

Ennerdale & Kinniside Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: Jane Coltman
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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 17th January 2023 at 6.30pm in The Gather, Ennerdale Bridge

Present: Cllr R Outhwaite (Chair), Cllr S Guise (SG), Cllr K Park (KP), Cllr N Rowson (NR), Cllr R Taylor (RT), Cllr J Thursz (JT), Cllr D Young (DY)

Also in attendance: Cumbria County Councillor A Lamb (AL)

Clerk: J Coltman (JC)

Members of the public: 9

Meeting commenced at 6.33pm

Minute Number	Item	Action
828/01/23	<p style="text-align: center;">To Receive a Letter</p> <p>The clerk read a letter of resignation received from Sarah Sharpe (appended).</p> <p>Matters to address as a result of the resignation: Chair: Resolved to appoint Ric Outhwaite as Chair. Proposed NR, seconded DY. The chair took and signed the oath of office, witnessed by the clerk. Vacancy: Resolved not to co-opt to the vacant seat. Bank Signatory: Resolved to add JT and NR as bank signatories so that DY could be removed as requested.</p>	JC to notify CBC
829/01/23	<p style="text-align: center;">To Receive Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillor Morgan.</p>	
830/01/23	<p style="text-align: center;">Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No councillors had any new interests or anything to declare in relation to this meeting</p>	
831/01/23	<p style="text-align: center;">Exclusion of Press and Public</p> <p>No items required the exclusion of press and public.</p>	
832/01/23	<p style="text-align: center;">To Approve the Minutes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council Meeting of 27th September 2022. • The EGM 18th October 2022. • The Parish Council Meeting of 10th November 2022. • The EGM of 24th November 2022. <p>Resolved to defer approval of the minutes until the next meeting. DY to share proposed amendments with the council.</p>	DY

833/01/23	<p>Reports from Ward and County Councillors and guest speakers</p> <p>Cllr Lamb said the main issues were highways. Problems with gritting, which he had reported. The speed counter at Croasdale had found nothing over 30mph. They would probably look at reducing the speed limit under the new council. Flooding at Hazelholme. Grit bins had gone missing. The clerk would report these to highways. The issue of double yellow lines could be taken up with the new council.</p>	JC
834/01/23	<p>Clerk's Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SSSI training was outstanding. • Civility and Respect model councillor-officer protocol to go on a future agenda for adoption • Defibrillator Supplies ordered, somebody would need to take over checks. JT volunteered to do the checks. • Letter sent regarding lighting around the school • JT to update on mediation • Letters re future plans from EGM on 24th November still to be circulated and approved • DY had attended a climate literacy course. Without objection this would appear on the next list of payments for approval. • Letter requesting assistance received from Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre. This would need to be discussed beforehand and brought to a future agenda with all information so they could have a formal response. 	<p>JC JC JT JT DY JC</p>
835/01/23	<p>Councillor/Committee Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RO said that the people counters were in place on the Broadmoor Trail and SG would download the data. • A member of the public asked about the consultation response from Forestry England. This would be shared to the website & Facebook page. • KP would check on the progress of the benches. Money might be needed for planters but would depend on whether people adopted them. There was discussion about the tree in Bridge Park and it was suggested that the council should remove it. RO said that it was church land and no agreement had been put before the council. • JT said that he had spoken to CBC, CALC and ACAS regarding mediation, but currently it had stalled. 	<p>SG JC KP</p>
836/01/23	<p>Public Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member of the public said that the river gate by the Irish Bridge was being removed. They asked if their complaint and FOI request would be addressed and the chair confirmed that they would. • A member of the public asked the representatives to Wild Ennerdale if they would ask for their long-term plans for the valley. They said that they had made a complaint and they would like action as soon as possible. • A member of the public asked if the council were aware of all the beaver escapes that had been documented on the BBC website and said that they had not seen the council's view on this. RO stated that 	

	<p>we would look at the evidence and form a view when it came to the consultation stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Lamb asked if Wild Ennerdale had been invited to the meeting and if they had invited us to go to theirs. The clerk confirmed that they had been invited to the November meeting and did not attend. They had not been invited to this one. RO confirmed that he had not received an invite to their meeting recently. DY would complete the outstanding letter by the end of the week and circulate to councillors. • A member of the public asked if the shrub in front of the bus shelter could be removed and a mural painted on it. RO said this could be a community project and the council would not object. There were objections to the tree being removed. RT would speak to the school and local business to seek ideas to bring back to the council. 	DY RT
837/01/23	<p style="text-align: center;">Budget for 2023-2024</p> <p>Resolved to agree the budget at £16,908, but with an as yet unknown amount for potential legal and compensation costs. RO would look into the costs, including the insurance cover, then the budget would need to be reviewed.</p>	RO
838/01/23	<p style="text-align: center;">Precept</p> <p>Resolved to submit a provisional precept request of £12,908 but to ask for advice on how to submit a second or late request and to contact Steve Morgan for assistance.</p>	JC
839/01/23	<p style="text-align: center;">Hedge Cutting, Emergency Plan, Stakeholder Delegates</p> <p>Resolved To defer these three items to the next meeting.</p>	
840/01/23	<p style="text-align: center;">Adoption of Updated Standing Orders, FOI and Complaints Procedures</p> <p>DY said that he hadn't had time to go through the standing orders but had amendments that he wanted to make. He would circulate the list of changes. Resolved to defer the approval of the Standing Orders and FOI Procedure to the next meeting. To approve the adoption of the complaints procedure.</p>	DY
841/01/23	<p style="text-align: center;">Defibrillator for Croasdale.</p> <p>Resolved to defer at the request of the proposer</p>	
842/01/23	<p style="text-align: center;">Charles Arnold Baker book on Local Council Administration</p> <p>Resolved to purchase the book</p>	
843/01/23	<p style="text-align: center;">Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7/2022/4097 Bracken Wreay Farm. Notice that permission granted. 	

844/01/23	Payments for approval				
17th January 2023	St Mary's Community Centre	Room Hire	£ 24.00	000664	
17th January 2023	St Mary's Community Centre	Room Hire	£ 12.00	000664	
17th January 2023	Cumbria Association of Local Councils	JT Training part 1	£ 30.00	000665	
17th January 2023	Cumbria Association of Local Councils	JT Training part 2	£ 30.00	000665	
17th January 2023	Whicham Parish Council	Locum Clerk Nov 24th EGM	£ 156.78	000666	
17th January 2023	TEEC Ltd	Website Hosting	£ 151.19	000667	
17th January 2023	J Coltman	Salary	£ 1,259.02	000668	
17th January 2023	HMRC	Income Tax	£ 314.80	000669	
Resolved to approve the payments as listed					
845/01/23	Date of Next Meeting				
21 st February 2023					

Meeting closed at 9.12pm

Chairman's signature.....

Date.....

Appendix 1

Dear Clerk

Please accept this letter as my immediate resignation from Ennerdale and Kinniside Parish Council.

The bullying and intimidation within this council has become untenable, there is no support from outside bodies with any aspect of council life.

I joined the Parish Council to make life better for the parishioners of Ennerdale and Kinniside, in every aspect of my time with the Council the parishioners' best interests have been at the centre of my actions.

I now feel that in the endeavour to protect the council from possible future events, my own integrity is being questioned and that is where I draw the line.

The behaviour of a few of the Councillors in this council is beyond comprehensible, the council is facing potential legal challenges and some councillors still don't understand their responsibility as employers, never mind human beings. They happily sit back and watch the bullying and intimidation right in front of them and stay mute. This complicit behaviour does not belong in public service or any other form of daily life.

The Council was told by the Monitoring Officer to attend mediation back in August 2022 after a series of Code of Conduct complaints where two councillors were found to breach the code of conduct, to date the Council still has not managed to do this and why, because those who are the centre of the issues won't agree to the recognised bodies (CALC) being the mediators. Yet again these individuals wish to incur further costs to the Parish.

For this council to survive people need to find their inner strength and stand up for what is right, don't be afraid to speak out as a collective you can stamp out the narcissistic behaviour and bullying that is systemic within this Council.

Sadly, it is too late to stop any impact on the Parishioners as regardless of if the legal fight comes or not it still needs to be budgeted for in the precept, hence impacting the people that you are meant to serve. The £100 mediation costs that some councillors were against in July seems awfully cheap now compared to the estimate from the solicitor of £25K -£35K plus vat and any compensation that may be due.

This council needs to take advantage of the courses provided by CALC, you need to become a good employer, you need to understand the legislation that you are working within and you need to learn how to work as a team.

I wish the council the best of luck in addressing its issues and future events.

Kind regards



Sarah E A Sharpe