

MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

6 February 2023

Present: Barbara Govan, Jim Hardman, Tina Longstaff and John McDarren (Chairman), George Slack and two members of the public.

- 01/23 Apologies for Absence** – Alastair Bell (holiday), Anne King (holiday).
Resolved: to accept the reasons for absence provided by these Councillors.
- 02/23 Declarations of Interest** - No declarations of personal or pecuniary interests in respect of items on this Agenda were made by elected members.
- 03/23 Minutes of Previous Meetings**
Resolved: that the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 7 November 2022 be signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.
- 04/23 Open Session** - EDC Cllr Willie Patterson made the following comments:
This would be Cllr Patterson's last attendance in his capacity of the EDC Councillor for this Ward prior to the dissolution of EDC in March. He has enjoyed representing the parish and wishes the PC all the best for the future. The Chairman thanked Cllr Patterson for his presence and contribution to the discussions, especially planning issues.
Cllr Patterson also described the developments in Warcop parish with regard to the installation of fibre broadband by B4RN and suggested that Murton parish residents might benefit from a similar expansion of B4RN provision. The Chairman and Cllr Hardman volunteered to begin a discussion with B4RN as interested residents, separate from PC activity.
- 05/23 EDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL**
05/23/1 Planning Applications – there were none to discuss.
05/23/2 Settlement Study – Cllr Govan had completed the survey and had submitted it to EDC.
- 06/23 Local Government Reorganisation – Westmorland & Furness Council**
06/23/1 It was noted that three locality boards and three planning committees would be created, using the same boundaries as the existing district councils.
A "Council Conversation" regarding the changes was scheduled for 8 February via Teams. Cllr Govan had attended the last such meeting and recommended it to Councillors.
- 06/23/2 Public Consultation on Council Tax Levels**
The PC discussed the questions in this consultation document and made comments for a response from the PC to be submitted by the Clerk. However it was generally considered to be a pointless exercise as the Council Tax had already been approved for 2023/24. Concerns were expressed that residents would not receive the same level of service following the transition.
- 07/23 A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project**
Cllr Govan had been to the exhibition at Penrith Library regarding the consultation on changes to the planned dualling of the A66, which is open until 27 February. Most of the

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changes seemed to be improvements made following the publication of the original plans. All four contractors will be working at the same time and there could be 2-3 years of local disruption.

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/a66-northern-trans-pennine/>

- 08/23 Parish Council Electronic Mailing List** – the information on how to join the PC mailing list had been circulated in *The Villager*. To date, one person had contacted the Clerk to join the mailing list. It would be promoted at Institute events. Those wishing to join the mailing list should e-mail mailinglist@murton.org.uk just giving their full name in the e-mail. The Clerk will administer the mailing list.
- 09/23 Parish Meeting to discuss Appleby Horse Fair – 22 August 2022** – the Chairman had yet to meet with the Mayor of Appleby to discuss concerns raised at last year’s Parish Meeting.
- 10/23 Flakebridge Woodland Management Plan** – no update was available for this meeting.
- 11/23 PARISH OWNED PROPERTY, VILLAGE GREENS & ENVIRONMENT**
- 11/23/1 Parish Owned Property**
- Benches** – the installation of the new benches at Murton Fell Gate and on the golf course near Brackenber cattle grid will take place as soon as the weather allowed.
- Noticeboard** – Cllr Hardman is trying to source cork for the additional noticeboard which has been requested for the Murton bus shelter.
- Bookcase** – An additional bookcase is planned for the Murton bus shelter, donated by a resident.
- 11/23/2 Village Greens & Environment**
- Bonfire Night** – Murton Top Green suffered only slight damage during the bonfire night celebrations. Large agricultural vehicles have also caused some minor damage. The Green is expected to recover from this damage.
- The Nook, Murton** – the underpinning has been completed, the Green tidied up and repairs made. Extra gravel has been placed on the parking area.
- 12/23 CEMETERY MANAGEMENT, HEALTH, SAFETY & MAINTENANCE**
- 12/23/1 Health, Safety & Maintenance** – There were no specific issues to report.
- 12/23/3 Cemetery Mowing** – The PC had advertised and circulated information asking for quotations for mowing the cemetery. Two quotations were received and discussed.
- Resolved:** to accept the quotation from the Penrith-based charity *Fixit4Eden* at £125.00 per cut in 2023, rising to £133.00 in 2024 and £141.80 in 2025. This was the lower-priced quotation, and would be supporting and involving people with learning disabilities.
- 13/23 CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL – Highways**
- The Clerk updated Councillors on the faults reported following the last meeting and the responses from Highways:
- **Road markings at Murton crossroads and Cross Keys, Hilton** – “assigned to a Highways Team”.
- Flooding/Standing Water Reports:**
- Dip in the road to the west of the Institute – cleared.
 - Under the A66 bridge near the Flakebridge turning – “assigned to a Highways Team”.
 - Blocked culvert outside Brook House, Murton – cleared.
 - Turnpike – this was investigated and will be repaired in the new financial year when the road is surface dressed.

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Footbridges at Townhead, Murton:

- One bridge had been removed and is to be replaced. The Clerk will pursue this obstruction of a public footpath.
- The other bridge has been repaired. Cllr Hardman provided a photo of the repair.

Signage for Coupland Beck. The Clerk has requested an update on this ten year old request.

The Clerk will pursue these outstanding requests. Concern was expressed that no information had yet been received regarding fault reporting to the new W&F Council.

The Clerk will report the following new faults:

- Pothole outside Brook House (between property's gates).
- A resident has requested a grit/salt box on the road between Murton and Harbour Flatt as the salt piles cannot be found in heavy snow.
- Hilton Top Green – the right hand fork is not maintained and is deteriorating. It provides access to several houses and is used by council vehicles, which contribute to the deterioration.
- Potholes – from Prospect House to Murton fell gate.

14/23 FINANCIAL REPORTS

14/23/1 Budget 2022/23 & 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.

14/23/2 Budget & Precept 2023/24 (Appendix 2) – The budget agreed at the November meeting had been adjusted to include the latest Council Tax Base Rate and the Council Tax Reduction for the parish.

It was noted that the new W&F Council had undertaken to cover any election costs incurred by local elections in May 2023. EDC had also undertaken to cover footway lighting costs for the current financial year. The Clerk had adjusted the budget accordingly and circulated it to Councillors. The figures in November had resulted in a £52.84 household contribution for a Band D property. This would now be a £50.86.

Resolved: That the budget presented be confirmed.

14/23/3 Financial Risk Assessment (Appendix 3) – Cllr Govan and the Clerk had reviewed the Risk Assessment and made no significant changes.

Resolved to accept the updated Financial Risk Assessment.

14/23/4 Appointment of Internal Auditor

Resolved: that Richard King be appointed as Internal Auditor for the 2022/23 accounting period.

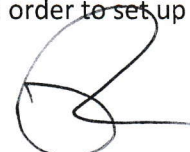
15/23 Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6 May – it was noted that the Institute Committee will be meeting to discuss how the parish might celebrate this event

16/23 Annual Parish Meeting – provisional date Monday 6 March. The Clerk will contact the W&F local Councillors and a representative from B4RN (fibre broadband provider) and invite them to speak at this meeting.

17/23 Clerk's report on any actions taken under delegated powers not otherwise mentioned, and to note any particular items of correspondence.

- **Fish & chip van** – a very positive response to the proposal for a fish and chip van to come to the parish which had been circulated via the Institute mailing list. *Shappy Wheels* now looking for a local volunteer to liaise with in order to set up this service.

Signature



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