

ALLITHWAITE AND CARTMEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ALLITHWAITE AND CARTMEL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ALLITHWAITE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY 14th DECEMBER 2023 at 3.00 pm.

Present: Cllrs Johnson (Chair), Barrett, Dean, Donally, Huggett, Lamb, and Sim.
The leader of Westmorland and Furness Council, Cllr Brook. The Clerk Christine Downey. One member of the public.

- 165 **Apologies** from members unable to attend:-
- 165.1 To note apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.
None.
- 165.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence – if consideration of reason requested.
None.
- 166 **Declaration of interest:-**
- 166.1 To note declarations of interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Discretionary Pecuniary Interests.
None.
- 166.1 To approve dispensation requests – if dispensation request received.
None.
- 167 **Public Participation:**
- 167.1 **To receive comments & Concerns:** To hear matters raised by members of the public or Cllrs with an interest (that are allowed to speak) either on agenda items or for future consideration.
None.
(NB: for non-agenda items Members of the Council are not permitted to respond, except to ask questions for the purpose of clarification: A member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 minutes)
- 167.2 **Unity Council update:- No report received.**
- 168 To discuss the following items with **Cllr Jonathan Brook** (or his representative) of Westmorland and Furness Council, and to agree a way forward:-
- 168.1,
168.2 &
168.4 to
168.7
- 168.3 Parking permits for holiday lettings. (Papers 2023/61 and 62)
It was reported that:-
- The action plan that was agreed with the parking manager by Cllr Donally included the removal of parking permits from holiday homes, where there is no entitlement to a parking permit.
 - The parking manager has been unable to fulfil the agreed action, and that this appears to be due to the fact that the traffic manager has allocated a single “granny right” visitor permit to the properties.
 - The parking regulations do not appear to contain any provision for permits to be issued to second home owners, or for anything called a “granny right”.

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- Cllr Donally is still receiving a lot of complaints about what appears to be misadministration of the parking regulations and the fact that permits are being incorrectly issued to second home owners.

RESOLVED: Cllr Donally to pursue this matter with the parking manger, to query the usage of “granny right” permits (what is it?), and to stress that adherence to the regulations regarding not issuing parking permits to second home owner’s is imperative.

RESOLVED: To pursue this matter with Cllr Brook later in the meeting.

- 169 To note the resignation of Councillor Pendlebury.
Noted.
- 170 To consider written applications for the office of parish councillor and to fill vacant seats by co-option. (Paper 2023/63)
RESOLVED: That Mark Simpson is co-opted onto the Council.
- 171 To Confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting on 8th November 2023. (Paper 2023/64)
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of 8th November 2023 are agreed and signed.
- 172 To receive the Clerks Report (for information only). (Paper 2023/65)
Received.
- 173 Highway Matters:-
- 173.1 To receive a report on Cllr Deans meeting with a Highways Officer regarding the condition of footpaths – if not already dealt with at item 168.
No report yet. Cllr Dean is pursuing a meeting.
- 173.2 To consider and note Highway Matters for information. (Councillors can comment on any minor highway issues currently causing concern).
**The online reporting of highway Issues does not always seem to produce a response, but it is possible to report problems by phone. It was reported that there is a phone number on the Westmorland and Furness Council website, which Cllr Huggett will circulate,
Several potholes have recently been repaired.**
- 174 To consider the following **planning applications**:-
- 174.1 TR/2023/0173: Barnrigg, Aynsome Road, Cartmel, Grange-over-Sands, LA11 6PS: T1 Conifer – whole crown reduction to 1.8m above ground level.
No objections.
- 175 **Finance**:-
- 175.1 To appoint two councillors to the Finance committee following the two recent resignations. (Paper 2023/66)
RESOLVED: Cllrs Barrett and Johnson a[[ointed to the Finance Committee.
- 175.2 To agree the Accounts for Payment. (Papers 2023/67 and 68)

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Christine Downey	Clerks' salary November	901.50
HMRC	Tax and NIC November	172.29
Cumbria Waste Recycling	Cemetery bin emptying	31.20
Dean Shaw	Orchard / meadow grass cutting	500.00
Cartmel Village Hall	Room hire	51.00
Steve Sims for Your Parking Sings	Signage for bus stop "no parking"	36.85
Waterplus	Cartmel toilets	16.03
Christmas in Cartmel	Community grant	500.00
NBB recycled Furniture	King George V picnic bench	570.00
C Downey for Freethought	Website domain name for 2 years	120.00
Spatial Data Limited	Parish Cottage survey and drawings	480.00
John Coward Architects	Professional fees	396.00
Grange Now	Newsletter	369.88
Jon Wright Ltd	Cemetery / triangle grass cutting	739.00
Barry Dean	Printing, postage, stationery, travel exps	366.43
GLB Signs	Quarry signs	471.00
Diane Malley Payroll Services	Payroll service	60.00
Npower	electricity bill toilets	41.87
Cumbria Waste Recycling	Waste collection	29.16
Waterplus	Water bill toilets	15.51
Kikwells Ltd	Neighbourhood Plan Revision	1,176.00
Christine Downey	Clerk's salary December and back pay	1,150.29
HMRC	Tax and NIC December	337.69
TOTAL		£8,531.70

RESOLVED: That the payments above are approved.

RESOLVED: That the payments will be authorised by Cllr Lamb.

176

IT Matters:-

- 176.1 To consider the IT support arrangements and to agree a way forward (Papers 2023/69 and 70)

It was reported that IT matters are currently the responsibility of IH Media and not the clerk, but that the current arrangements are not proving to be satisfactory.

RESOLVED: Clerk to attempt to obtain two more quotes on the same specifications as those quoted for by Coactive ICT, for consideration at the Precept meeting.

- 176.2 To receive an update regarding quote for providing councillors with professional equipment, for consideration at Precept.

RESOLVED: Clerk to attempt to obtain two more quotes on the same specifications as those quoted for by Coactive ICT, for consideration at the Precept meeting.

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- 177 Fish Slabs and Pinnacle Project and celebrations: To receive an update on the Fish Slabs and Pinnacle Project and funding. (Paper 2023/73)
It was reported that Cllr Dean is waiting to hear from the National Lottery regarding how much is required to be paid back.
The meeting with two members of the CVS committee on 6th December went ahead. Clerk to circulate a copy of the legislation on the prohibition of making donations to schools.

178 **The Quarry:-**

- 178.1 To receive an update regarding the Quarry.

Received.

Clerk to resend the questions from Grantscape for the online completion report, which is to be submitted by 31/12/23, to Cllr Sim.

- 178.2 To discuss the ten year plan and agree a way forward. (Papers 2023/72 and 73)

RESOLVED: Agenda item for next meeting - Form a Quarry Working group to review the ten year plan and take it forward.

Cllr Brook joined the meeting at 3.35 PM and was welcomed by the chair.

- 168 To discuss the following items with **Cllr Jonathan Brook** (or his representative) of Westmorland and Furness Council, and to agree a way forward:-

- 168.1 Concerns regarding the draft statements of Licensing and Gambling Policy. (Item 182 refers)

The was a lengthy discussion regarding the limitations of the draft statement of Licensing, the main points were-

- Village Halls and Community Centres are bespoke, with individual booking/engagement arrangements, and this needs to be reflected in the licensing policy.
- The policies need to be relevant to each venue.
- A one-size-fits-all policy is completely inadequate.
- There are three establishments in Cartmel that regularly play loud music on amplifiers. The music can be heard as far away as the racecourse. And when music is played at the racecourse residents can actually hear the conversation of performers on stage in their gardens. The way the sound carries appears to be due to the topography of the area.
- The draft licensing statement does not address these problems and it really needs to.
- There is nothing in the document regarding regular open-air entertainment except for a reference to the level of decibels. However, as the level of decibels differs from song to song this is an entirely inadequate method of regulating the sound levels, and it is impossible to implement and police.
- The policy needs to include separate provisions for establishments that run regular music events.
- On public holiday dates there can be two establishments in Cartmel with music events happening at the same time. This also needs to be addressed in the policy document.

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- The racecourse now holds music events outside of race days, for example, weddings.
- The sound from the racecourse carries a very long way, due to the topography, even when the sound is within the permitted decibel range at the event site.
- The draft statement on licensing is trying to cover too much at once, and more detailed policies are imperative.
- The Council is keen to support local businesses and resolve these problems and would be happy to meet with W&FC Officers to discuss how the draft statement can be improved in light of these concerns.
- It is the outside events that cause the problems.
- It was also noted that the document does not mention child employment.

RESOLVED: Cllr Brook will report these concerns to W&FC and will pass on the offer of assistance. He will respond to the clerk on this point in due course.

168.2 Possible surrender of the lease on the Cartmel Riverside toilets.

It was reported that:-

- The Cartmel Riverside toilet building is derelict and the Council does not have funds to bring it back into use.
- Public toilets are urgently needed in Cartmel.
- The PC did secure a grant towards the cost of bringing the toilets back into use, but it was dependent on the toilets including a “Changing Places” facility, and that is impossible because of access issues at the site, which cannot be overcome. There is no option for a changing places facility at the site.
- The toilets were acquired from SLDC on a 99 year lease in approximately 2008/09.
- The PC has written to W&FC asking if they would take responsibility back for the toilet block. The question was asked several months ago but no reply has been received.

RESOLVED: Cllr Brook will look into the position and will respond to the clerk on this point in due course.

168.3 Parking permits for holiday lettings. (Papers 2023/61 and 62)

(An initial discussion on this point can be found near the start of the meeting).

It was reported that:-

- Half of the holiday homes in the area have been issued with parking permits even though they do not meet the criteria.
- These permits are taking up residents parking.
- It appears that a previous parking manager was reluctant to remove permits when they had been incorrectly issued, and that this situation is continuing.
- The council would like to see the parking regulations administered correctly.
- Can the permits that have been incorrectly issued to second home owners be removed by W&FC urgently?
- Residents are seeking a level playing field, with proper administration of the parking regulations, and with enforcement of the primary residence rules in particular.
- An action plan was agreed between the Parish Council and the parking manger, but that is not being adhered to.
- “Granny right” permits are being issued. What are these? What are the criteria for these permits?

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RESOLVED: Cllr Brook will look into the position and will respond to the clerk on this point in due course.

RESOLVED: Cllr Brook will let the PC know exactly what “granny right” are, and what are the criteria for this type of permit.

Cllr Donally left the meeting at this point.

168.4 Condition of various footpaths.

It was reported that Cllr Dean has been attempting to arrange a meeting with Peter Hodgkiss of the Highways department for several months.

Cllr Brook asked if the issues have been reported on the council website which is the recommended method, but it was explained that the problems need discussing with Peter first in order to decide how best to report the complicated situation.

RESOLVED: Cllr Dean will try to arrange a meeting again, and if this has not been successful by the New Year he will contact Cllr Brook to pursue the matter on behalf of the PC.

168.5 Resurfacing of the remaining roads in Allithwaite and Cartmel.

168.6 Neighbourhood Plan Referendum.

It was reported that:-

- It is over seven months since W&FC were asked to arrange the referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Grange has advised the PC that the referendum on their Neighbourhood Plan was arranged within a few weeks of the request.
- The only reason that has been given for the continued delay is that “it is a legal problem”.
- The PC need to know please:-
 - What exactly is the legal problem?
 - What is being done to resolve it?
 - When will the referendum take place?

RESOLVED: Cllr Brook will look into the position and will respond to the clerk on this point in due course.

168.7 Planning application notifications.

It was reported that:-

- The list is supposed to be update every Monday but this is not happening
- The PC need to be notified of each new planning application at the earliest possible opportunity.
- A weekly list already delays that notification in many cases, even when it is made available, and now it is often not available.
- The system is not working and needs to be reviewed in view of the fact that it is stopping the PC from fulfilling its legal obligations.

RESOLVED: Cllr Brook will look into the position and will respond to the clerk on this point in due course.

Cllr Brook left the meeting at 4.07 PM and was thanked by the chair for attending.

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- 179 To consider a proposal for the Allithwaite Allotments to sign up to Allotment Society. (Paper 2023/74)
RESOLVED: That the Parish Council will join the Allotment Society in respect of the Allithwaite Allotments.
- 180 To receive an update regarding The Cottage and agree a way forward.
Cllr Dean has all matters regarding the cottage in hand.
- 181 To receive an update regarding the Cartmel riverside toilets and agree a way forward.
Dealt with at item 168.2.
- 182 To consider the draft **Statement of Licensing and Gambling Policy** from Westmorland and Furness Council and agree a response. (Closing date 31/12/23). (Paper2 2023/56 and 57)
RESOLVED: Clerk to draft a response in line with the what was reported at item 168.1 above, and from the email received from the Allithwaite Playing Field Committee on this matter.
- 183 To receive the Allithwaite December Report. (Paper 2023/75)
Received.
- 184 To consider the following correspondence and to agree a way forward and/or a response:-
184.1 Email regarding possible purchase of land as a community asset. (Paper 2023/76)
RESOLVED: Not to proceed with a land purchase.
- 185 To receive reports from councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only) – if any.
Cllr Barrett was only informed of the most recent meeting of the Allithwaite School and House charity the day before, and was therefore unable to attend.
- 186 Minor items for information only, and items for next agenda.
Minor items:-
 - Clerk is on holiday between Christmas and New Year, apart from issuing the agenda for the finance meeting as necessary.**Agenda items:-**
 - Form a Quarry Working group to review the ten year plan and take it forward.
 - Apologies received from Cllr Lamb for the meeting on 11th January 2024.
- 187 Date of next meeting:
Finance Committee meeting: 04/01/2024 at Allithwaite at 3.00pm.
Full Council meeting: 11/01/2024 at Allithwaite at 3.00 pm.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 4.15 pm.