

CASTLE CARROCK & GELTSDALE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING, 11TH MAY 2011

Present: George Devereux (Chairman), David Low (Vice Chairman), Derek Knight, David Rawsthorn, Richard Johnstone, Keith Brown

In attendance: Brian Edmundson (Internal Auditor) Tricia Meynell (Clerk), Helen Hutchinson

1. **Apologies**

Doreen Parsons, Nick Marriner

2. **Declaration of Interests**

None

3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on March 9th 2011 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. **Agenda Items**

a: On behalf of the St Peters Church Restoration Committee (a sub-group of the CCPCC) Helen Hutchinson made a brief presentation outlining the current situation regarding the structural integrity of the church. Repair work of a considerable nature is needed in order to prevent the building from falling into total disrepair, and to this end the Restoration Committee will have to approach the Diocese to gain permission to fundraise for this purpose. The Committee would like to make known to the Diocese that the church is for wider use within the community than just for religious services, though these obviously play an important part, particularly for weddings, christenings and funerals. The position of the Committee has already been explained to the Watson Hall Committee and both groups are in agreement that they can work together, using two buildings in tandem rather than facing one off against the other. There are many events for which either one or the other is not large enough. It was noted that the school also use the church, and that it is used for events such as Music on the Marr and for birthday/anniversary celebrations.

Although Ms. Hutchinson was not asking for donations, it was pointed out by the Chairman that the Parish Council had in the past made small donations to the church to help with the upkeep of the grounds as this ultimately affects the look of the whole village. Ms Hutchinson asked if the Parish Council would support the general principal the church needs to be saved. It was unanimously agreed that a letter of support would be written to the Diocese.

b: It had been reported by a parishioner that excessive amounts of water were flowing down the ditch behind "Housesteads", "The Croft", and "Poacher's Pocket" on the road leading up to Geltsdale. It was pointed out by Cllr. Brown that these houses were in fact built on a bog and each house has been built upon a "raft". The amount of water in the ditch depends entirely on how much water is coming from the springs along the way. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact United Utilities and ask them to check for leaks in the feeder pipe coming into the reservoir, though it was thought to be unlikely that this would be the cause of the larger than usual amount of water.

c: A letter from the Chairman of the Watson Hall had been received by the Parish Council stating that the Watson Hall Committee are considering putting on an event of some nature (as yet undecided) to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The Parish Council was asked if it had any similar plans, and if not would it be, in principal, supportive of some such event, either financially or organisationally. It was agreed that if the plan was, for example, for a commemorative statue or similar, it would not be supportive, though the majority of those present felt that a "Village Event" would be something the Parish Council could and would support. They will await further information from the Watson Hall Committee.

d. There have been several recent incidences of cyclists (both adults and children) being stopped on the Lonning which runs from Rectory Rd towards Greenwell. Historical evidence in the form of an 1863 map has been found which states clearly that the lonning was a "public road (parish)". It is currently marked on the County Council's Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way as a footpath, but since this historical evidence is incontrovertible it was agreed by all present that cyclists and horses should be allowed to use the lonning without hindrance. The County Council Footpath Officer will liaise with the Parish Council and has offered to talk to the landowner whose land the lonning passes through.

e: A letter had been received from Highlights Rural Touring Scheme stating that their financial support has been substantially cut for 2011-12. Many events have taken place in the Watson Institute in conjunction with Highlights, and all have been deemed a success. The Watson Institute has traditionally always made a profit on these events to the tune of around £500 - £600 per year. Highlights have asked the Parish Council for a donation to help allow them to continue to offer their services. It was generally agreed that ticket prices for these events could easily rise from £9 to £10 and that therefore a donation per ticket sold could be given back to Highlights. It was deemed as a more reasonable solution than the Parish Council continually paying towards

the expenses since it would mean that only those who attended would be contributing to funds as opposed to the whole village if it were to come out of Parish Council funds directly. It was also agreed that it should be up to the Watson Hall Committee to decide how to levy a donation. It was agreed too that staging cultural events in the Watson Hall is good for the village in general, in particular the Duke of Cumberland pub and also for boosting the funds of The Watson Hall itself. It was therefore unanimously agreed that a one-off donation of £100 would be made to Highlights on the assumption that in future years, they would be self-funding.

- 5. Correspondence.** Various items of correspondence were available for viewing.
- 6. Financial Matters: Cheques were made out to the following:**
 Parish Clerk for office expenses (cheque no. 293)
 Parish Clerk for reimbursement of Broadband survey prize voucher - £25 (cheque no. 294)
 Zurich Insurance – Annual Insurance Premium - £225 (cheque no. 296)
 CALC Annual Subscription - £117 (cheque no. 295)
 Highlights Rural Touring - £100 donation (cheque no. 297)
- 7. Planning Matters: 10/1003 – Installation of internet radio mast on B6413
 10/0005 - Installation of internet radio mast outside the school**

It was noted that permission for both the above has been granted.

- 8. Councillor's Issues:**
- a.** There is a continual problem with dog waste in the village. A notice will once again be placed in the Parish Newsletter asking dog owners to act responsibly
- b.** Cllr.Johnstone noted that he was still actively pursuing his role as "Broadband Champion"
- 9. Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 13th July.

The meeting was closed at 8.55pm