

# MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: June Watson  
Telephone: 01461 335 617  
E-mail: [clerk@murton.org.uk](mailto:clerk@murton.org.uk)

Correspondence:  
1 Battlehill, ANNAN  
Dumfries & Galloway, DG12 6SN

## MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MURTON PARISH COUNCIL 12 May 2023

**Present:** Alastair Bell, Jim Hardman, Anne King, Tina Longstaff, John McDarren (Chairman), George Slack and two members of the public.

**37/23 Apologies for Absence** – there were none.

**38/23 Declarations of Interest** - no declarations of personal or pecuniary interests in respect of items on this Agenda were made by elected members.

**39/23 Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**Resolved:** that the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 6 February and the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6 March 2023 be signed by the Chairman as accurate records.

**40/23 Co-option of Parish Councillor** – William Patterson had intended to submit nomination forms prior to the election date but had held back in order to avoid an election. A potential nominee did not proceed with their nomination hence only six out of seven seats being filled. The Chairman proposed that William Patterson's regular attendance at Murton PC meetings, his residence at Coupland Beck, an area of the parish which isn't currently represented and his experience as a district councillor, made him an acceptable candidate for co-option.

**Resolved:** that William Patterson, Coupland Beck Farm, Appleby CA16 6LN be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

**41/23 Open Session** – The PC had received an enquiry regarding planning permission for the campsite which had appeared at The Old Chapel, Murton. The Clerk reported that no planning application had been received but a campsite could be used for tents for up to 28 days per year without permission. Concerns had been expressed about the use of the camp site during Appleby Horse Fair and also about the safety of solar panels on the site. Cllr Hardman will talk to the owner and report back to the PC.

**42/23 WESTMORLAND & FURNESS COUNCIL**

**42/23/1 Planning Applications** – there were none to discuss.

**42/23/2 Highways** – the Clerk reported on previously reported faults:

Murton footbridge – this was removed in 2022. The Countryside Access Officer is due to visit the site with a view to replacing this bridge on a public right of way.

Request for warning signs re horses on the road between Appleby and Hilton – this would be assessed by the Highways Team.

Potholes outside Prospect House, Murton – these did not meet the criteria for repair.

The Clerk will report the following fault: pothole outside Fairfield House, Hilton

Signature



Date of Meeting  
7 August 2023

Cllr Hardman reported that visitors frequently ask him for directions to the car park in Murton and proposed that a sign be placed at the crossroads. The Chairman undertook to raise this at the Warcop Local Liaison Meeting as the car park is on MOD land.

- 43/23 Parish Council Electronic Mailing List** – 10 people had now joined the mailing list. Those wishing to join the mailing list should e-mail [mailinglist@murton.org.uk](mailto:mailinglist@murton.org.uk) giving their full name in the e-mail.
- 44/23 BARN Project** – Barbara Govan, project liaison, reported that there had now been enough expressions of interest to allow the project to bring high speed broadband to the parish to go to the next planning stage. A walk with the developer will be undertaken next week to discuss the cabling route throughout the parish. All houses will have cabling brought to the house boundaries whether or not they have signed up for it. This will facilitate future connections. The cabinet, the central point for the network, will be at the Institute. When the route is finalised landowners will be consulted.
- 45/23 Flakebridge Woodland Management Plan** – no update was available for this meeting.
- 46/23 Councillor Training** – the proposal to hold a bespoke Councillor Induction and training refresher delivered by CALC was discussed. The Clerk will explore possible content and timing with CALC.
- 47/23 PARISH OWNED PROPERTY, VILLAGE GREENS & ENVIRONMENT**
- 47/23/1 H&S Checklists** – no issues were raised at the last check in February. The checklists will be distributed again in August.
- 47/23/2 Village Greens & Environment**  
Hilton Top Green – comments had been received that it looked untidy. A discussion regarding the value of having a patch of protected wild ground supporting wildlife and a more attractive area of village green took place. The Chairman will consult the current Cemetery mowing contractor on the possibility of cutting a 3 ft strip around the edge. Efforts to re-wild the area were taking several years.  
Milton bonfire site – pieces of metal were still appearing on the site following November's bonfire.
- 48/23 CEMETERY MANAGEMENT, HEALTH, SAFETY & MAINTENANCE**
- 48/23/1 Health, Safety & Maintenance** – the Chairman will discuss the repairs of the cemetery wall with the PC's agreed contractor.
- 48/23/2 Cemetery Mowing** – It was reported that *Fixit4Eden*, the charity supporting and involving people with learning difficulties, considered that the first cut had gone well and residents were also pleased with the results.
- 48/23/3 Memorial Plaque Area** – a further enquiry regarding the installation of a plaque had been received.
- 48/23/4 Annual Review of Cemetery Fees and Rules (Appendices 1 & 2)** – it was agreed that no changes would be made to the current fees and that the Rules document be added to the PC website.
- 48/23/5 Cemetery Management during Clerk's Holiday** – the Clerk will be away from Wednesday 17 May to 11 June. The Clerk will brief the Chairman who will undertake any tasks relating to Cemetery use during this period. Local funeral directors will be informed, and the website updated.



**49/23 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**49/23/1 Budget 2023/24 & 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.

**49/23/2 Annual Return 2022/23 – Section 2 - Accounting Statement**

**Resolved:** that the Accounting Statement be signed by the Chairman.

**49/23/3 Annual Return 2022/23 – Section 1 – Governance Statement**

**Resolved:** that the Governance Statement be signed by the Chairman.

**49/23/4 Certificate of Exemption for Smaller Authorities**

**Resolved:** that the Certificate of Exemption be signed by the Chairman.

**49/23/5 Vote of thanks to the Internal Auditor** – Councillors asked the Clerk to pass on their thanks to Richard King for undertaking the audit. His resignation had been received and the PC will need to appoint a new auditor at the PC meeting 1 February 2024.

**50/23 Clerk's report on any actions taken under delegated powers not otherwise mentioned, and to note any particular items of correspondence** - there were no items.

**51/23 Councillors' reports and items for future agenda** – there were no items.

**52/23 Next Meeting**

**Ordinary Meeting - Monday 7 August 2023**

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

*June L. Watson*

Parish Clerk

Signature 

Date of Meeting  
7 August 2023