

CASTLE CARROCK & GELTS DALE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday 11th March 2015 - 7:30pm
Watson Institute

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs. Devereux (Chair), Johnstone, Knight, Holland, Brown

In attendance: T Meynell (Clerk), City Councillor D Parsons, David Rawsthorn (Internal Auditor)

1. Apologies – Cllr Wright, Cllr Widdowson, County Cllr Bill Graham

2. Declaration of interests.

Cllr Johnstone declared an interest in agenda **item 4e**.

3. Minutes.

The Chairman authorized and signed the minutes of the meeting held on 14TH January as a true record.

4. Agenda Items

a. Parishioner Lin Kendall explained to all present about a scheme to map the churchyard/gravestones: Currently there is no proper plan of the graveyard in Castle Carrock; the gravestones are randomly sited and some of the sandstone headstones are losing detail due to crumbling with age. 'Atlantic Geomatics' use GPS equipment to survey the graveyard, and would also go through all the parish records and link them to the gravestones – some of which go back to 16/1700's. End result would be a link between location of gravestone and information on records. A hardcopy of the gravestone map would be provided. Once created, the database would need to be updated by administrators in the parish on an ongoing basis. This project would create a permanent historical record for the future. The fee being quoted is around £1700 with ongoing costs of £12 pcm to maintain the database. Ms Kendall asked for the view of the parish council, given that this is not just a 'church' thing, but more of a historical record for the village. Atlantic Geomatics would be happy to come to a meeting to explain further. It was suggested by Cllr Devereux that our AGM in May would be a good time for them to come and talk to the Parish Council and members of the village community. It was agreed that in principle it is a good idea to investigate the potential of this scheme. Lin will invite the company representatives to the AGM

b. In conjunction with the above it was agreed that the former Congregational Church graveyard which now forms part of the garden belonging to the Lows might possibly be included in the above project. There are about 12 gravestones although there once would have been many more. Cllr Johnstone will liaise with the Lows. Including this graveyard in the project would complete the historical records for the village.

c. Cllr Holland updated all present on current progress with the allotments. The Capital Asset Transfer has been agreed. Currently waiting for the City Council legal department to draw up the 'Heads of Terms' which will state whether the land will be leasehold, peppercorn rent etc etc. Cllr Holland, as a qualified solicitor, would be happy to take on the role of getting the Parish Council's legal side of things taken care of. It was unanimously agreed that this was a good idea and would save several hundred pounds. Cllr Johnstone feels that 'searches' should be done, particularly an archaeological one and a 'local search'. Cllr Holland will organise these. Ground-works needed: Possibly to plough the whole field deeply to get rid of weeds, though it might be better for individual allotment holders to dig their own plots as they wish. Paths will need to be laid/kept around each plot. A main path will be kept down one side of field leading to the beck. An area of hard-standing will need to be put in place for the communal shed area. It was agreed that there is little point in setting up the Allotment Association until the whole project is up and running. It is the job of the PC to take charge of the initial ground-works to enable people to get their individual plots marked out, and then hand over to the Allotment Association who will ultimately be responsible for maintenance of same. It was suggested that Community Pay Back might be a way of getting labour for digging if it was decided not to plough by tractor. Charges to allotment holders will have to be calculated according to running costs. The clerk will contact all those interested in having a plot and invite them to a meeting with the Parish Council in July. Cllr Holland was thanked for her endless hard work involved.

2.

d. To note that the North Pennines AONB will be holding a meeting in the Watson Hall on 17th March. Cllr Widdowson has agreed to attend the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Devereux will also aim to attend.

e. Request from Geltsdale Arts for a donation of £250 to go towards funding for Music on the Marr 2015. David Rawsthorn noted how the Parish Council had supported MoM since its inception as the event is beneficial to the village, particularly with regard to supporting the pub. Unanimously agreed to carry on supporting by means of this donation. The cheque will be paid to Geltsdale Arts at the next meeting in May.

f. Kilwren Lonning – further discussion on which sections need repairing; Cllr Brown has obtained two quotes to repair more or less the entire length from Garth Marr to the Beck aside from the stretch already repaired by the Parish Council a few years ago. One quote was for £3400 plus VAT and one for £3200 plus VAT. Funding would have to be obtained in order to carry out such a large task. Cllr Brown said he would be happy to contribute some money to the project as it would be advantageous to him as he is farming the land accessed from the lonning.

g. Carlisle City Council Local Plan – draft now available for comment. Cllr Widdowson has obtained a hardcopy of the documents and has drafted some comments regarding items which need addressing. We need to find out from UUPLC what the sewage works is ACTUALLY capable of handling in terms of new residential development. Cllr Widdowson will also point out that landscapes are not being looked after with residential development on green field sites being allowed through the planning system.

h. The two trees on the Marr are due to be felled imminently (as per recorded in minutes of previous meeting 14/1/15). In conjunction with this, the clerk will contact the drainage engineers and find out when work is going to take place to repair the drains underneath the Marr, keeping the dates of MoM in mind. As mentioned at the previous meeting Cllr Brown is happy to have some young oak trees planted in Harrold's Hill behind the school. The Parish Council will organise this.

i. Further reminder to Councillors to update their Notification of Personal Interest forms if necessary.

5. Correspondence – letters and emails received were viewed and discussed where appropriate.

6. Financial Matters - Statement of account and bills to pay as follows

a. Reimbursement for office expenses to parish clerk. £7.00 Cheque #368

b. Annual payment to Information Commissioner – Data Protection now due £35.00 cheque #367

7. Planning Matters

a. 15/0145 – Gelt Hall Farm – Erection of agricultural shed behind existing barn on back lonning behind Rectory Rd. Unanimously agreed that there are no objections.

8. Councillor's Issues

A litter pick is required before the grass starts to grow. The clerk will organize. The PC has litter pickers and Geltsdale Arts will lend high-vis jackets if required. This will take place over the first weekend in April.

The meeting closed at 20:55

Date of next meeting, Wed 13th May 2015
The AGM will also be on this date.