

ROCKCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Rockcliffe Parish Council Annual General Meeting held on Monday 17th July 2017 in Rockcliffe Community Centre at 7:30 p.m.

RO 17/7/17 Apologies for absence

Cllr R Park & City Cllr J Mallinson.

RO 18/7/17 Present

The Chairman, Cllr J Harper, H Graham, M Irving, G Moss, G Mounsey-Heysham, G Percival, S Sidgwick & J Twentyman.

RO 19/7/17 In Attendance

County Cllr V Tarbitt & R Bloxham.

RO 20/7/17 Declarations of Interest or Requests for Dispensations

Cllr S Sidgwick declared an interest in planning as a substitute member & Cllr R Bloxham due to being a member on Carlisle City Councils Development Control Committee.

Cllr G Moss declared an interest in Beck Burn Wind Farm Community grants due to being a Scout Leader.

County Cllr V Tarbitt declared an interest in the Beck Burn Wind Farm Community grants due to being a governor at Rockcliffe school.

RO 21/7/17 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 15th May 2017

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on the 15th May 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

RO 22/7/17 Public Participation

No members of the public were in attendance.

Mr Phil Ruston, Broadband Hub Co-Ordinator, Connecting Cumbria had been invited to the meeting to give an introduction on their Digital Inclusion project. Advised that the initiative aimed to demonstrate how better internet access can stimulate the delivery of economic, business and social benefits through job creation, increased skills and the reduction of social isolation.

Statistics provided by Mr Ruston included that:-

- 31% of the working population in Cumbria earn less than the living wage;
- many jobs are low paid, seasonal and zero hours contracts;
- more people under the age of 30 are leaving than staying - due to the lack of career prospects. Including that Cumbria is the only county in the UK where the young are leaving but the elderly population is growing;
- the economic benefits to business's who operate on-line are considered huge.

He outlined that he hoped to run a Digital Inclusion event in Rockcliffe, to explain what is available and the opportunities that exist through better internet access and how this can help individuals and businesses. These include new business start-ups, coding opportunities and that young people need to 'up-skill' to access new job opportunities. Reported that properties in Todhills are now able to connect to fiber and to achieve speeds of up to 1GB – one of the highest in the UK.

Mr Ruston then asked for the PC's support in publicising the event and in arranging a suitable day/evening for this to be held.

AGREED: event to be held on Wednesday 11th October at 7:00 pm. Clerk to book Rockcliffe Centre. Article about the event to be placed within the Eden Lyne Buzz magazine and 'door drop' leaflets to be delivered by Scouts.

Mr Ruston was thanked for the presentation and left the meeting at 8:15 pm.

AM

RO 23/7/17 Administration & Governance

23.1 Consultations Received

- National Grid Adequacy of Consultation Feedback Questionnaire response
RESOLVED: Cllr S Sidwick to respond on behalf of the council.

SS

23.2 Meetings Attended

- Beck Burn Windfarm Advisory Panel Meeting held 6th June 2017
Cllr R Park attended on behalf of the PC. Cllr J Twentyman confirmed that she would be available to attend the next meeting of the panel. Cllr R Bloxham advised that they had managed to distribute nearly all of the grant funding – except for £20k which was earmarked for the October meeting. Advised on difficulties in distributing the Education grant and that it may be used to send schools on courses at an education centre on renewable energy.
- National Grid Adequacy of Consultation Feedback Meeting 11th July 2017
No-one able to attend.
 - North West Recycling & Rockcliffe Parish Council Meeting 12th June 2017
Notes of the meeting held had been circulated alongside the agenda. No planning application had been received by the Clerk to date.

Chairman also advised that he had attended a meeting of the Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust.

RO 24/7/17 Clerks Report

Highway Items

- Unsuitable for HGV's Sign* - Cllr V Tarbitt advised that Highways were to contact Chairman;
- Repair of cast-iron road sign* – Cllr V Tarbitt reported to Highways;
- Redhill's highway flooding* – Cllr V Tarbitt advised that Highways had undertaken a site visit;
- Hespin Wood 18T weight limit sign* – Chairman advised that a sign was still required. Cllr V Tarbitt advised that this was to be pursued through Gareth Scott, Highways when he returned from annual leave.

Cllr V Tarbitt reported that the Highways Department had recently undertaken a re-structuring programme and that some patience would be required while this 'bedded in'.

Pension Scheme for Clerk

Government NEST scheme now set-up for Rockcliffe Parish Council and contributions being paid into the scheme.

Pensioners Bungalows – Blencarn Park

Correspondence from Riverside Housings Regional Director concerning the sale of properties had been circulated to Cllrs. This e-mail had included that if Riverside was unable to rent a vacant property, then they would be placed on the open market. Cllr R Bloxham advised that he had asked that the PC was informed of any properties that were available to rent in future with the view to the vacancy being more widely publicised.

Dog Fouling – Crindledyke Estate/Harker Road Ends

Additional litter bins for the area had requested by Cllr R Bloxham. Also requested that the Dog Warden visits the area. Leaflets had also been delivered and Cllr G Moss advised that they organize a leaflet drop of the village through the Scouts.

GM

DRAFT MINUTES TO BE AGREED AT MEETING TO BE HELD 18TH SEPTEMBER 2017

Summer Play Scheme 2017

Play scheme to take place on Wednesday 16th & 30th August 2017. Chairman reported that Rockcliffe & Blackford schools did not appear to have received the leaflets and that more had been requested from GLL. Clerk reported that the event had also been given publicity through the GLL Facebook contacts list and Kids Expo, Carlisle.

Damaged Water Marker – Blencarn Park

Cllrs reported that this had now been removed.

Footbridge Replacement

Clerk advised that the contractor was due to begin work on-site within the next two weeks.

Rockcliffe Bridge

Cllr S Sidgwick advised that an outlet drain that discharges into the Beck had been blocked and he and a neighbour had rodded it. Highways had been made aware of this problem and advised that the more frequently a problem is reported, the more chance of a long-term solution is likely of being sought. Also reported that further cracks in the bridge were in evidence and its stability was again questioned.

RO 25/7/17 Correspondence

- *Campaign for Borders Train* – summary case document for a new cross-border rail link from Tweedbank to Hawick and Carlisle;
- *Seafarers UK* – letter requesting that the red ensign is flown for Merchant Navy Day.
Agreed: Cllr G Moss to progress the purchase of a flag and arrange its display.

GM

RO 26/7/17 Financial Matters

26.1 Resolved that the following payments be approved:-

A McCallum – June & July salary (D/D 1/7 & 1/8/17)	240.26
A McCallum re-imburements for May/June 2017	70.74
A McCallum – salary underpayment for June	87.01
HMRC – PAYE & NI April-July	163.03
J Little – Flowers contribution for village green	40.00
R Terpilowski – web site uploads for audit purposes	40.00
Envirocare – grass cutting May 2017	156.00
Armeria (UK) Ltd – Annual rent for Rockcliffe Village Green	0.50

26.2 Financial Statement

A financial statement for the period up to the 30th June 2017 was received and approved:-

Opening balance 1st April 2017	4,310.72
Income to 30 th June 2017	9,928.59
Expenditure to 30 th June 2017	1,460.48
Bank reconciliation at 30th June 2017	12,778.83

26.3 Income Received

Reported that £5,000 had been received from the Cumbria Community Foundation Beckburn Windfarm fund.

26.4 Blencarn Park – Tree Seat

Consideration was given to the erection of a tree seat, estimated costs being in the region of £900.00. Clerk advised that external grants for £474 had been obtained for this project to date and it was suggested that as the item was to benefit the community that the balance of £426 could be funded from the Beckburn Windfarm fund.

RESOLVED: Approved. Balance of £426 to be paid from the Windfarm Fund and this to be advised to parishioners via the Eden Lynne Buzz.

AM

RO 27/7/17 Village Matters

27.1 Beckburn Wind Farm Community Fund

Consideration was given to a draft grant application form and guidance notes to be used to facilitate the distribution of the fund.

RESOLVED: Approved and adopted.

Consideration was then given to two applications that had been received and the following grants were awarded:-

- Rockcliffe School - £1,000 towards additional safety surfacing for the MUGA;
- 1st Border Scout Group - £1,000 towards outdoor activity training to encourage leadership.

Clerk proposed that the fund was also used to finance the Summer Play Scheme that had been arranged to take place in August at a total cost of £900.

RESOLVED: Approved.

Cllr Bloxham also advised that he was willing to contribute £300 towards the Summer Play scheme.

RB

27.2 HGV Movements – Hespian Wood/Shapwath

Councillors were advised that a complaint had been received from a resident of the parish concerning the increased use of minor roads by HGV vehicles. Discussion included that vehicles ignored the 18T weight limit and that concerns existed over the stability of the road bridge. Suggestions included that a traffic survey is undertaken to determine the speed and type of vehicles using the roads.

AGREED: site meeting to be arranged with Highways Department.

VT/JH

27.3 Solway Coast AONB Boundary Extension

Consideration was given to a resident's letter which requested that the PC continues in pursuit of securing an extension of the boundary to include Rockcliffe. Having entered into dialogue with Carlisle City Councils Principle Planning Officer, the PC is requested to formally request that this is undertaken by Natural England (via Carlisle City Council) and consideration of this was undertaken.

RESOLVED: to advise Carlisle City Council to request that Natural England undertake a boundary review.

AM

Clerk advised that City Cllr T Sidgwick had also advised Mr Brian Irving, Natural England of the PC's intention at a recently held Joint Advisory Group meeting and he had stated that he would be writing to the PC in the near future, on this matter.

27.4 Blencarn Park – Registration of land as a Village Green

Clerk reported that Cumbria County Council had advised that they were minded to refuse the application to register the area of green space at Blencarn Park as a village green, due to the use of the land being considered as '*by right*' not '*as of right*' and that evidence supporting the application gathered by the PC from residents was considered insufficient in number - despite 17 testimonies being submitted with the application.

AGREED: County Cllr V Tarbitt to determine further information on why the application looks likely to fail and gain definitions of '*by right*' and '*as of right*'.

VT

27.5 Grass Cutting

Chairman advised that it was likely that the grass cutting arrangements may change in the near future but that further confirmation of this was awaited.

RESOLVED: agreed to continue with the current contractor until the end of the 2017 season.

RO 28/7/17 Councillor Matters – None raised.

County Cllr V Tarbitt, City Cllr R Bloxham & S Sidgwick left the meeting at 9.25 p.m.

RO 29/7/17 Planning Matters

29.1 Applications

17/0485 Land to the rear of Croft Cottage, Lonning Foot, Rockcliffe – erection of 1no. single storey dwelling (outline);

Resolved: to support Highways Department comments to ensure that adequate information is submitted to accompany the application regarding surface water drainage arrangements; visibility splays and highway access.

17/0616 Land south of Blackdyke Farm, Todhills, Blackford – development of energy storage system and associated infrastructure (within south eastern corner of previously approved solar farm reference 15/0688);

Resolved: to submit 'no observations'.

The following applications have been agreed or commented on by the Clerk under Delegated Powers and after consultation with members by e-mail, in view of the time constraints for submission of observations:-

17/0443 Land to the North of 10 Lonning Foot, Rockcliffe – erection of 4no. dwellings (reserved matters, pursuant to outline Application No. 14/0584). 'No comments' submitted.

Permission Notices Received

17/0290 Land adjacent to Waverley, Station Road, Harker – variation of Conditions 2 (approved documents) of previously approved permission 16/0315 (vehicular access relocated to facilitate revised drainage details).

RO 30/7/17 Date of Next Meeting The next meeting will be held on Monday 18th September in Rockcliffe Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 9:25 p.m.