

MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

7 August 2023

Present: Alastair Bell, Jim Hardman, Anne King, Tina Longstaff, John McDarren (Chairman), Willie Patterson and seven members of the public.

- 53/23** **Apologies for Absence** – George Slack, hay time.
Resolved: to accept the reason for absence provided by this Councillor.
- 54/23** **Declarations of Interest** - no declarations of personal or pecuniary interests in respect of items on this Agenda were made by elected members.
- 55/23** **Minutes of Previous Meetings**
Resolved: that the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting and the Annual Council Meeting held on 12 May 2023 be signed by the Chairman as accurate records.
- 56/23** **OPEN SESSION** – the following items were raised by members of the public:
56/23/1 **Bench outside Green Tree, Hilton** – The owner of Green Tree stated that the bench was in need of repair and was offering to arrange and part fund the renovation. The bench was erected in memory of George Thompson, who had run the village Post Office for thirty years. It was agreed that a member of the Thompson family who is also a Hilton resident should be consulted. Subject to the approval of this family member, the owner of Green Tree, would arrange the renovation.
Resolved: that, subject to the approval of the Thompson family, the owner of Green Tree would fund the cost of a recycled plastic bench and the Parish Council would fund the cost of the fixings.
- 56/23/2** **Signage at Murton crossroads** - following the last PC meeting, where the issue of residents being asked where they could park, an unofficial temporary sign directing people to the MOD car park had been erected by a Councillor. The resident of Gastle Barn reported objections to this sign and requested its removal. It had been removed during Appleby Horse Fair when travellers had arrived in the village and camped on the car park. It was agreed that this sign would be removed permanently.
- 56/23/3** **Impact of Appleby Horse Fair on Murton** – the owner of Rose Cottage described the incident which took place at this year's Horse Fair. Several caravans had arrived on Murton Village Green the day before the Fair Hill was opened. The police moved them to the MOD car park but did not take any further action. Various options to remove the risk of this being repeated were discussed. This item will be on the agenda for the next PC meeting. In the meantime the Chairman will discuss the issue with the MOD, those residents most affected will be canvassed. It was agreed that better communications from and between the police and the parish regarding the decision on when to admit caravans onto the Fair Hill would be helpful.
- 57/23** **Parish Council Electronic Mailing List** – this mailing list now has 15 members. The Clerk circulates details of PC meetings and information that would also go on parish noticeboards. Those wishing to join the mailing list should e-mail mailinglist@murton.org.uk giving their full name in the e-mail.

Signature



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- 58/23 Warcop Local Liaison Meeting & Local Access Meeting** – the Chairman had attended both these meetings which were the first held since 2019, before the coronavirus pandemic. There was nothing specific to report other than the deterioration of the Scordale track.
- 59/23 B4RN Project** – The project to bring high speed broadband to the parish has been halted. Building Digital UK (BDUK) has withdrawn the funding scheme for this area which B4RN had planned to use. MPs Neil Hudson and Tim Farron had been consulted and the issue had been raised in Parliament. The Murton Group are continuing to pursue this on residents' behalf and are not currently planning to remove the B4RN signs.
- 60/23 Community Renewable Energy** – Cllr King reported on this seminar and the Clerk will make the resource pack available on the Noticeboard on www.murton.org.uk. Topics covered included grants for public buildings, car charging points, Keswick's thermal imaging project to show where properties are losing heat, the expense of running air source heat pump, and reminders that currently oil boilers cannot be replaced after 2026 and gas boilers after 2030.
- 61/23 Hilton Drainage** – the Chairman reported no further contact from United Utilities regarding the issue of the old Hilton drainage system discharging raw sewage into Hilton Beck. UU had previously stated they would review the situation in 2025.
- 62/23 WESTMORLAND & FURNESS COUNCIL**
- 62/23/1 Planning Applications**
- 23/0417 – Caravan Park, Langton Field** – proposed extension to existing caravan park. The PC had written in support of this application. Cllr Bell had abstained from the discussion and voting as he had a personal interest in the development.
- 23/0493 – Brackenber Farm, Brackenber** – reserved matters re access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale re approval 21.0730 and resubmission of 22/0658.
- Resolved:** to support this planning application. This application had been submitted by Cllr Slack who had not taken part in any previous discussion, was not present at the meeting and therefore did not take part in the voting.
- 62/23/2 W&F Council Briefing on Potholes** – Cllr Hardman reported on this briefing where Highways had outlined the service they provide. The slides from the briefing can be found on the **Working with W&F Council and National Highways** page of: www.murton.org.uk
- 62/23/3 Highways** – the Clerk reported on previously reported faults:
- Murton footbridge – this was removed in 2022. Highways have commented that the bridge will be replaced eventually, maybe this financial year. A temporary sign had been erected by a Councillor but it was agreed that this was inappropriate and should be removed. It was noted that the alternative bridge is also deteriorating.
 - Request for warning signs re horses on the road between Appleby and Hilton – Highways commented that this location is included in the current works package being collated for road signage improvements.
 - The poor state of Murton crossroads road markings were reported in August 2022. The Clerk will contact Highways again.
 - The flooding under the A66 bypass near the Flakebridge turning continues to flood. The Clerk will contact Highways again.
- The Clerk will report the following faults:
- Drainage grate blocked with gravel at Hilton junction following recent roadworks.
 - There are several sections of overgrown verge on the road between Appleby and Hilton. The Clerk will ask for these to be cut back.

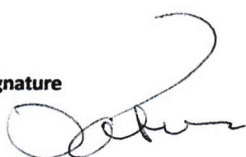
- There is a split kerb outside Coupland Beck Farm which needs cleaning. The Clerk will report this issue.
- 63/23 Councillor Training** – the Clerk will pursue the proposal to hold a bespoke Councillor Induction and training refresher delivered by CALC.
- 64/23 PARISH OWNED PROPERTY, VILLAGE GREENS & ENVIRONMENT**
- 64/23/1 H&S Checklists** – the checklists were distributed amongst Councillors.
- 64/23/2 Village Greens & Environment**
Hilton Top Green – a work party to tidy the green will be arranged shortly. It was noted that there were saplings growing in one of the water pumps at Hilton. Suggestions regarding the donation of an apple tree, and the creation of a pond were declined.
Milton bonfire site – pieces of metal were still appearing on the site following November's bonfire.
- 65/23 CEMETERY MANAGEMENT, HEALTH, SAFETY & MAINTENANCE**
- 65/23/1 Health, Safety & Maintenance** – the Chairman will discuss the state of the walls with the PC's agreed contractor.
- 65/23/2 Cemetery Mowing** – positive feedback, regarding the quality of the mowing undertaken by *Fixit4Eden*, had been received.
- 65/23/3 Memorial Plaque Area** – a plaque had recently been purchased for the wall.
- 66/23 FINANCIAL REPORTS - Budget 2023/24 & Current Financial Situation (Appendix 1)** – This report was reviewed. The Clerk had not submitted a claim for expenses for this quarter as there would only be one item to claim.
Resolved: that the current Financial Report be signed by the Chairman.
- 67/23 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.
- 68/23 Councillors' reports and items for future agenda** – there were no items.
- 69/23 Next Meeting**
Ordinary Meeting - Monday 6 November 2023

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

June L. Watson

Parish Clerk

Signature



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7 November 2023