

Ennerdale & Kinniside Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on 10th September 2014
in The Ennerdale & Kinniside Community Room

75.09.14: Present: Cllrs. Wood (Chair), Topping, Shail, McMullen & Denham-Smith.

76.09.14: Apologies: Cllrs. Johns, Taylor & Ayling

Also present: D. Smith (Clerk), Jonathan Coates (The Environment Agency) & one member of the public.

77.09.14: Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Woods declared an interest in the agenda item covering the presentation by the Environment Agency (EA) as his house was one of those flooded during the summer.

78.09.14: Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the July meeting were accepted as an accurate record and their acceptance was:

Proposed: Cllr. Denham-Smith

Seconded: Cllr. Topping

All those present agreed and the minutes were duly signed by the Chair.

79.09.14: Presentation: Jonathan Coates, Engagement Officer, The Environment Agency.

Jonathan explained that he would give an overview of the issue of flash flooding and then talk about the work recently undertaken by the EA on the Croasdale Beck.

Flash floods are becoming more common as climate change brings more intense downpours of rain than we have previously been used to. These downpours can happen at any time of the year, but if they occur when the ground is either bone dry or completely saturated, then high volumes of water run off the land, instead of soaking into it, causing the types of flooding problems that have been experienced in many places in Cumbria during the last few years.

Flash floods are intense episodes that are a real risk to people, property and infrastructure. They can happen anywhere and at any time of the year. They tend to be very localised and are quite often not picked up on weather and environmental monitoring systems. They are almost impossible to predict. One such episode happened recently in Loweswater destroying part of a house and services infrastructure.

In Ennerdale there was also a recent incident that impacted on a number of properties along the banks of the Croasdale Beck. This area is identified in the flood map of Ennerdale, which is currently being updated, as an area of risk. In similar areas in Cumbria and the rest of the country, communities have got together to develop an emergency plan that can be put into operation when flooding occurs or floods are predicted. There is a local example of an emergency plan which covers the Lorton valley. Emergency plans quite often incorporate phone trees to warn people of the coming floods and will identify vulnerable people in the community who require additional assistance in the case of floods and put plans in place to assist these people when necessary. Jonathan strongly recommended that Ennerdale should have an emergency plan and councillors felt that there was an opportunity to incorporate this into the community plan that was currently being worked on.

It was then explained what work was being undertaken with regard to the flooding issues on the Croasdale Beck. Some gravel extraction has already been undertaken to alleviate the immediate potential risk of flooding. However, the main work currently being undertaken is a modelling exercise to try and better understand the level of risk. This work will be concluded shortly and Jonathan will ensure that the council has a copy of the results. This work will also inform the updating of the flood risk map for the area. The presentation was concluded by Jonathan informing the meeting that the

EA has the responsibility of trying to reduce flood risk within the financial parameters laid down by government. He also stated that gravel removal was not always the best answer to reducing flood risk.

A number of questions were raised;

Q. There are some water mains at risk of being washed away. Are you aware of this?

A. United utilities have a responsibility to protect their assets and I assume that they are aware of the situation.

Q. The bridge to Vicarage Lane is very low and there is a build up of boulders and gravel under it that has not been cleared during recent operations. Will it be removed?

A. I'll pass this information on to the team that has undertaken the recent work.

Q. Local people feel that reinforcement of the banking of both the Ehen and the Croasdale Beck, as well as gravel extraction, would help the situation but local farmers say they are not allowed to undertake this type of work anymore. Is this right?

A. If a farmer applied to the EA for a licence to undertake these types of work then it would certainly be considered sympathetically.

Some questions were read out from a member of the public who could not attend the meeting:

Q. Will the various tree roots, particularly behind the Shepherds Arms and Brookside, which catch debris and impede the flow of the stream causing back-up and overflow, be cut back?

A. This question will need to be answered by the local team.

Q. Will the large deposits of rock and gravel at the junction of the Croasdale Beck and the River Ehen be removed?

A. This question will need to be answered by the local team.

The Chair thanked Jonathan for his presentation.

ACTION: JC to forward answers to questions he was unable to deal with to the Clerk together with a copy of his presentation He will also pass on information given to officers at the EA.

80.09.14:Public participation:

There were no issues raised under this agenda item.

81.09.14: Progress Reports:

A: Clerk's Report:

The following actions from the July meeting were reported:

65.07.14: Clerk to respond to Maisie Wilson: Done

65.07.14: Clerk to inform CBC of the views of the Council re: Forestry Housing lights. Done.

67.07.14: Clerk to contact CBC Planning re: Dent wind turbine: Done

69.07.14: Clerk and Cllr. Shail to investigate different SID options: Done.

69.07.14: Clerk to contact Muir Lachlan re: Walkers Path hedge: Done.

71.07.14: Clerk to send out all payments: Done

71.07.14: Clerk to pass on Bank forms to Cllr Topping: Now done.

A list of correspondence was given:

Correspondence For information For action

RNEC: minutes and various emails X

CWMET info X X

BDO Completion of Audit forms X X

CALC Newsletter Sept X

CBC: Review of Polling Districts X

The Clerk informed the meeting that additional information had been sent to Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust as requested and the Completion of Audit Notice had been placed in the notice-board.

B: RNEC:

Cllr. Topping reported that as a RNEC director he had recently attended a Fellview Health Centre Patient Review Panel meeting in Cleator Moor. Attendees had been informed that recruitment & retention of doctors in West Cumbria was becoming a real issue and that the only way that most practices can attract doctors is if they either have family in the area or if they are keen fell walkers.

The issues of recycling IT equipment was discussed at a recent meeting with a view to working with a recycling social enterprise in Workington.

C: ECRAG:

There was no report available.

D: Bus Service 217:

Cllr. Woods reported that due to the removal of the CCC subsidy for the 218 service, Arlecdon & Frizington Parish Council have decided to move some of their funding from the 217 to the 218 when the CCC subsidy is removed (date yet to be agreed). The knock effect on the 217 will be ameliorated to some extent by other PC's coming up with additional funding, though not Ennerdale & Kinniside. However, there will almost certainly be a reduction in the 217 service in 2015.

E: Connecting Cumbria:

Cllr. Topping reported back from the Broadband Champions meeting at Egremont on July 17th at which BT gave an update on progress made. He stated that BT seemed to be a lot more willing to engage with the community than they had been previously and appeared apologetic for their previous strategy. They now realise that they have missed out on a lot of local knowledge that could have been very helpful. BT are currently addressing issues as they arise when areas become live and are working more closely with local people in these areas. In the parish a new box has been installed outside the school but has not been connected up. Lamplugh exchange will be connected by the end of 2014 and there may be a small increase in broadband speed in Ennerdale as a result of that. Ennerdale itself is due to be linked up by July 2015.

F: MRWS:

Cllr. Wood informed the meeting that between now and 2016 the government were going to establish a new set of criteria to 're-start' the process of trying to find a host community for an underground repository. Issues such as the definition of the word community will hopefully be addressed together with a process for effective community engagement. It has already been stated that no single tier of local government will have a veto on the process, as happened before. One potential problem area is that DECC have ultimate responsibility for nuclear waste and are also the body that would ultimately give planning permission for a repository.

G: Community Led Planning:

Cllr. Denham-Smith reported that the second CLP group meeting had been held on 4th September and was attended by three councillors, five members of the community and Julia Wilson from ACT. Actions agreed were a school survey, initial conversations with young people, the farming community and the tourist trade. Community issues are to be solicited via an open request for information via the parish newsletter and Contact magazine. The information gathered will be presented at the next CLP meeting on November 4th.

82.09.14: Planning:New Applications:

Ref: 7/2014/4056

Location: Post Office, Ennerdale Bridge Post Office, Ennerdale, Cleator CA23 3AR

Proposal: Change of use of PO accommodation to domestic use as part of existing dwelling. External alterations including; replace door with window, new window in side gable and re-rendering.

Response by: 26th August 14

'No Objections' response sent.

Ref: 7/2014/4059
Location: Bank House Farm Cottage, Kinniside, Cleator CA23 3AG
Proposal: Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension to provide studios and kitchen/dining area to cottage. two
Response by: 17th September 2014

After some discussion it was agreed that Cllr. Wood would have a closer look at this application and contact the Clerk with his views.

'No objections' response sent.

Notice of change of details to planning approval:

Ref: 7/2014/4026
Location: Forestry Commission Building, Ennerdale Bridge
Proposal: Various minor changes to planning approval

83.09.14: Report from the Police & Neighbourhood Watch:

Police Reports: In July there had been three reports, one RTC, a report of a horse in a garden and one ASB incident. In August there had been one assault and one RTC reported.

Neighbourhood Watch Alerts: In July there had been five alerts issued and ten in August.

Cllr. Wood explained that he was now the only active member of the Neighbourhood Watch and he would like to try and recruit some new members.

84.09.14: Highways Issues:

Councillors further debated the issue of purchase of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) for placement in the village. After a wide ranging discussion it was agreed that the type of SID should be:

- attached to pole
- battery powered
- show speed together with words such as Slow down or Thank you
- should be able to capture information on speed of vehicles, number of vehicles etc.
- one SID should be purchased initially

ACTION: In light of the above decisions, the Clerk and Cllr. Shail are to investigate the various different options relating to the purchase of SIDs.

The issue of hedge cutting along the Walkers Path was discussed again and it was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr. Wood should meet up on site to discuss what was required.

ACTION: Clerk and Cllr. Wood to meet up and walk the path.

Cllr. Topping raised the issue of the Winston Churchill bus shelter which belongs to the Parish Council. The shelter is in reasonable physical condition but is in need of some TLC. At present it serves no purpose and Cllr. Topping wondered whether the Council should utilise it as a community asset. He handed around some photographs of redundant bus shelters elsewhere in the country that had been used for a variety of activities. It was agreed that the Council should look at doing something with the shelter and the community consultation process associated with the CLP should be used to find out what local people would like to see happen to it.

ACTION: Cllr. Topping to speak to the CLP group about this issue.

85.09.14: Council Finance:

The Clerk informed the meeting that no issues had been raised in the End of Audit report other than a question asked about the level of reserves in the account. The Clerk had explained to the auditors that some monies were ring-fenced for specific activities and actions such as the purchase of SID's.

The clerk reported that the balance of the main account was £14,784.22p as per the bank statement dated 20th August 2014.

The following expenditure was agreed by the councillors present:

- Clerk's Salary Qtr 2: £266.51p
- HMRC PAYE Qtr 2: £66.60p
- Clerk's Expenses Qtr 2: £35.00p
- Audit Fee: £36.00p

Once the above payments had been taken into account the reconciled balance of the main account is £14,380.11p

ACTION: Clerk to send out all payments.

86.09.14: Feedback from Meetings:

Cllr. Wood reported back from a Celebration walk from Gillerthwaite Youth Hostel to Black Sail Youth Hostel where he had represented the Parish Council. The walk had been wet but enjoyable.

87.09.14: Items for the next Meeting:

- The new Head Teacher of the school
ACTION: Cllr. Shail to talk to the Head Teacher.

88.09.14: Date of the next meeting:

7.00pm on Wednesday 12th November 2014 in St. Mary's Community Centre.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chair

Dave Smith, Clerk to Ennerdale & Kinniside Parish Council
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