

MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF MURTON PARISH COUNCIL - 6 March 2023

Present: Councillors Alastair Bell, Barbara Govan, Jim Hardman, Anne King, Tina Longstaff and John McDarren (Chairman), George Slack, Westmorland & Furness Shadow Councillors Andy Connell and Graham Simpkins, B4RN representative David Ryall and 21 members of the public.

20/23 Apologies for Absence – No apologies had been received.

21/23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman gave his annual report covering the following items:

- Welcome to George Slack who was co-opted onto the Parish Council following the departure of Jack Caldwell.
- Thanks to Barbara Govan who is retiring from the Council after 12 years including six years as Chairman.
- Highways – a productive visit from the new Highways Network Engineer. Faults can be reported direct on the CCC website and will be migrated to the new Westmorland & Furness website.
- Cemetery – FixIt4Eden (formally Eden Mencap Society) have been awarded the contract for mowing the Cemetery, repairing the walls is an ongoing task, the new Memorial Wall now has two plaques.
- Parish Meeting to discuss Appleby Horse Fair took place on 22 August 2022. The Chairman pursued the issues raised by contacting EDC, CCC, Appleby Town Council and the Police & Crime Commissioner.
- PC Electronic Mailing List – send your e-mail address to mailinglist@murton.org.uk if you wish to receive information about PC meetings and activities direct.
- Volunteering – successful clean ups and litter picks have been held with a good turnout of volunteers.

The full report is available on the PC website: <https://www.murton.org.uk/parish-council/meetings/>

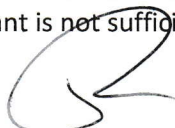
22/23 WESTMORLAND & FURNESS COUNCIL

- Shadow Councillors Andy Connell and Graham Simpkins described the current situation where W&F Council is running as a shadow council until vesting day 1 April 2023. Most EDC staff will be transferred to the new authority, and it is anticipated that there will be a 12month settling in period. There will be three Locality Boards which will manage the transition and develop common practices.

Issues that had been highlighted by Murton residents included:

- Green Waste Recycling – three authorities are coming together (Barrow, South Lakeland and Eden) and each has their own system, one authority charges for garden waste recycling. No changes will be happening soon.
- Highways – potholes are a huge problem not helped by the Cumbrian weather. Murton roads are not a priority, busier roads are prioritised.
- Salt bins and grit piles – any extra needed should be able to be sorted.
- Poor road markings – the Government grant is not sufficient for all needs.

Signature
Chairman, Murton Parish Council



Date of meeting
12/05/23

The following comments and issues were raised:

- Murton gets more visitors than might be thought – poor road markings are a significant issue, particularly where cyclists are involved.
- Faults on the current CCC electronic Fault Reporting System will transfer to the new authority. Residents are encouraged to use this system themselves.
- Council Tax – levelling up - there is a bigger increase for Eden residents than those living in Barrow as their Council Tax was already higher than Eden's.
- Household waste collection – Eden has to wait for current contract with Urbaser to end before changes can be made.
- The difference in levels of services were commented on despite the same Council Tax rate: buses are not subsidised and only run where they are commercially viable; gritting is prioritised where there is a higher volume of traffic
- The Planning service at EDC is not good – apparently there has been a loss of experienced officers to more secure roles.
- Both new councils have inherited debt.
- Officers will be based at Voreda House in Penrith. This has been upgraded and is fit for a modern council base in Eden. The alternative could have been services being delivered from Kendal.

To summarise, there would be a transition phase where existing systems would be reviewed, aligned and some new developed. Graham and Andy aim to be working hard for residents in the Brough and Appleby ward.

23/23 B4RN

David Ryall described B4RN, a community-led, Community Benefit Society installing full fibre broadband speeds to hard-to-reach rural areas. Key points include:

- B4RN can provide full fibre broadband speeds of 1000mbps for around £33 per month, plus a £60 connection fee.
 - They are a not-for-profit company, which accesses Government funding for extending broadband in rural areas, in order to develop the service.
 - They are based in Kirkby Lonsdale and develop projects with communities. They are currently working in Warcop. They would like to work with Murton.
 - It takes about a year from initial meetings with a community to all those who have signed up to be connected.
 - The planning team works with landowners and residents to lay cables across fields and to individual houses.
 - Most outages are dealt with immediately and fixed within 24 hours at no cost.
 - Current broadband provider contracts can be run alongside B4RN at a minimal charge until the switch to B4RN.
 - The development is dependent on a team of local residents to support the project.
- A public meeting will be arranged in the next few weeks so that residents can find out more. A show of hands in the room was unanimously in support of taking this project forward.

The B4RN website has more information: b4rn.org.uk

24/23 Date of next Meeting - Ordinary Meeting – Friday 12 May 2023 at 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Signature
Chairman, Murton Parish Council



Date of Meeting
12/05/23