

MINUTES OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY SECOND MEETING OF ASKAM AND IRELETH PARISH COUNCIL, HELD ON TUESDAY 17 APRIL 2012 AT 7.15 PM IN THE RANKIN HALL, DUKE STREET, ASKAM

Present: Parish Cllrs. George Twiname, (Chairman), Liz Gaskell (Vice Chairman), Harry Barker, Sandra Hadwick, Emma Twiname and Alan Mason **Also present:** Clerk, Janice Cumming; Rural Projects Officer, Angela Knowles; Borough Cllr Ann Thurlow; PCSO Louise Perry, Gary Thomas, Cumbria County Council Highways, Alison Meadows, Cumbria County Council; 10 members of the public.

1/4/12: DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Gaskell disclosed an interest in item 5/4/12/7, 5/4/12/15 and 15/4/12. Cllrs E and G Twiname disclosed an interest in item 10/4/12.

2/4/12: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Borough Cllrs Denis Bell and Barry Doughty.

3/4/12: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public witnessed an accident on Ireleth Road near the railway station. She is concerned because the motorcyclist lost control and mounted the pavement. Fortunately he was driving slowly and there was no-one using the pavement. She asked if crash barriers could be fitted to this area. Gary Thomas, Highways said that a crash barrier was not the answer because there is no room and even if they could put one there to safeguard pedestrians it could be dangerous to road users. Gary will report back when he has gathered information from the police report.

Action Gary Thomas

Speeding vehicles along the cycle/footpath at Greenscoe is a concern and this was put to Councillor Barker, as it is mostly his drivers who use this road to access Greenscoe quarry. Cllr Barker said the whole issue of this road is a concern to him because although it is now used as a cycle/footpath strictly speaking it is still a main road and as such still has a 60 mph speed limit. Mr Barker said he has spoken to his drivers and asked them to drive slowly along this road. If this is not happening then people should take registration numbers, times and report them to his office. Cllr Barker asked Gary Thomas if this road could be investigated by Highways. Gary Thomas agreed to this proposal and Cllr Barker asked that he be including in the investigations.

Action Gary Thomas/Cllr Barker/Angela Knowles

Residents from John Street voiced their complaints about the poor state of the unmade road on John Street. They all agree that the road is dangerous and an accident waiting to happen. The road has worsened and drains are sinking and this is not helped by the large and heavy dustbin wagons. The Chairman said this has been a problem for many years and has been discussed a number of times. He explained that the only way the dustbin wagons can be prevented from using John Street is if residents take their own bins to the end of Beach Street. The residents said this is not an option as a lot of the residents are elderly. The Chairman said that some years ago money was made available by Cumbria Country Council to upgrade and adopt this road and John Street residents were asked to make a contribution. But because some residents refused to contribute the scheme was withdrawn. Gary Thomas said that budgets within the County Council are tight and there are no funds available for this type of work at the present time. The Chairman said he has the deepest sympathy with the residents of John Street and only wished there was something the Parish Council could do to help. But unfortunately on this occasion there was nothing the Parish Council could do.

4/4/12: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 20 MARCH 2012

These were agreed as a true and accurate record and duly signed and dated by the Chairman.

Proposed Cllr Sandra Hadwick

Seconded Cllr Liz Gaskell

Agreed

5/4/12: PROGRESS REPORT FROM LAST MEETING

5/4/12/1: Street Lighting. The Clerk has reported lights which are not working and some have been repaired, but a member of the public said that the one on Duke Street is still out. The Chairman read out an email from the new Manager for Street lighting, who is now looking after the Borough. The Clerk will again report the Street lights which are not working properly.

Action Clerk

5/4/12/2: Hedge at Dalton Road. It was agreed that this hedge belonged to Network Rail and they will be contacted regarding cutting back the overhanging branches.

Action Clerk/Angela Knowles

5/4/12/3: Building Materials, Duddon Road. This had been removed .

Closed

5/4/12/4: Dog Fouling. As reported at the last meeting the dog waste was removed from the lane near the bowling green. But after two weeks it is as bad as ever, which is very disappointing.

5/4/12/5: Notice Board. The notice board has been fitted at Dr Jain's surgery and the Clerk received the go ahead to have one installed at Dalemout Services.

Action Clerk

5/4/12/6: Street Lighting at Marsh Street. Angela has received the photographs from the Clerk and will discuss this with Cumbria County Council.

Action Angela Knowles

5/4/12/7: Agreement for Defibrillators. This document was agreed and would be signed.

Closed

5/4/12/8: Overhanging Hedges on Properties. Councillor Hadwick is approaching owners regarding this matter.

Ongoing

5/4/12/9: Litter and Unsightly Areas. The Community Payback team have been working in the village and last week cleaned the field opposite the Co-Op taking away over a dozen large bags of rubbish and litter. A new schedule for Street cleaning has been received from the Borough Council. Cllr Barker said that Barry Brookes from Streetcare has contacted him regarding siting skips in his compound. The Chairman thanked Cllr Barker for his assistance.

Ongoing

5/4/12/10: Hedge on Lots Road. Clerk has written to thank Mr Steele for his co-operation.

Closed

5/4/12/11: Unmanaged land. Angela reported that she had received the map with the areas in question from Cllr Hadwick and has been in contact with the Borough Council regarding these areas. She has some answers but is still working on other areas. Angela will liaise with Cllr Hadwick.

Action Angela/Cllr Hadwick

5/4/12/12: Headlands Park Area. Bill Brown from the Borough Council, Parks Department has been in contact with the Clerk and work will commence on the area during the next couple of months. Redsyke will carry out this work on behalf of the Borough Council.

5/4/12/13: Dumping of Farm Waste on the beach at Duddon Road. The Chairman read out an email from the Environment Agency. The land owner has issues with coastal erosion of his land and has been advised to speak to the relevant Officer at the Borough Council. The land owner stated that his reason for the muck being put there was because he intends to re-seed the area of the banking.

Situation to be monitored

5/4/12/14: Extra Landscaping and Planting. The Parish Council's contractor has cut back the brambles at New Road and planted the dog wood plants at Stafford Street. Everyone agreed this was a big improvement. The Clerk has asked the Borough Council to provide some bulbs for next year and will need volunteers to help plant them.

Closed

5/4/12/15: Jubilee Fountain. The jubilee fountain has received a complete 'make-over' and looks very smart. A member of the public asked if the area behind the seats could be cleared of brambles. The Clerk will ask Redsyke for a quotation to do this.

Action Clerk

6/4/12: REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE – PCSO LOUISE PERRY

There has been a report of damage to gates on the Lots allotments on 15 March 2012.

Reports of anti-social behaviour in the form of motor bikes and quad bikes on the beach. This was an ongoing problem and the police are working with other agencies, i.e. National Trust regarding these activities.

There was an incident on 24 March with youths camping on Duddon Road picnic area. Investigations are ongoing regarding this incident and police staff involved in this incident have been contacted. Cllr Gaskell reported that she and the Clerk had met with Sgt McIntosh regarding this incident.

7/4/12: UPDATE ON LIBRARY SERVICE – ALISON MEADOWS

Angela introduced Alison Meadow's to the meeting. Alison works for Cumbria County Council and will be involved in discussions regarding the various options for the library service. Alison realises how passionate the Parish Council and the people of Askam and Ireleth feel about the library. Alison's task is to consult with community groups regarding the library service and not to take the library away. She asks that a meeting with the Parish Council be arranged where ideas could be formulated. These ideas will then to take to Cumbria County Council Library Services. Angela Knowles will arrange a time for this meeting and liaise with the Parish Council.

8/4/12: RURAL PROJECT OFFICER' S UPDATE – ANGELA KNOWLES

Angela has ordered the trees from the woodland trust. When they arrived they will be shared with other groups in the village. She has ordered ones which have all year round colour, everyone agreed this to be a good choice. These trees are free of charge and will hopefully enhance and brighten up the village.

The friends of Askam Station have made a promising start with a meeting held on 4 April in the Rankin Hall. This meeting had produced a Chairman – Mr Andrew Dowe and committee members. Mr Dowe was present at the Parish Council meeting and said he was pleased with how the meeting had gone and will keep the Parish Council informed of progress.

Angela felt that the Parish Plan needed to be moved along and with this in mind asked that a separate meeting could be held with the Parish Councillors to firm up plans for the community day. Angela will organise a date and time for this meeting.

Action Angela Knowles

9/4/12: MR GARY THOMAS, CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL, HIGHWAYS ENGINEER

Angela introduced Gary Thomas. It is Gary's intention to engage with the Parish Council bi-yearly to discuss new programmes of work for the Parish. He then went on to explain that there had been a lot of changes within the Highways department over the past 12 months. The main change being that staff contracted to AMEY had now been transferred back to Cumbria County Council.

The Clerk had sent a list of questions regarding highways matters to Gary and Angela prior to this meeting. The items on the list were then discussed in detail and the Clerk will issue a separate full report.

A question was asked regarding the speed of traffic on the A595, especially when approaching Dalton Road. Gary said there may be some funds available and will re-examine this area. There is also a problem of speeding traffic on Ireleth Brow to Paradise. Gary said this has been mentioned by Borough Councillor Barry Doughty and at the moment there was no additional funding for this road. Maybe a publicity campaign could be launched to ask drivers to keep to the speed limit along this road.

10/4/12: TO REPORT AND DISCUSS PLANNING ISSUES - CLLR HADWICK

B18/2012/0091 – Creation of all weather turn out area for horses at Lots Road junction *approved*.

New applications

B21/2012/0250 – Erection of single storey ground floor kitchen extension at 33 Blea Beck, Askam.

B28/2012/0237 – Change for materials for external surfaces at the Old Gospel Hall, Duke Street, Askam.

There were no objections to either of these applications. The Clerk will inform the Planning Department.

Proposed Cllr Gaskell

Seconded Cllr Mason

Agreed

11/4/12: FACEBOOK – CLLR GASKELL

Cllr Gaskell has set up a Facebook page for the Parish Council and said that at the moment the page has 91 'facebook friends'. Cllr Barker said he had no problem with this as long as it is only being used as a notice board. Cllr Gaskell asked that a vote be taken on whether the Parish Council adopts facebook as a means of communication. A vote was taken and the motion past.

Proposed Cllr Mason

Seconded Cllr Barker

Agreed

12/4/12: WEBSITE – ANGELA KNOWLES

Angela said that she felt a website is important to enable the Parish Council to communicate to the whole of the Parish. Two quotations have been received, but Angela felt because of their track record Red Abbey would be the best option, Cllr Mason agreed with this. Cllr Barker still has reservations and asked that another quotation was obtained. The Clerk will look into getting another quotation. Mr Andrew Dowe said he is in the process of producing a website for the Friends of Askam Station and would be willing to help with the Parish Council website and have a link from the Askam Station website.

Proposed Cllr Gaskell

Seconded Cllr Mason

Agreed

13/4/12: ACCESS TO BEACH FROM DUDDON ROAD

A letter received from Duddon Inshore Rescue was read out by the Chairman. In this letter Duddon Inshore Rescue ask that the Parish Council remove the large boulders which restrict access to the beach by vehicles. Cllr Gaskell has concerns about removing these boulders as there is a gas pipeline and electric cables in this area. There are issues with unauthorised vehicles using the beach and felt by removing these boulders it would open up this area to more unauthorised use of the beach. Angela Knowles voiced concerns regarding ownership of this area and is not sure who put the boulders there in the first place, which she believed was to prevent the 'Cockle Pickers'. Angela said there may be an issue with it being a breeding area for the natter jack toads. Cllr Barker said he believed the boulders were put there by the Borough Council. The Clerk will write to Duddon Inshore Rescue and Angela will contact the Borough Council.

Action Clerk/Angela Knowles

Proposed Cllr Hadwick

Seconded Cllr Gaskell

Agreed

14/4/12: SHARP STREET/STEEL STREET PARK AREA

Cllr Gaskell has been approached by a resident regarding putting lighting and extra seats in the park. The Chairman said this had been looked into when the park was developed, but it was very expensive and not something the Parish Council had the funds for either then or now.

Proposed Cllr Hadwick

Seconded Cllr Barker

Agreed

15/4/12: TENDERING FOR PARISH COUNCIL WORK – CLLR BARKER

Cllr Barker asked if a tender system could be prepared so local business could be put on a list to carry out work for the Parish Council. The Clerk has looked at the financial regulations statement issued by CALC and for any work under £100.00 a competitive tender is not required, but for anything over £100.00 the Parish Council need to tender for this work. The Clerk said she will prepare a tender statement and it will be advertised, but asked for the help of Cllr Barker in wording this document.

Proposed Cllr Mason

Seconded Cllr Hadwick

Agreed

16/4/12: UPDATE FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLORS – CLLR ANN THURLOW

Cllr Thurlow reported that negotiations are taking place with Sellafield regarding parking in the village. She will also make enquiries regarding issues from this meeting.

17/4/12: CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING FINANCES

The Clerk issued the financial report for year ending 31/3/2012 and the new report from 1/4/2012. The VAT return has been completed and sent to HMRC. The Clerk is working on the end of year accounts and will be in a position to give them to our internal auditor within the next week. The Clerk was approached by the Carnival Committee regarding using the Parish Council insurance to cover the carnival. The Clerk contacted our insurers Aon but unfortunately this is not possible.

Annual subscription for membership of CALC has been received. The Clerk asked that the Parish Council agree to renew the membership at a cost £316.00 for the year.

Proposed Cllr Gaskell

Seconded Cllr Hadwick

Agreed

18/4/12: CORRESPONDENCE – *to check the appendix of items all of which will be available at the meeting for inspection.*

An invitation to the Civic Visit will be attended by Cllr Gaskell and the Clerk will be her guest.

An invitation to Dalton and Newton Town Council's jubilee celebrations on 3 June will be attended by Cllr Hadwick.

19/4/12: SANCTIONS FOR PAYMENT

Clerks Salary £255.89, Donation to Askam Brownies £100.00, Stationery £3.00, Dog Waste Bags £7.90, A4 paper £7.14 Printer Cartridges £46.86, CALC annual subscription £316.00, Redsyke £1601.25 quarterly charge plus dogwood plants, clearing New Road and path near bowling green, Gutters to Garden fixing notice board £15.00, painting jubilee fountain £95.00 plus £25.00 materials.

Proposed Cllr Hadwick

Seconded Cllr Barker

Agreed

20/4/12: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 15 May 2012 at 7.15 pm in the Temperance Hall, Saves Lane, Ireleth. **The Annual Assembly** will take place prior to the Parish Council meeting.

Signed Date