadequate small sewage treatment works must be created. This is holding up planning decisions and will add to the costs of new build properties.

Cllr Patterson thanked the PC for reporting the overhanging trees at Coupland Beck. These have now been cut back and visibility is much better.

54/22 EDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL - Planning Applications

54/22/1 22/0373 – Ghyll House, Murton CA16 6NA - Replacement of conservatory with sunroom extension – It was noted that the PC wrote in support of this planning application.

54/22/2 22/0368 – Brackenber, Brackenber CA16 6LP – Erection of agricultural building. It was noted that the PC wrote in support of this planning application.

55/22 Local Liaison Briefing – Warcop Training Camp – 25 May 2022 – The Chairman attended this meeting, the first since 2019. Major Mick Lynch, who has been extremely helpful in recent years, has left and will be replaced by Mark Robinson in September. The Chairman has a copy of the minutes should anyone wish to see them.

- 56/22 A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project** – The application for this project has been accepted by the Planning Inspectorate. Further information is available here: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/a66-northern-trans-pennine/>
- 57/22 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)** – Cllr Connell reported that the development of the new Westmorland and Furness Council was under way and had involved considerable effort from current council officers who were undertaking multiple roles.
- 58/22 Parish Clerk’s Appraisal and Job Description (Appendix 1)** – Cllr Govan had undertaken the Clerk’s appraisal and reviewed the job description. Recommendations made included the addition of the Cemetery management, which had been omitted.
- 59/22 PARISH OWNED PROPERTY, VILLAGE GREENS & ENVIRONMENT**
- 59/22/1 Parish Owned Property**
- Murton Fell Gate** – this bench is collapsing and will be removed for safety reasons.
- Cemetery** – Cllr Govan has started to prepare for repainting the railings. The paths will need raking in the Autumn.
- Brackenber Moor** – This bench also needs removing. Cllr Patterson offered to fund a replacement bench. The Clerk will liaise with the Golf Club.
- Murton bus shelter** – The donor of the bookcase has agreed that the bookcase should be added to the PC Asset Register.
- 59/22/2 Village Greens & Environment**
- Murton Middle Green** – It was noted that the underpinning work at The Nook is still under investigation.
- Hilton Village Green** is looking very good and Cllr King will arrange another work party and arrange planting of further fritillary bulbs and yellow rattle.
- Hilton Mill Lane** needs tidying as the moss and overhanging hedge are causing hazards.
- Brackenber Moor** – The fence to the left of the cattle grid, behind the bench needs replacing. The Clerk will liaise with the Golf Club.
- Murton Middle Green** – The gate has been removed as the gate posts have rotted. The stumps remain. Discussions between the proposer and a supplier regarding a children’s play area are taking place this month. It was suggested that adult equipment could also be considered.
- 60/22 CEMETERY MANAGEMENT, HEALTH, SAFETY & MAINTENANCE**
- 60/22/1 Health, Safety & Maintenance** – The original wall repairs have been completed to a high standard. The Chairman will contact Neil Richardson regarding a breach in another area of the wall
- 60/22/2 Cemetery Mowing after 2022** – Due to retirement, the contract for mowing will not be renewed after this summer. The Clerk will contact other cemetery providers regarding this task. The work involves at least 50% strimming due to the uneven ground. The possibility of rolling to flatten the graves will also be investigated.

61/22 CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL - Highways

61/22/1 Potholes – The Chairman has thanked the Highways Officer and his team for the recent excellent work in filling potholes in the parish, particularly the road between Appleby and Hilton. A request for grass verge cutting will now be made.

Road Markings – The Clerk will create a request to re-paint the ‘Give Way’ marking and the markings at Murton crossroads.

Sign for Coupland Beck – Cllr Patterson had provided a map to add to the request for a sign for Coupland Beck. The Clerk will pursue this again.

Enhanced Faults Reporting System – The Clerk attended a webinar held by CCC on the new function to create an account so that contact details did not have to be added repeatedly when reporting faults.

62/22 FINANCIAL REPORTS

62/22/1 Budget 2022/23 & Current Financial Situation (Appendix 2) – this report was reviewed. It was noted that to be efficient and to access savings on some purchases, where local suppliers would only accept cash payments, it had been necessary to reimburse expenses incurred. Whenever possible accounts would be opened for the PC.

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

62/22/2 Cemetery Wall Plaque Fund – An allocation of £2,000 had been made for the creation of the wall with £1,533.64 being spent. Nigel Fields had designed and supervised volunteers on the construction of the wall.

Resolved: that Nigel Fields should be asked to invoice the PC for £450.00.

62/22/3 Online Banking – The Clerk had been asked to investigate online banking. The current provider, The Cumberland Building Society, does not offer this service for the type of accounts used by the PC. The accounts would have to be moved to a business account with monthly fees of c£6. A two phase procedure for approving payments would be required. It was agreed that the current system was adequate for the purposes.

63/22 Appleby Horse Fair – There had been considerable discussion in neighbouring parishes regarding the lack of management of the Fair. A Murton resident had requested a ‘referendum’ regarding the Fair. Some parishes are discussing holding a Parish Poll. Cllr Connell said there is always a post Fair meeting organised by the Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group (MASCG) where views can be expressed.

Resolved: to arrange a Parish Meeting on Monday 22 August to provide an opportunity for Murton residents to express their views on the Horse Fair. Cllr Govan abstained from the vote.

64/22 Emergency Information Sheet (Appendix 3) – A pro forma sheet had been provided by CALC which asked for contact information for key people and groups which can be used in the event of an emergency situation. Although Murton parish residents have managed emergency situations well in the past, it was thought that providing such information would improve communications in the

event of an emergency. The Clerk will consult individuals and complete the pro forma.

65/22 Dementia Friendly Council – NALC have proposed that councils adopt a dementia friendly approach to supporting the community. It wasn't clear how this could be instituted in such a small setting. The proposal to invite a representative of The Memory Club in Appleby to the 2023 Parish Meeting was considered.

66/22 Clerk's report on any actions taken under delegated powers not otherwise mentioned, and to note any particular items of correspondence.
The Clerk had received a request to take part in a consultation regarding the impact of short term holiday lets on rural communities. The information will be re-circulated for response.

67/22 Councillors' reports and items for future agenda – there were none.

689/22 Next Meeting: Monday 7 November 2022

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm

June L. Watson.

Parish Clerk