

MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MURTON PARISH COUNCIL 7 November 2023

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

- 70/23 Apologies for Absence** – George Slack, farming commitments.
Resolved: to accept the reason for absence provided by this Councillor.
- 71/23 Declarations of Interest** - no declarations of personal or pecuniary interests in respect of items on this Agenda were made by elected members.
- 72/23 Minutes of Previous Meetings**
Resolved: that the Minutes of the Ordinary held on 7 August 2023 be signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.
- 73/23 OPEN SESSION** – No issues were raised by members of the public.
- 74/23 Parish Council Electronic Mailing List** – this mailing list has increased from 15 to 20 members since the last meeting. 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.
- 75/23 Murton Bonfire** – the annual Guy Fawkes’ Night Bonfire had been well managed and around £500 had been raised for charity. The organisers will undertake two clearing sessions, the first to clear obvious debris and the second to clear settled debris.
- 76/23 Murton Broadband Working Group** – Mrs Govan thanked the PC for its support for this group. The group had been set up to pursue the cancelled B4RN project to bring gigabit broadband to households in the parish. The funding has been diverted to Fibrus who are commissioned to deliver the Government’s Project Gigabit in this area. Attempts to discover how and when gigabit broadband will be delivered have been unsuccessful. The Group have therefore arranged a public meeting for **3.30 pm on Saturday 3 December at Murton Institute** and have invited MPs Tim Farron and Neil Hudson, BDUK (Government department holding the funds), Connecting Cumbria, Fibrus, B4RN, the press and other stakeholders. Parishioners are encouraged to show their interest and concern by attending.
Resolved: that the PC fully supports this initiative.
- 77/23 Fellrunner Bus Service** – Parishioners had raised the issue of the lack of public transport to the parish with Tim Farron MP at his recent visit to the parish. Mr Farron had contacted the Fellrunner Bus Service and their response was read out. Fellrunner are happy to discuss residents’ need should they receive an approach.
- 78/23 WESTMORLAND & FURNESS COUNCIL**
78/23/1 Planning Application
23/0623 – Bank Wood Farm, Brackenber – formation of a track for livestock. The PC had written in support of this application.

- 78/23/2 Highways** – the Clerk gave updates on previously reported faults and undertook to pursue those still outstanding:
- Road markings at Murton crossroads. The Clerk had been informed that these would be repainted in the current financial year.
 - Murton footbridge – one bridge was removed in 2022 and the alternative bridge is also deteriorating. Cllr Hardman had taken photographs. These will be forwarded to Highways.
 - Overhanging vegetation on the road between Appleby and Hilton. The Clerk had been informed that this task had been assigned to a Highways Team.
 - The split kerb outside Coupland Beck Farm which needs clearing as it overflows in wet weather. This task had also been assigned to a Highways Team.
 - The standard of repairs to the potholes between Murton crossroads and the fellgate is poor, the most recent repairs lasting only five days. The Clerk will report this again.
 - Brackenber cattle grid gate. The Clerk reported that in early October Highways had said it would be repaired within 2-3 weeks. It is now becoming hazardous. The Clerk will forward Councillors' concerns to Highways.
 - Hilton Bridge – usage by HGVs during AS66 closures. The Clerk had forwarded photographs to Highways who responded by stating that the bridge had been designed to carry the weight of HGVs and their loads and does not require signage re abnormal loads. The Clerk will make the point that it is not just the bridge, but also the roads to and from Hilton which are not suitable for HGVs.
 - Damage to Murton bridge – the Clerk will report this.
 - Keisley bridge – following damage in August this bridge was officially closed but the barriers have been pushed to one side and people are passing through the area. The Clerk will pursue this with Highways.
 - The flooding under the A66 bypass near the Flakebridge turning continues to flood. After the meeting the Clerk checked the records which state the problem would be addressed in the current financial year.

79/23 PARISH OWNED PROPERTY, VILLAGE GREENS & ENVIRONMENT

79/23/1 H&S Checklists:

Hilton – the telephone box needs repainting. The bench outside Green Tree, refurbished by the owners of Green Tree looks very good.

Murton – No problems to report.

Cemetery and Other Sites – to follow.

79/23/2 Village Greens & Environment

Hilton Top Green – The Chairman will talk to Fixit4Eden regarding tidying the green.

- 79/23/3 Appleby Horse Fair** – at the last PC meeting a resident undertook to organise a public meeting to discuss the concerns raised by residents when members of the travelling community camped overnight in Murton in May 2023. The meeting on 19 September had been well managed and well attended. Cllr Patterson reported that several good points had been raised and there had been overwhelming support for efforts to prevent it happening again. Following discussion the PC agreed to take forward those recommendations which would lead to clarification of the law regarding camping on the variously designated sites in the parish, ie village green, common and MOD land. In particular the PC would arrange to:
- meet with the Multi Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group (MASC) to request that Murton be included in the designated zone for control and policing.
 - meet with Cumbria Police to clarify the legal aspects of encampment on village green, common land and the MOD car park.
 - discuss the access and use of the MOD car park during the Horse Fair with the MOD.
- Resolved:** to take the above approach to avoiding a repeat of the situation in 2023.

- 79/23/4 Hilton fell gate parking area** – it was noted that W&F Council had contacted the PC with regard to a complaint about the renovation of the parking area by the MOD. The Clerk had not received an update.
- 80/23 CEMETERY MANAGEMENT, HEALTH, SAFETY & MAINTENANCE** - The Chairman will discuss the state of the walls with the PC's agreed contractor. A tidying up session will be arranged before the end of March.
- 81/23 FINANCIAL REPORTS**
- 81/23/1 Budget 2023/24 & Current Financial Situation** (Appendix 1) – This report was reviewed. An adjustment to the report had been made earlier in the day to reflect the national pay award for the Clerk's salary.
Resolved: that the current Financial Report be signed by the Chairman.
- 81/23/2 Budget & Precept 2024/25** (Appendix 2) – The Clerk presented the proposed budget. The PC had achieved its long-term goal of reducing the annual deficit and maintaining an acceptable reserve.
Resolved: to accept the provisional proposal that the precept request remains the same with no increase to the household precept. This will be confirmed at the February meeting.
- 81/23/3 Internal Auditor** – following advertising for the voluntary role of Internal Auditor for the PC, two expressions of interest had been received.
Resolved: that the Clerk contact the person with the accountancy qualification regarding accepting the role and thank the other volunteer for their interest.
- 81/23/4 Signatory for the PC Bank Account** – Cllr King agreed to continue being the third signatory on the bank account until the Vice Chairman had located the necessary ID for the Cumberland Building Society.
- 82/23 Emergency Information Sheet** (Appendix 3) – this document was reviewed, and it was agreed that Mrs Govan's name be removed from the contacts list and Cllr Bell's name be added.
- 83/23 Code of Conduct** – W&F Council had requested that PCs adopted the latest version of the Code of Conduct. It was noted however that the only change in the wording was the substitution of W&F Council instead of Eden District Council.
- 84/23 Councillor Training** – the fee for a bespoke Councillor Training session to be delivered at the Institute is £150. The Clerk will canvas Councillors for dates and arrange a mutually convenient session with the CALC trainer.
- 85/23 Remembrance Sunday – 12 November 2023** – the Chairman will lay the wreath at the war memorial after the church service.
- 86/23 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.
- 87/23 Councillors' reports and items for future agenda** – there were no items.
- 88/23 Next Meeting**
Ordinary Meeting - Monday 5 February 2024

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm



Parish Clerk

Signature

Date of Meeting
5 February 2024