

CASTLE CARROCK & GELTS DALE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday 14th January 2015 - 7:30pm
Watson Institute

MINUTES

Present: G Devereux (Chair), Cllrs R Johnstone, D Knight, S Wright, H Holland, G Widdowson

In attendance: D Rawsthorn (Internal Auditor), T Meynell (Clerk), Simon Miller

1. Apologies. D Parsons (City Councillor)

2. Declaration of interests. R Johnstone declared an interest in planning application 14/1067 and in Agenda Item b

3. Minutes.

The chairman authorized and signed the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2014 as a true record.

Agenda Items

- a. Allotments** – update. The Parish Council is still waiting for Carlisle City Council to complete the legal process. Cllr. Graham has said that there is some money available in his funds for equipment needed for the allotments, and whilst work on the ground cannot be started until the City Council's legal department have completed their work, grant money can be applied for in advance. To this end Cllr Holland will fill in the necessary paperwork. Cllr Devereux has been investigating costs of water pumps, solar panels and sheds. Exact requirements will be worked out as the project comes to fruition.
- b. Drains on village green and outside Cornerstones** – Work to replace and repair the drains has been put on the Highways Department agenda and should be approved in March, after which time works can begin. The drain beneath the Marr will be replaced. Cllr Graham has been aiding the progress of the work by repeated contact with the relevant departments. Regarding the trees on the Marr closest to the Duke of Cumberland – the first tree, whilst not impacting directly on the drains, is invading the foundations of the Duke and the second one along causes a problem for the Music on the Marr marquee, in addition to also spreading its roots towards the Duke. It was unanimously agreed that both trees should be felled in order to prevent further problems. However, it was also agreed that some young trees should be planted elsewhere to compensate for the loss. It was suggested that the planting could be in the field behind the school belong to Keith Brown (aka Harrold's Hill) if he is amenable to the suggestion. Stumps from the felled trees would be removed with a stump grinder and the Marr will be levelled. A note will be put into the parish news explaining the situation.
- c. Replacement litter bin for Jockey Shield** – City Council will not replace the old litter bin, even after repeated attempts by the Parish Council to get them to do so. They will now be approached to see if we could place a wheelie bin on the site and have that emptied by the City Council.
- d. Enquiry to UUPLC** to see if they would repair reservoir track at Garth Foot end – awaiting reply. The clerk will contact C & D Property Services to see if they can stop the water flowing out of the wood across the track.
- e. Killwren Lonning:** If repairs are to be carried out with funding from County Council, the bid needs to be in by end of January. The section which needs repairing most is the stretch from Garth Marr downhill until the first left hand bend. Two estimates will be sought from J A Wannop and from Graham Prudham 07802 235377 and funding will be applied for.
- f. Glebe Field** - Update on Church Commission plan to sell the field for development. The planning application which the Parish Council was alerted to in November 2014 has not been submitted due to a change in national planning policy regarding affordable housing. The Carlisle Diocese representative will update the Parish Council when anything is decided.

g. Precept for next financial year. It was agreed that since grant funding (Parish Grant) from the City Council is being phased out over the next two years, there was no alternative other than to raise the precept to cover the shortfall of £500 currently received in the form of an annual Parish Grant which is paid in addition to the actual precept. Failure to do so would result in a shortfall in available funds. It was noted that by the time the increase comes into effect there will likely be an additional 9 houses in the villages liable for council tax, so the financial burden will be spread. The precept figure will rise by £300. It was noted that there had been no raise for the past two years.

h. To remind all Councillors that they need to keep their Notification of Public Interests forms updated with the City Council. The Clerk will get some up-to-date forms and distribute as required.

5. Correspondence – letters and emails received to be viewed and discussed where appropriate. Regarding changes in Parish Poll requirements – it was agreed that the changes proposed by the Department for Communities and Local Government were sensible and that the Parish Council would respond to their questionnaire accordingly.

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

- a.** Reimbursement to G Devereux for cost of Xmas tree lights for tree on the Marr (£29.40) cheque # 365
- b.** Reimbursement for office expenses to parish clerk. £7.00 plus cost of chocolates (£27) for volunteer grass cutters/gardeners. Total due £34.00 cheque #366

Planning Matters

- a. 14/0797** Miller – Building on field 0770 – Revision of previous application. Simon Miller explained the minor revisions to all present, namely the removal of planned external stair case to first floor balcony, replacement of balcony frontage with glass instead of stone, and an overall height increase of roofline of approximately 70cm due to unforeseen circumstances. All present agreed that none of the revisions were of any concern.
- b. 14/1067** Townfoot Farm – Stephen Briggs – revision of previous application. No issues to address since there are no physical changes to the buildings. A revised application was forced simply because of a change in the national planning policy regarding affordable housing.

Councillor's Issues

- 1. To note that soak-away opposite The Swifts on the B6413 is working well since work was carried out.
- 2. People driving too fast on track/road around reservoir; the clerk will write to the owners of Tottergill and ask if guests can politely be asked to keep their speed to a minimum.
- 3. Finger post at Water Trough Corner – lettering has come off, so either needs removing or lettering replaced. Highways Department will be informed
- 4. Road sign for cycle way at edge of the Marr has been damaged - needs removing

The meeting closed at 8:50pm

Date of next meeting, Wed 11th March 2015