

ROCKCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Rockcliffe Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 18TH January 2016 in Rockcliffe Community Centre at 7:30 p.m.**

RO 61/1/16 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllrs G Moss, M Irving & County Cllr V Tarbitt.

Cllr R Bloxham advised that Rockcliffe PC meetings appeared to be conflicting with Arthuret PC dates again.

RO 62/1/16 Present

The Chairman, Cllr J Harper, H Graham, G Mounsey-Heysham, G Percival, R Park, S Sidgwick & J Twentyman.

RO 63/1/16 In Attendance

City Cllr R Bloxham.

RO 64/1/16 Declarations of Interest or Requests for Dispensations

G Mounsey-Heysham declared an interest on item 10.1 Heathlands Solar Farm, as the landowner.

RO 65/1/16 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th November 2015

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on the 16th November 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

RO 66/1/16 Public Participation

No members of the public attended the meeting.

RO 67/1/16 Administration & Governance

67.1 Consultations Received - Clerk reported that none had been received.

RO 68/1/16 Clerks Report

Highway Items

- *Blocked highway drain on village green* – Clerk advised that this item had been reported to Highways. However, Cllr advised that further investigation had indicated that no drain existed in the area;
- *Floriston Rigg damaged road sign* – reported to highways. Clerk to determine from Cllr V Tarbitt if any progress has been made by Highways on the insertion of rumble strips.
-

Superfast Broadband

Cllr S Sidgwick & Cllr V Tarbitt reported on a meeting they had attended in December. Cllr S Sidgwick advised that BT had confirmed that most of the properties in Rockcliffe village (south of Rockcliffe Beck) cannot currently connect to a cabinet and are unable to get superfast broadband. BT have advised that these properties will be able to connect by June/July 2016 or earlier, under Phase 2 of the Connect Cumbria project. Harker & Todhills are also to be connected in Phase 2. Any isolated properties that are still unable to connect after Phase 2 is completed, will be able to obtain £150 towards the cost of satellite broadband.

Also reported that Rockcliffe has the highest rate of uptake in Cumbria of superfast broadband, with 51% of properties now being connected (if they can do so).

Refurbishment of the Bus Shelter

Clerk advised that she had experienced problems in obtaining further quotations for the refurbishment of the shelter - two other recommended contractors declining to quote. However, one further quotation of £1,170 had been received and this was the cheapest, to date.

Resolved: to accept the quotation for £1,170.

AM

Hespin Wood Site Meeting 24th November 2015

Cllr J Twentyman and J Harper attended a site meeting at Hespin Wood. Cllr J Twentyman advised that it she considered it had been informative.

Village Green Registration – Blencarn Park, Rockcliffe

Clerk advised that the registration is being progressed for registration by Cumbria County Council, following a meeting with the Commons Registration Officer.

BT Telephone Box - Rockcliffe

Cllrs advised that this had been cleaned.

'Clean for the Queen' Campaign

Clerk advised that due to flooding of the Civic Centre and the displacement of staff, this item had not been progressed. Clerk to further pursue.

Cllr J Twentyman advised that she had received a request that a litter pick is undertaken on Lady Lonning. Cllr G Mounsey-Heysham advised that a Castlesteads Estate litter picking working party was arranged for the second or third week in April (alongside Barclays Bank staff) and that this would be added to the areas to be done.

Agreed: Date for a community litter-pick to be undertaken as part of the 'Clean for the Queen' campaign to be further considered at the March meeting.

Cllr J Twentyman also advised that the resident had also suggested that the name of Lady Lonning may be changed to commemorate the Queen's 90th Birthday to 'Queen Elizabeth Lonning' or something similar. Cllrs considered that this would be very complicated and time-consuming to achieve and would probably still be known by many residents of the village by its original name of Lady Lonning.

AM

AM

RO 69/1/16 Planning Matters

Applications Received

15/1052 Land north of Oakwood, Harker – erection of 4no. dwellings, together with access road;

Resolved: to comment that a sufficient visibility splay is achieved to gain safe access onto the A7 - this road being subject to heavy traffic travelling at high speeds.

15/1103 Shell Filling Station Northbound, Todhills, Blackford – extension to existing sales building

Resolved: that '*no observations*' are submitted.

15/1152 10 Lonning Foot, Rockcliffe – erection of single storey and first floor extension to provide porch to front elevation, dining and kitchen area to rear elevation and sitting room to side elevation on ground floor with 1No. En suite bedroom above.

Resolved: that '*no observations*' are submitted.

1/15/9007 Hespin Wood Resource Park & Landfill Site, Todhills – construction and operation of a coated stone plant;

Resolved: to '*object*' to the development for the following reasons:-

- Road Infrastructure - the impact that an estimated additional 160 HGV movements per day, would have on the minor, country roads adjacent to the site. These roads already being subject to high levels of HGV movements from other industries in the area. HGV's entering and leaving the site are also required to negotiate Floriston Junction which is subject to high levels of road traffic accidents and a narrow railway bridge adjacent to the entrance to Stobart Rail;
- Residential Amenity - the impact that the site would have on residential amenity for Todhills – dwellings being situated within 400m of the site. Items of concern including noise levels from traffic movements and production; odour and dust levels produced by the production process; light pollution from delivery vehicles and the site lighting and residential disturbance due to the unsociable working hours;

DRAFT MINUTES TO BE AGREED AT MEETING TO BE HELD 21st MARCH 2016

- Hespin Wood – this site is considered unsuitable for a stone coating plant and was never previously designated as an industrial site. Rockcliffe is an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a designated SSSI. To have a development such as this within a 2 mile radius, is out-with the character of the surrounding area;
- Historic Land Usage - this area was designated as a burial site following foot and mouth and re-instatement plans were agreed at that time. Cllrs request that these plans are recalled and Planning Officers attention is given to the stipulations regarding the reinstatement of the site and request that these are made available to the Parish Council;
- Pecuniary Interest – as owners of the site, the County Council is considered to have a pecuniary interest and this is considered a clear conflict of interest;
- Site Visit – to request that a site visit is undertaken and that representatives of the PC are invited to attend.

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:-

15/1070 1 Heathlands Cottages, Harker, Carlisle – conversion of existing detached garage into 1 No. dwelling including erection of single detached garage and formation of new access; erection of single detached garage for existing dwelling and formation of new field access.

Resolved: ‘no observations’.

1/15/9006 North West Recycling, Unit B & K, Rockcliffe Industrial Estate – retrospective consent for the change of use of one building (Unit B) and site K to waste management and ancillary operational development.

Resolved: to ‘object’ due to the application being retrospective; the outlined site operating days and hours; the additional HGV movements; the effect on residential amenity from the processing of food waste, vegetable matter and the shredding of wood. Also requested that Cumbria County Council Highways Department ensure that vehicles are not routed through the village of Rockcliffe and that the applicant submits a clear travel plan to this effect.

To Consider Permission Notices Received:-

15/0687 Heathlands, Harker Road Ends, Harker – installation of 5mw ground mounted solar panels and associated infrastructure, including mounting frames, inverters, transformers, pole mounted CCTV cameras, substations, composting toilet and fence .

70.1 Neighbourhood Planning

Consideration was given to the progression to the next stage of a Neighbourhood Plan for Rockcliffe. This included:-

Rockcliffe Christmas Fair – 41 Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaires had been issued, with 31 completed and returned;

Feedback - comments received indicate that residents, in general are very positive about the area;

Next Stage - advised that the next stage would be to organise a community meeting to gauge resident interest in the formation of a group, to steer the production of a plan;

Grant Funding - To determine if a grant funding application is to be considered – Cllrs and Clerk being unsure if the funding would be withdrawn if the plan was not completed.

Agreed: Clerk to determine the stipulations of grant funding and if it is withdrawn/re-payable if a plan is not completed. This item to be further considered at the March meeting.

AM

RO 71/1/16 Correspondence

Correspondence received was noted.

RO 72/1/16 Financial Matters

72.1 Resolved that the following payments are approved:-

| | |
|--|--------|
| A McCallum – Jan & Feb Salary of £147.41(D/D 1/1/16 & 1/2/16 | 294.82 |
| A McCallum – reimbursements | 73.53 |
| HMRC – PAYE | 7.20 |
| St Cuthbert Parish Council – printing re-charge | 8.50 |
| D Malley – payroll administration | 24.00 |
| St Cuthbert Without PC – SLCC membership contribution | 20.00 |

72.2 Financial Statement

A financial statement for the period up to the 31st December 2016 was received and approved:-

| | |
|--|----------|
| Opening balance 1st April 2015 | 4,404.60 |
| Income to 31 st December 2015 | 5,748.73 |
| Expenditure to 31 st December 2015 | 3,709.11 |
| Bank reconciliation at 31 st October 2015 | 6,444.22 |

72.3 Income Received

Clerk reported on income received as £1,000 grant from Cumbria County Council towards the refurbishment of the bus shelter.

72.4 Quarterly Monitoring Report

A report on income and expenditure for the period 1st April to 31st December 2015 had been circulated alongside the agenda.

Resolved: Approved.

72.5 Clerk SLCC Membership

Consideration was given towards a financial contribution to the Clerks membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks, alongside St Cuthbert Without and Kirkbampton PC.

Resolved: Contribution of £20 towards SLCC membership to be paid to St Cuthbert Without PC.

RO 73/1/16 Village Matters

73.1 Heathlands Solar Farm

Clerk advised that Lightsource had sent a Community Benefit Deed offer to the Parish Council and this was required to be approved and signed by the 31st March 2016. However, following the issuing of the agenda, problems have been experienced by Lightsource concerning the validation of the application, within the governments timescales so that the subsidy can be obtained and this had led to the viability of the project being considered uncertain and currently ‘on-hold’ until a legal challenge is considered by Lightsource.

73.2 Rockcliffe Centre

Further consideration was given to a request for the PC (from the Rockcliffe Community Centre Committee) to reclaim VAT on items of capital expenditure. Clerk advised that although some guidance and information had been obtained, some areas were still un-clear and further research was required.

Agreed: Clerk to again, try to obtain further guidance on this item from Mr P Mason, Director of Finance, Carlisle City Council. To also submit a query directly to HMRC.

AM

RO 74/1/16 Councillor Matters

Cllr S Sidgwick advised that Highways had inspected the bridge behind his property and repairs are thought to be necessary, as a result of the recent flooding.

Reported that he had contacted the Environment Agency (EA) over personal flooding issues and correspondence received advised that Rockcliffe Beck is now classified as a river. Advised that during the January flooding, the beck was estimated to have risen 2-3ft higher than in the floods of 2005 and could not discharge into the River Eden due to a combination of factors, these being the force of water travelling down the Eden, the high sea tide and surface water run-off levels. The beck is also taking surface water run-off from the CNDR and the motorway and the EA is required to be notified of all new development planning applications that propose to drain rainwater and surface water into Rockcliffe Beck and its surrounding flood zone 3 area.

Cllrs agreed that the level of water experienced in January was significantly higher than those experienced in 2005 and consider that water is being displaced away from Carlisle by the flood defense's at the danger of compromising settlements further down the line - such as Rockcliffe.

Cllrs advised that two properties in the village had been subject to flooding and concern for the well-being of these residents was expressed.

Agreed: Clerk to write to the Environment Agency and Carlisle City Council advising of concerns over the rise in water levels, following the completion of the flood defenses.

To also write to the two flooded residents to determine if the Parish Council can help in anyway in their recovery.

**AM
AM**

Cllr R Park advised that the Cricket Club had also suffered extensive flooding damage that would cost in the region of £17,000 to rectify. Reported that the Club was very optimistic that grant funding is available to make the club house operational again.

Cllr G Percival advised that lights behind the school were on all night. Cllr J Harper advised that he would approach the school about this.

Also advised that hedge clippings were in evidence at Lady Lonning and Floriston Crossing and were causing problems to cyclists. Clerk to progress through Highways.

JH

AM

Cllr J Harper advised that deep potholes existed on the Cliff to Redhill's Road. Clerk to report.

Also that rubbish was still in evidence on the village green following the recent high tide. Advised that a request for clearance had been forwarded to Cllr V Tarbitt. Clerk to determine when clearance of the green is to be undertaken.

Reported that HGV's are still travelling through the village, the recently erected signs seeming to have made little difference. Requested that Cllr V Tarbitt further progress this issue.

VT

Advised that salt/grit piles at Todhills required replenished and that highway drains from the village to the railway appeared to be blocked. Clerk to report to Highways.

AM

Clerk advised that Cumbria County Council's Countryside Access Officer was aware of damage to the footbridge at the Church and that the Millenium Bridge had been swept away in the floods. He has applied to the Department of Transport for funding to repair these.

RO 75/1/16 Date of Next Meeting The next meeting will be held on Monday 21st March 2016 at Rockcliffe Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 10:00 p.m.