

MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MURTON PARISH COUNCIL 5 February 2024

Present: Jim Hardman, Anne King, Tina Longstaff, John McDarren (Chairman), Willie Patterson, W&F Councillor Andy Connell, representatives of MASCG and 17 members of the public.

- 01/24 Apologies for Absence** – Alastair Bell, holiday; George Slack, farming commitments (calving).
Resolved: to accept the reason for absence provided by this Councillor.
- 02/24 Declarations of Interest** - no declarations of personal or pecuniary interests in respect of items on this Agenda were made by elected members.
- 03/24 Minutes of Previous Meetings**
Resolved: that the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 7 November 2023 be signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.
- 04/24 OPEN SESSION** – No issues were raised by members of the public.
- 05/24 Appleby Horse Fair** – the Chairman welcomed representatives of the Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group (MASCG) to the meeting: Emma Brass, W&F Interim Senior Public Protection Manager; Inspector Mo Bibby, and Sergeant Sophie Davies from Penrith & Eden Neighbourhood Policing Team.

MASCG were invited to the meeting following the concerns raised and discussed by residents at a public meeting in September 2023. The background and issues are described in Appendix 1 and a summary of the discussion is below:

- The areas of land under discussion have different owners: the Middle and Upper Village Greens are owned by the PC and the car park is owned by the MOD. Overnight camping is not allowed on either of these areas. The few travellers which have used the Hilton fell gate area have not, to date, caused any problems for residents. The landowner is responsible for removing those people camping illegally.
- The Chairman has been in contact with the MOD regarding the car park at Murton fell gate which was used for camping by travellers in 2023. The MOD are investigating the legal status and exercise of control over camping on this car park.
- The Chairman has contacted W&FC regarding better signage for the car parks, ie no overnight camping.
- Ms Brass stated that consistency and transparency were key considerations for MASCG.
- Parishes have taken different approaches to managing the influx of travellers. Some anticipate the travellers arriving and provide toilets and waste bins, others create obstructions to camping with large boulders.
- Horse drawn and motorised encampments are treated differently as horse welfare has to be taken into consideration.
- A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is in place for the Appleby area. It may be possible to extend the current TRO to cover Murton. The police need a statement from the landowners to support such action. The Chairman has contacted Highways regarding Murton being included in the TRO.

- The posts erected on the roadsides, eg along the turnpike, are there to display signage about the TRO. It was noted that this is effective on the Brackenber moor road across the golf course.
- It was agreed that the aim of this discussion is to ensure the safety and security of the Appleby and Murton communities. A pro-active approach would focus on the avoidance of a similar situation to 2023 when residents, particularly the older and more vulnerable, felt particularly threatened by the presence of travellers.
- Concerns over the empowerment of the police to enact legislation were raised. Inspector Bibby stated that the legalities regarding encampment control were complex but an RTO would be part of this discussion.
- Inspector Bibby encouraged people to report incidents to provide evidence for the RTO and to make complaints about any police response which was felt to be inadequate.
- The request from Murton PC will be discussed at the next MASCG meeting on 20 February.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for coming to the meeting and looked forward to hearing from MASCG soon.

- 06/24 Parish Council Electronic Mailing List** – this mailing list has 20 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.
- 07/24 Councillor Training** – the date for this induction and refresher delivered by CALC has been set for 6.30 pm on Monday 26 February.
- 08/24 Murton Broadband Working Group** – Further to the well-attended public meeting held on 3 December, Tim Farron MP had written to BDUK, the national body overseeing the roll out of gigabit broadband. Mrs Govan will contact him for an update.
- 09/24 WESTMORLAND & FURNESS COUNCIL**
- 09/24/1 23/0606 – Low Barn, Flakebridge** – replacement of existing agricultural buildings with 10 serviced residential accommodation units for leisure purposes and associated communal facilities (part retrospective). The PC supported this application. There was one objection.
- 23/0417 – Langton Field** – extension to existing caravan park with revised access. The PC supported this application. Cllr Bell abstained.
- 23/1157 – Low Barn, Flakebridge** – Variation of condition 2 (plans compliance) for amendments to parking layout and passing place provision, attached to approval 21/0231. The PC supported this application.
- 23/0623 – Bank Wood, Brackenber** – formation of a track for livestock – to note the W&FC approval of this application.
- 09/24/2 Local Heritage List** – the Hilton water system had been nominated for inclusion on the Local Heritage List. This was the first item put forward for inclusion. Others may follow.
- 09/24/2 Highways** – the Clerk gave updates on previously reported faults and undertook to pursue those still outstanding:
- Murton footbridges – no further information had been received about the repair of and replacement of these bridges.
 - Overhanging vegetation on the road between Appleby and Hilton. The Chairman said this could be dealt with by volunteers.
 - Hilton Bridge – the damage caused by an HGV will not be repaired in this financial year.
 - Keisley bridge – following damage in August this bridge was officially closed but is being used.

- Keisley road – Cllr Hardman will take photos of reported damage and send them to the Clerk for reporting.
 - Coupland Beck – a vehicle slid on the ice, through the fence and into the beck. The Clerk will report this damage to fence and signs.
 - Brook House – the culvert continues to overflow.
 - Murton bus shelter – pothole
 - Footpath signs at the top of Mill Lane and the top Village Green in Hilton are in need of replacement.
- 10/24** **PARISH OWNED PROPERTY, VILLAGE GREENS & ENVIRONMENT** – there were no significant issues to report. The annual litter pick up will take place on Sunday 17 March and the Cemetery Clean up on Sunday 25 February.
- 10/24/1** **W&FC Strong & Connected Communities Fund** – the funding available for replacement benches was discussed. Benches at Murton bus shelter, outside Swindale and Fairview in Hilton were proposed for replacement.
- 10/24/2** **Rotary Club of Appleby** – the offer of bulbs for planting at the entry to the villages was welcomed. The Chairman will liaise with the Rotary Club.
- 10/24/3** **20 mph Speed Limit** – the W&FC policy to introduce reduced speed limits in communities was discussed.
Resolved: that the PC would not propose a reduction in speed limit in Hilton and Murton. There was one abstention.
- 11/24** **CEMETERY MANAGEMENT, HEALTH, SAFETY & MAINTENANCE** – Further repairs to the cemetery walls will be made soon. A tidying up session, to include tidying the overgrown laurel bushes and removal of storm debris will be arranged before the end of March. The Clerk reported the Councillors’ approval (by e-mail) for a wooden marker to be erected in the cemetery.
- 12/24** **FINANCIAL REPORTS**
- 12/24/1** **Budget 2023/24 & Current Financial Situation** (Appendix 2) – This report was reviewed. It was noted that there was an underspend as anticipated repairs to the cemetery and spend on village environment had not taken place.
The Clerk raised the issue of the ring-fenced Defibrillator Fund which had been created by donation in 2016 and had not been used since March 2020 as expenses were covered by Appleby First Responders.
Resolved: that the Defibrillator Fund is no longer ring-fenced. Future defibrillator expenses to be ascribed to the main account, and that the current Financial Report be signed by the Chairman.
- 12/24/2** **Budget & Precept 2024/25** (Appendix 2) – The Clerk presented the updated budget which had been agreed in principle at the November meeting.
Resolved: That the budget and precept is approved.
- 12/24/3** **Signatory for the PC Bank Account** – Cllr Patterson offered to be the third signatory on the bank account.
- 13/24** **Register of Vulnerable Households** – CALC had invited PCs to create a such a list to hold locally and which can be included on a national database. Property details, not personal information, would be included.
Resolved: that the PC develop such a list.
- 14/24** **Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 4 March**
It was agreed that the Cumbria Police offer of a talk about fraud prevention be taken up as the topic for this meeting. The Clerk will also contact MASCG to see if an update would be available for this meeting.

- 15/24 Remembering D-Day and the Battle of Normandy 80th Anniversary – Thursday 6 June 2024 –**
no-one was aware of any planned activities in the parish.
- 16/24 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.
- 17/24 Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda –** there were no items.
- 18/24 Next Meeting**
Annual Parish Council Meeting followed by Ordinary Meeting - Monday 13 May 2024

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

June L. Watson.

Parish Clerk