

# MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MURTON PARISH COUNCIL 7 November 2022

**Present:** Alastair Bell, Barbara Govan, Jim Hardman, Anne King (Vice Chairman), Tina Longstaff and John McDarren (Chairman), George Slack and one member of the public.

**76/22 Apologies for Absence – None**

**77/22 Declarations of Interest** - No declarations of personal or pecuniary interests in respect of items on this Agenda were made by elected members.

**78/22 Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**Resolved:** that the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 1 August 2022 and the Parish Meeting held on 22 August 2022 be signed by the Chairman as accurate records.

**79/22 Resignation of Parish Councillor** – The Chairman had received a letter of Cllr Caldwell who has since emigrated to Australia. The Chairman had thanked Cllr Caldwell for his service to the Council prior to his departure.

**Resolved:** to accept Jack Caldwell's resignation.

**80/22 Co-option of Parish Councillor** – The vacancy had been advertised and the Chairman had received one letter of application which had been passed on to Councillors.

**Resolved:** that George Slack, Heatherbank, Brackenber be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

**81/22 Open Session** – No items were raised by members of the public. No Councillor made a declaration of interest in any item on the agenda.

**82/22 Parish Meeting to discuss Appleby Horse Fair – 22 August 2022** – Following this meeting the Chairman had written to Eden District Council, Cumbria County Council, Appleby Town Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Responses were as follow:

- EDC – is a member of the Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordination Group (MASCg) and passed the letter on to other members. Queries about licences were dealt with.
- CCC – referred the PC to MASCg.
- Appleby Town Council – responded to questions and agreed to a meeting with the Chairman which has yet to be arranged.
- PCC – responded to questions on policing matters only.

Copies of the responses are available on request from the Clerk.

**83/22 EDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL - Planning Applications**

**83/22/1 22/0658 – Bank Wood, Brackenber** – application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale regarding outline approval 21/0730. It was noted that the PC had written in support of this application and made comments about reviewing the access to the site.

- 83/22/2 22/0505 – Land adjacent Brackenbank View, Murton** – erection of self-build affordable dwelling with garage and access. A query regarding the septic tank had been raised and answered by the Planning Officer.  
**Resolved:** to support this planning application.
- 84/22 A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project** – Contracts for this project had been awarded. Further details can be found here:  
<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/a66-northern-trans-pennine/>
- 85/22 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)** – Weekly updates are circulated about the development of the new Westmorland and Furness Council. An open virtual meeting for parish councils has been arranged by CALC for 16 November.
- 86/22 Emergency Information Sheet (Appendix 1)** – The pro forma issued by CALC asking for contact information for key people and groups which can be used in the event of an emergency situation had been compiled by the Clerk. It was agreed that this information could be forwarded to CALC.
- 87/22 PARISH OWNED PROPERTY, VILLAGE GREENS & ENVIRONMENT**
- 87/22/1 Parish Owned Property**
- Benches** - The Knowles family are donating funds for a replacement bench through Murton Fell Gate, facing Murton Pike. The MOD have approved this installation. The Patterson family are donating funds for a replacement bench near the cattle grid at Brackenber. Appleby Golf Club have approved this installation. Both benches are made from recycled plastic.
- Noticeboard** – Residents have requested further space for notices in Murton bus shelter. Cllr Hardman will look into this.
- Bookcase** – The new bookcase at Murton bus shelter is well-used and the donor has asked for permission to instal a larger one. The PC agreed to this in principle. The Chairman will talk to the donor.
- 87/22/2 Village Greens & Environment**
- Bonfire Night** – it was noted that concerns about possible damage from cars driving across Murton Top Green were not realised and drivers had largely respected the Village Green. Complaints had been made that a dumpy bag of plastic had been hidden in the bonfire. The organisers are aware of this.
- The Nook, Murton** – it was reported that the planned underpinning is due to start shortly.
- 87/22/3 Stoney Beck, Murton** – The owner had written to the Council asking permission to reduce the height of a tree which is a safety hazard. He had also written to other people who are involved. Photographs were shown and Councillors had visited the site. It was agreed that this could go ahead.
- 88/22 CEMETERY MANAGEMENT, HEALTH, SAFETY & MAINTENANCE**
- 88/22/1 Health, Safety & Maintenance** – The PC thanked volunteers who spent the previous Sunday tidying the cemetery and Mill Lane. No problems were reported.
- 88/22/2 Cemetery Rules (Appendix 2)** – The proposed document was discussed, and minor amendments proposed. The document will be added to the website and also sent to funeral directors and those involved in arranging interments, burial of ashes and plaques. It will be reviewed at the May 2023 meeting.  
**Resolved:** to adopt the Cemetery Rules with the amendments suggested.
- 88/22/3 Exclusive Right of Burial (ERB)** – The family of a recently deceased resident have asked for the ERB fee to be refunded as the grave space will not be used. The Clerk had researched

the procedure for this which usually resulted in a proportion of the fee being returned, ie with a deduction for the time during which the space had been reserved. Until May 2018 the fee for ERB was £20 for 100 years. Following research into other Cemetery practices this fee has gradually increased to £150 (resident)/£250 (non-resident) for a period of 50 years.

Resolved: that the £20 fee be refunded in total on this occasion. This issue will be reviewed at the meeting in May 2023.

- 88/22/4 Cemetery Mowing** – The PC no longer has a contractor to mow the Cemetery. A quote (for mowing 5 times per year and clearing the waste) had been received for £250 per cut. This was a 56% increase on the previous contract. It was agreed that the work would be advertised again locally, perhaps using the local press and social media. Following the last meeting, the Clerk had researched the issue of levelling graves which hinders the mowing. The PC does have this right, and the Cemetery Rules (Appendix 1) have been drafted to include this information.

**89/22 CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL – Highways**

**Road markings at Murton crossroads and Cross Keys, Hilton** – the Clerk had reported this to Highways and had requested an update but had received no further information.

**Flooding/Standing Water Reports:**

- Dip in the road to the west of the Institute.
- Under the A66 bridge near the Flakebridge turning.
- Half-way along the turnpike on the bypass side.
- Blocked culvert outside Brook House, Murton.

**Footbridges** – The footbridges at Townhead, Murton were deteriorating. Cllr Hardman will provide photos.

The Clerk will report these faults.

**90/22 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- 90/22/1 Budget 2022/23 & Current Financial Situation** (Appendix 3) – These reports were reviewed.

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

- 90/22/2 Budget & Precept 2023/24** (Appendix 4) – The proposed budget was presented. Items discussed included:

- A note that forecast included the £2000 which had been allocated from the reserves for the construction of the Cemetery plaque wall.
- The recently agreed NJC pay award for the Clerk which resulted in a £240 pa increase backdated to 1 April 2022.
- Possible election costs in May 2022 if the PC seats are contested.
- A possible large increase in Cemetery mowing costs.

Three scenarios were presented:

1. Maintaining the current precept – a request for £5,973 from EDC which would keep the household contribution to c£42.13.
2. Increasing the precept by 10% to cover inflation - £6570 from EDC, increasing the precept to c£46.23 per household.
3. Covering the forecast deficit and maintaining the PC's reserves - £7500 and £52.84 respectively.

It was agreed that the PC had a responsibility to maintain its funds. Likely Cemetery maintenance costs and the unknown impact of the new Westmorland and Furness Council were cited as key reasons.

The Clerk will confirm the scenario before it is confirmed in the New Year.

**Resolved:** That the third option, to increase the amount requested to £7500, be accepted in principle. One Councillor abstained from voting.

**91/22 GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS**

**91/22/1 Review of GDPR Documents** – The Clerk had reviewed the current documents and updated the contact details.

**91/22/2 Parish Council Electronic Mailing List** (Appendix 5). The proposal to create an electronic mailing list for PC business was discussed. The Chairman will discuss access to the current community mailing list maintained by a parishioner, and the procedure for ‘opting out’ of the transfer of personal e-mail addresses to the new PC mailing list.

**Resolved:** to create an electronic mailing list for PC business.

**92/22 Civility and Respect Pledge** (Appendix 6)

**Resolved:** This was adopted by the PC subject to the removal of the bullet point referring to the Local Council Award Scheme.

**93/22 Eden District Council – Settlement Study** – Consultation documents on EDC’s project “to provide Planning Policy Officers with an understanding of the nature, role and function of settlements across Eden and how they inter-relate to each other” had been circulated previously. They ask for local involvement to help define settlement boundaries. Cllr Govan undertook the completion of the feedback form.

**94/22 Flakebridge Woodland Management Plan** – Consultation documents from the contractors undertaking the development of a woodland management plan had been received. Cllr Bell undertook to review the documents and liaise with the project officer.

**98/22 Remembrance Sunday – 13 November 2022** – Cllrs Govan and McDarren will attend the service at the War Memorial and lay the PC’s wreath.

**96/22 Clerk’s report on any actions taken under delegated powers not otherwise mentioned, and to note any particular items of correspondence.**

- The Clerk had attended virtual CALC training on the Code of Conduct which had been a useful refresher.
- The Clerk had also been contacted by a Murton resident asking if it was possible to arrange for a fish and chip van to come to the village. Following the meeting the Clerk had received a positive response from Shappy Wheels and will pursue the request.

**97/22 Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda** – It was noted that no further update had been received from the proposers of the play area on Murton Top Green.

**98/22 Next Meeting: Monday 6 February 2023.**

The meeting closed at 10.05 pm

*June L. Watson.*

Parish Clerk