

CASTLE CARROCK & GELTSDALE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING, 11TH JANUARY 2012
8.15 pm

Prior to the convening of the meeting, all present were addressed by Steve Griffiths of Wetheral Parish Council on the subject of high speed broadband for Cumbria, and by Nigel Armstrong of Electricity Northwest regarding the proposed undergrounding of electricity wires from "The Croft" up to Jockey Shield

Present: George Devereux (Chairman), David Rawsthorn, Richard Johnstone, Guy Widdowson, David Low, Keith Brown

In attendance: Tricia Meynell (Clerk), Cllr.Doreen Parsons, Brian Edmundson (Internal Auditor)

1. Apologies.

Cllr. Derek Knight

2. Declaration of interests.

Cllr.Johnstone and Cllr. Rawsthorn declared an interest in agenda item b.– Geltsdale Arts

3. Minutes.

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2011 were a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Agenda Items.

a. Update on drainage outside village hall – Cllr. Devereux. Some work has been done in that the drain has been lowered into a better position so should catch more water. The broken drain cover will have to be replaced – one is being made to fit, since it is not a standard size.

b. Request from Geltsdale Arts for Parish Council support (financial donation) for Music on the Marr – last year the parish council donated £200. Cllr. Johnstone said that Geltsdale Arts has a commitment as an organisation to promote the arts, and would like to keep ticket prices below £50 but in order for this to be possible, Geltsdale Arts has to raise additional external funds and are hoping for support from the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council had set precedent last year and that there should therefore be a further contribution this year. Cllr. Rawsthorn mentioned that it was good to have the backing and support of the Parish Council. It was agreed that £200 would be donated once again – cheque to be written at next meeting.

c. Update on Back Lonning (footpath vs highway) – Cllr. Devereux will shortly be handing out witness statements for evidence gathering.....these are official forms from the County Council where witnesses can say how long they have been using the paths for etc. These witness statements will be produced as extra evidence alongside the original maps which indicate that it was always a highway.

d. Discussion regarding high speed broadband following on from pre-meeting presentation – The whole project still appears to be somewhat vague, with the County Council not yet having ascertained the level of available funding, nor having decided on the contractor who will provide the basic infrastructure (though Cllr. Marriner stated that this has been narrowed down to either BT or Fujitsu). With regard to delivery options, it seems that fibre optic cable is currently the best system -FO cable already goes as far as the Hayton exchange from where all Castle Carrock (ie 670) numbers are fed. Cllr. Johnstone pointed out that the technology for providing high speed broadband is changing the whole time and that it therefore might become possible to deliver it via electricity wires. The Parish Council will need to find out from whoever is chosen to provide the service whether we can as individuals choose our own providers or whether we would have to all join up to the same one to make it financially viable. This of course might be risky in the long-term, should that particular provider suddenly decide to up its charges.

Cllr. Marriner noted that the money that the county council will eventually will provide basic infrastructure for the whole of Cumbria, but they don't yet know how much money that will be. Gt Salkeld has paid for its own arial system but it is quite expensive and not one which Castle Carrock would necessarily wish to copy. It seems that all potential providers will want financial help from the local councils to get high speed broadband to rural areas.

Should we, as a village, be asking people what they want and how much they will be prepared to pay? A previous survey carried out village-wide by the Parish Council indicated that nearly all parishioners (of those whom completed the survey) were not happy with their service but no question was asked as to how much extra they would be prepared to pay. Cllr Johnstone will re-read the survey results and will extrapolate figures from it with regard to who in village needs a better service and will report back to the Parish Council at the next meeting. It will probably be necessary at some point in the near future to canvas opinion again, particularly regarding charges and how much individuals would be prepared to pay for a better service. Cllr Marriner will have more news by the next meeting.

e. Update on signage for Hynam Bridge weight limit sign- Cllr Marriner had spoken to Chris Woodley-Stewart (AONB)and was informed that if there was to be an accident, the County Council would be liable. He therefore couldn't

support the wishes of the parish council to not have the sign. It was agreed at that point, that since there is no way we can escape having a sign, it would be better to have it on the left hand side of the track, just in front of the bench .

f. The Parish Council / Village Hall grant scheme was discussed. At present there is no parish council project requiring funds. Likewise, the village hall has no project at present but if retrospective funding was available it would be good to cover costs of fire alarms which have already been installed on which £1300 pounds have been spent. The clerk will investigate. Likewise, the clerk will investigate whether this fund would finance a one-off thorough road sweeping in the village.

g. Undergrounding of electricity wires from village to Jockey Shield – discussion following on from pre-meeting presentation. It was acknowledged that this work is definitely going to go ahead. Road closure from The Croft up to Jockey Shield will be necessary from 29th February, lasting for up to eight weeks, though the duration is likely to be shorter. Work will begin on private land on 30th January but this will not affect the road. Access for residents will be granted during the road closure, but cooperation is asked for in trying to not make unnecessary journeys since this will prolong the duration of the works since every time a vehicle needs to get through, work will have to cease whilst heavy machinery is moved out of the way. Further information available from the Parish Clerk.

h. Proposal by Cllr. Rawsthorn to organise a Castle Carrock litter-pick in March. He will put a notice in the parish magazine. All present agreed that this was a good idea. It was also pointed out that the Parish Council should ask Electricity North West to organise a thorough road sweep after the work has been completed since there is sure to be lots of extra mud on the road due to the nature of the work.

i. There had been a request from a parishioner for another street lamp to be situated between Hallsteads and Garth Foot. Information received from the City Council indicates that the cost to the Parish Council would be in the region of £1,500 - £1,800 unless they could be persuaded to finance this themselves. It was noted that previously, other parishioners have requested **less** street lighting in the village. This matter will be discussed further at the next parish council meeting.

5. Correspondence – letters and emails were viewed and discussed where appropriate. It was agreed that the Parish Council will object to the proposed closure of Brampton recycling centre, raising issues of how useful it is to the wider community, particularly in the absence of any kerbside plastics recycling. This, coupled with the fact that the Brampton facility has only been in operation for a couple of years when it was commissioned at huge expense raises the question of how much it would cost to decommission the facility, and what effect the closure would have on an increase of illegal fly tipping and the quantities of material which would end up in refuse bins instead of being recycled.

6. Financial Matters – Cheques were agreed for the following:

- a.** Reimbursement of office expenses to parish clerk £5.00 (#305)
- b.** Cheque to the value of £1100 was made out to Gordon Strong for grass cutting 2011 (#306)
- c.** Cheque to "Duke of Cumberland" £25 was made out to cover costs of electricity for village Christmas tree on village green. (#307)

7. Planning Matters.

- a. 11/0964** – Rectory solar panels – Noted that permission had been granted
- b. 11/0998** – Conservatory to rear of "The Croft" – It was noted that no objections were raised by the parish council
- c. 11/1091-** Revised application for change of use at "The Weary". Revision is that there will now be 4 holiday units instead of the originally proposed 5. It was agreed that there were no relevant changes requiring consideration.
- d. 11/1020 – 1 The Glebe** - Erection of 2 story side extension to provide kitchen & utility room on ground floor and bedroom & ensuite bathroom above. Noted that the parish council had no objections to this planning application and that permission has now been granted.

8. Councillor's Issues –

- a.** Flooding at Tarn Lodge – The clerk for Carlatton & Cumrew had been requested by her councillors to once again raise this issue. The clerk (for Carlatton & Cumrew) has advised her council that no further work will be carried out by the County Council now that flood warning signs have been erected. Cllr Marriner will be contacted to advise of this issue.

b. Cllr Low, as Diamond Jubilee Events Coordinator outlined the thinking so far; Weekend 2nd June, bank holidays Mon 4th, Tue 5th. The school will hold their annual disco on Sat evening in the village hall. Sunday 3rd - there will be a village picnic lunch on the village green (everyone bringing their own food), followed by "games", possibly on the school field. On Monday night there will be a 1950's dance which will finish at 10pm when a beacon/bonfire will be lit. Cllr Low is looking for group of people to organise the bonfire. Location for bonfire not yet decided. The possibility of using a laser light instead of a bonfire was raised.

9. Date of next meeting: Thursday 8th March 7:30pm

The meeting was closed at 9.45pm