

Ennerdale & Kinniside Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 14th January 2015
in St. Mary's Community Centre, Ennerdale Bridge.

01.01.15: In Attendance: Cllrs. Topping (Chair), Johns, Ayling and Denham-Smith.

Also in attendance: Mike McKinley (Chair-LDNPA), Cllr. Hugh Branney (Copeland BC LDNPA Member), David Moore (Head-teacher: Ennerdale Community School) and Dave Smith (Clerk).

02.01.15: Apologies: Cllrs. Wood, McMullen, Taylor and Shail.

03.01.15: Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Topping declared an interest as a Director of RNEC. There were no other Declarations of Interest.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

04.01.15: Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the November meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Cllr. Johns

Seconded: Cllr. Ayling

The Chair duly signed them.

05.01.15: Presentation: Mike McKinley - Chair of the LDNPA:

Mike thanked those present for the invitation to attend the meeting. He went on to explain that membership of the Authority consisted of five Parish representatives, of which he was one, five District Council representatives, of which Cllr. Branney was one, five County Council representatives and five people nominated by central government. Mike has been on the Authority for the last seven years and was elected as chair some six months ago. He is the first person from Copeland and the first Parish Council representative to become Chairman.

It is felt by many that Copeland suffers from a certain neglect by the LDNPA because it is a long way from Kendal, it doesn't contain any of the Park tourist hot spots and it is still difficult to get in as much as you have to travel around the various mountain ranges to get to it. Mike hopes that having a chair from Copeland will change this situation.

Currently the Authority is in the process of developing a Partnership Plan as part of the bid for World Heritage Status. The plan is in the draft stage at the moment. The Partnership Plan will also contain a list of works that the authority will undertake in a given year. The partnership is made up of a wide variety of organisations including the National Trust, the Forestry Commission, United Utilities, the NFU, the Friends of the Lake District and the Country Landowners Association amongst others. The Partnership is Chaired by Lord Clark of Windermere and Mike is the deputy chair.

It is expected that the Partnership will be able to assist the Authority as the budget decreases and the duties and responsibilities increase and the Government is very supportive of this new way of working. As all the major land-owners in the Park are represented on the Partnership and this is expected to make the job of footpath and bridleway maintenance much easier.

Mike then explained how the bid for World Heritage Status was progressing. The first bid was turned down and it was suggested that the second bid should not be progressed. Officers are currently working on a third bid. The main problem has been that the Lake District is not really in the same league as Yosemite in as much as it is not really 'natural'. Man and sheep have had such a big impact on the Park and the way that it has evolved that it is more accurate to describe it as a 'cultural landscape' rather than a 'natural landscape'. Fortunately, UNESCO have introduced a new category of World Heritage Site this being 'cultural landscape' and it is under this category that the LDNPA will be applying. The third bid is now at the stage where LDNPA officers are ready to come and talk to Parish Councils and this will happen during the coming months.

There followed a number of questions for Mike:

Q: Will becoming a World Heritage Site have any impact on the planning process?

A: No, WHS will have no impact on the way that planning applications are handled.

Q: Does the Authority have a view on Europe in or out?

A: There is as yet no official view but clearly the Common Agricultural policy and the benefits that it brings for farmers in the Park will have an influence on any view taken. It should be stated that LDNPA prides itself on being non-political.

Q: If the WHS bid is successful how will it benefit this parish?

A: People living in the parish should let the Authority know what outcomes they would like to see from the bid. For example would you like to see more foreign visitors undertaking the Coast to Coast path. Whilst we don't think there will be a massive increase in tourism if the bid is successful, probably no more than 1%, we do feel that being a WHS will increase the number of foreign visitors. Tourism brings in £2b to the Park but at the moment only 8% of this figure comes into Copeland. There certainly is the potential to increase tourism income in Copeland and in Ennerdale, with the Coast to Coast, the Wild Ennerdale project and the Ennerdale Centre when complete, this potential is clear to see. However, it should be made clear that protection of the landscape is of prime importance to both the Authority and the bid.

Q: What is the general view of the bid at the current time?

A: It would be fair to say that there is more support for the bid within the areas where tourism is really important. Elsewhere it is felt that there is more work to do in terms of promotion and explanation.

Cllr. Topping thanked both Mike and Hugh for the presentation and in conclusion stated that he felt that WHS was something that should be introduced into the community led planning process.

06.01.15: Presentation: David Moore - Head Teacher, Ennerdale Community School.

David explained that he had moved from the Yorkshire Dales to take up his new role at Ennerdale School. He explained that he was very aware that the school was a Community School and that it had a major role to play in the wider community.

The school itself is quite restricted in terms of both internal and external space so David is keen to explore the possibilities of working in partnership with both The Hub, possibly using space within the new Ennerdale Centre for school sessions and nursery provision, and ECRAAG looking to use on a more regular basis the Sports Field.

There are currently 43 pupils on the school register which is a really healthy number. However, many pupils are from outwith the catchment area. Whilst there is no minimum requirement in terms of numbers any fall in numbers would be a cause for concern.

MM stated that maintaining village schools is an absolute priority for the LDNPA as it is seen as a way of keeping young people living in the Park. If a community is to be a vibrant community it really needs a school, shop, church and pub.

Cllr. Topping thanked David for his attendance and wished him well in his new post.

07.01.15: Public Participation:

Two issues of concern were raised:

Japanese Knotweed: Concerns have been expressed regarding the presence of Knotweed on the banking opposite The Shepherds Arms. Not only is it unsightly but has spread to such an extent that it could become a problem for the adjacent road. The bank belongs to the nearby bungalow which is let out on behalf of the owners by Smeatons of Cockermouth.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Smeatons asking them to arrange for the treatment of the Knotweed.

Funerals & weddings at St. Mary's Church: local residents living in the vicinity of the Church have on occasion been 'trapped' by vehicles attending funerals and weddings held at the Church and have been unable to get their cars out as all access was blocked.

ACTION: Cllr. Topping is to talk to Mike Watts about this issue.

08.01.15: Progress Reports:

A: Clerk's Report:

The following actions from the previous meeting:

94.11.14: Cllr. Ayling to clarify the potential funding available & liaise with UU re: work in village:

96.11.14: Cllr. Wood to inform the Clerk of the outcome of meeting with Cumbria Highways: Done

96.11.14: Clerk to inform Cllrs of cost of hedge work on Walkers Path prior to commissioning: Done

98.11.14: Clerk to send out all payments: Done

100.11.14: Cllr. Shail to remind head teacher of meeting date:

100.11.14: Clerk to invite Mike McKinley of LDNPA: Done

100.11.14: Clerk to invite Red Squirrel Group to March meeting: Done

A list of correspondence was given:

Correspondence	For information	For action
CBC: Precept letter	X	X
Various SID quotes	X	X
Great North Air Ambulance: request for donation	X	X
CALC Newsletter Dec/Jan	X	
LDNPA Digest	X	

Councillors agreed to make a donation of £100 to the Great North Air Ambulance.

Consultations: The Clerk confirmed that he had written to both CCC and the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government supporting the proposal for a single tier authority in Cumbria.

B: RNEC:

Cllr. Topping reported that RNEC had secured an option on land in Cleator Moor, on the road to Frizington close to the Parkside hotel, in support of the West Lakes Xtreme project to develop an indoor visitor centre offering adventure sports. Various potential partner organisations are developing proposals that will see the project come to fruition.

There was some discussion regarding the Parish Lengthsman scheme and the need for more involvement on behalf of the Parish Council in terms of attending update meetings and requesting work to be undertaken in the Parish.

ACTION: Cllr. Topping is to clarify the situation with regard to requesting works.

C: ECRAG:

Cllr. Ayling informed the meeting that a village meeting had been held to try and get some consensus on the future of Bridge Park. There were 18 attendees and after much debate it was agreed in principle that Bridge would no longer be a swing park but, with the eventual removal of the play equipment, become a memorial park with seating.

New developments on the Sports Field will see new play equipment being installed and the building of an all weather, tarmaced area surrounded by netting. This area will be the size of a tennis court. The predicted cost of these developments will be between £70k and £80k. At present £20k has been committed by United Utilities via Groundwork and WREN have indicated that they might contribute a further £40k. Further fund raising activities are ongoing. Cllr. Ayling confirmed that planning permission will be required for this development.

A United Utilities work group will undertake work on Bridge Park on January 21st, the aim of which is to tidy up the area.

Cllr. Ayling reminded the meeting that ECRAG is still without a Chair at present.

D: Bus Service 217:

Representatives from Dean, Frizington & Arlecdon and Ennerdale & Kinniside parish councils attended the Lamplugh Parish Council meeting on 18 November 2014. Dean PC presented the case for supporting the 217 bus service. Latest data on passenger usage were given. In the year Oct 2013 to Sep 2014, a total of 1025 passenger journeys were recorded. 168 started or terminated in Lamplugh parish; this represents 16% of all passenger journeys.

On 10 December 2014, the three supporting parish councils confirmed their contributions as:

Frizington/Arlecdon £1200

Dean £1800

Ennerdale&Kinniside £200

Total £3200

This is about £2000 short of what is required to support the 217 service. However with about £2500 accrued monies, held by CCC, the 217 could continue in service until April 2016. With support from Lamplugh, the 217 could continue beyond this date. Lamplugh will decide on whether to offer financial support at their next council meeting on 15 January.

E: Connecting Cumbria:

Cllr. Topping informed the meeting that the BT project is currently going through a quiet spell as the Phase 2 Connecting Cumbria project is out to public consultation. However, until the Connecting Cumbria team and BT start talking to local communities Cllr. Topping feels that there will be little change in the way that the project has developed to date.

F: Community Led Planning Group:

Cllr. Johns reported that there had been a poor attendance at the last CLP meeting with only four people able to make it. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 28th January. However, it is clear from the work undertaken to date that there needs to be a lot more 'background consultation' done and specific issues raised need to be looked at much more closely. The responses received so far have provided no real surprises and it is clear that there needs to be some work done on getting people to think beyond the Parish boundaries. It was agreed that attendance at the Ennerdale Show in August was essential.

It was agreed that an application should be made to ACT for £500 to assist with the consultation and development work.

09.01.15: Planning Matters:

One new application has been received:

Ref: 7/2014/4116
Location: Laverick View, 4 Kirkland Road, Ennerdale Bridge CA23 3AZ
Proposal: 2 storey extension to the rear of the property
Response by: 20th January 2014
Councillors agreed that they had 'No Objections' to this application.

One application was dealt with between meetings:

Ref: 7/2014/4109
Location: Eirinn Talla, Ennerdale, Cleator CA23 3AU
Proposal: Build implement shed
Response by: 29th December 2014
A response of 'No Objections' was sent.

Councillors were asked to note a compliance with conditions letter relating to the Ennerdale Centre.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the LDNPA of the views of the council.

10.01.15: Report from the Police and Neighbourhood Watch:

Cllr. Wood reported that five Neighbourhood Watch messages had been sent out in November and seven in December.

Police reports since the November meeting were as follows:

November 14: 0 reports
December 14: awaiting information

11.01.15: Highways Matters:

Further to previous discussions regarding Speed Indicator Devices (SID's), Cllr Topping informed the meeting that Cllr. Wood had written informing councillors that he had met with Kevin Cosgrove from Cumbria Highways and between them they had identified three locations in the village and its approaches to site mounting poles for the SID. KC is to see if the funding can be found from Cumbria Highways for the poles and their installation.

A second meeting with a representative from the Cockermouth Rural Safety group at which their SID was demonstrated and the data collected seen was attended by Cllr. Wood and the Clerk. The Clerk informed the meeting that an offer of help in setting up the SID and the data collection process was made by the CRSG.

Cllr. Wood goes on to propose that the Parish Council purchase the following from CA Traffic Systems, the cheapest of the three quotes received:

1. Clever SID complete with 2 x set of rechargeable batteries, charger, palm pilot and 3 x post mount brackets: £2, 552.00
2. 1 x free standing mount: price to be confirmed but expected to be £104.00
3. Carriage @ £12.00

TOTAL: £2,668.00 (plus VAT which the council can claim back.)

The above was proposed by Cllr. Ayling and seconded by Cllr. Denholm-Smith.

All those present agreed with the proposal.

ACTION: Clerk to confirm price with supplier and place the order.

There followed some discussion regarding the various fingerposts in the Parish and their condition. It was felt the Muir Lachlan might have some useful information regarding missing fingers and refurbishment costs.

ACTION: Clerk to contact ML and discuss.

12.01.15: The Parish Council Newsletter:

Cllr. Topping had previously circulated a draft copy of the newsletter and councillors had highlighted some slight errors which had now been corrected. All present were happy that the newsletter should now be printed and delivered.

ACTION: Cllr. Topping to drop off copies for delivery.

13.01.15: Council Finance:

The Clerk explained that he had received a letter from Copeland BC in which it was stated that there would no longer be any Concurrent Services grants available to Parish Councils. In the current year this had amounted to some £35.00p. He also highlighted the potential cut in the Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant as a result of a 30% cut in this grant given by central government to the Borough Council. Copeland have yet to decide if they will pass this cut on to Parish Councils. In the case of Ennerdale & Kinniside this could mean a reduction of up to £100.00p in the precept. Taking into account the current balance of the Parish Council account the Clerk recommended no change to the previous decision of the Council not to increase the precept. The Councillors present agreed this.

ACTION: Clerk to inform CBC of the precept required for 2015/16.

The Clerk reported that the balance of the main account was £14,380.11p as per the latest available bank statement dated 19th September 2014.

The following payments were agreed:

- Clerk's salary QTR 3: £266.51p
- HMRC PAYE QTR 3: £66.60p
- Clerk's Expenses QTR 3: £55.00p
- Cllr. Wood expenses: £85.00p (agreed at the previous meeting but cheque not issued)
- CCC: Service 217: £200.00
- Great North Air Ambulance: £100.00 (donation)

Once the above payments had been taken into account, the reconciled balance of the main account is £13,607.00p

ACTION: Clerk to send out payments.

14.01.15: Feedback from meetings:

Cllr. Wood had attended the AGM of Cumbria Fells & Dales at which it had been explained that the whole of the £2.8m available is going to support six projects with a predicted outcome of 105 jobs created.

15.01.15: Items for the next meeting:

- Report from The Ennerdale Red Squirrel Group
- Report from the Environment Agency re: flooding

16.01.15: Date of next meeting:

7.00pm on Wednesday 11th March 2015 in St. Mary's Community Centre, Ennerdale Bridge

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Chair

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