

## **Parish Council of St Johns Castlerigg & Wythburn Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting of the St John's Castlerigg & Wythburn Parish Council held at Thirlmere Recreational Hall on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 19:00

Present: Mr I Hartland (Chairman), Mrs C Archbold, Mr M Cockbain, Mrs P Darrall, Mrs S Hope, Mr B Vidler, Mr D Lamb, Mr L Walton, Ms B Carter (Clerk), Catherine Evans (Environment Agency).

The meeting was quorate with all members of the council present.

### **1/18 Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies were received from C/Cllr T Lywood. & United Utilities who will be attending the March meeting.

### **2/18 Declarations of Interest & Requests for dispensations**

Cllr M Cockbain declared an interest in application ref 7/2017/2322

### **3/18 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held 30/11/17 and 6/12/17**

Resolved by all present that the minutes be signed by Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meetings held on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017 & the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

**Action: Clerk to upload the minutes to the website.**

### **04/18 Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.

The Clerk read out a letter from Carol & Roy Smith asking for a financial contribution towards the restoration of original design quarry tiles within their property.

**Resolved** by all present that whilst the tiles are recognised as being of local importance the Council can't provide funding towards items that are not readily accessible to the public and are part of a private dwelling.

**Action: Clerk to communicate this decision to Mr & Mrs Smith.**

### **05/18 Environment Agency Update**

Mrs Catherine Evans from the Environment Agency attended the meeting to provide an overview on where the Environment Agency are with regards to flood matters in the area.

The Environment Agency are working with United Utilities on how the St Johns in the Vale Valley is managed to help reduce flood risk in Keswick. The EA are at the stage of needing to decide which direction to proceed in terms of this geographical area.

United Utilities don't want to consider or agree to releasing additional water from Thirlmere if this risks the river within St John's in the Vale breaking its banks as they are concerned on the legal position of flooding land. The work on the modelling impacts of such releases have now been completed.

Following a meeting with the Keswick Flood Action Group who are not happy with the reduced levels of water being released from Thirlmere a statement was made from a resident of St John's in the Vale that the residents of St John's in the Vale would fully support improvements to flood risk in Keswick by the use of land within St Johns in the Vale. United Utilities need a firmer commitment before they could consider this.

Mrs Evans attended the meeting to firstly check the general statement that the Parish Council and landowners are fully in support of using the land to reduce the flood risk to Keswick?

Secondly the Environment Agency have managed to secure some funding from Natural England to look at scoping what additional levels of water release would look like in terms of the environmental impact on the SSSI

and the Designated River Habitat, and also the potential for flood risk benefits if the EA were able to restore the river. At this stage the EA have not yet started the work.

Is the council generally in support of considering the options around changing the use of St John's in the Vale for flood risk benefit purposes? What suggestions would the Parish Council have for people/persons to be included in the scoping group.

The funding received from the EA needs to be spent quick to model what the potential impacts would be.

There are two possible significant impacts for landowners, 1) if the river was allowed to re naturalise this may result in the loss of land and 2) if embankments are altered/removed the land may get wetter/wet more frequently.

Concerns were raised by the Parish Council regarding:

- Low lying properties (e.g. Wanthwaite Mill)
- In other areas where this has been tried (Swindale) it has caused issues.
- Early warning- Would additional early warning systems be put in place to let landowners know in advance of a water release? Mrs Evans confirmed that this could be possible and has been used elsewhere.
- Wider impacts of altering/removing embankments need to be considered e.g. down stream impacts/impact on bridges/infrastructure.
- Who would undertake the work? Mrs Evans confirmed that this could be either EA appointed contractors, or the landowners themselves with the support of the EA in terms of licencing.

Mrs Evans confirmed that if river restoration went ahead it is likely that there would be some financial support for the landowners in terms of stewardship.

Mrs Evans confirmed that there was no expectation that the United Utilities West Cumbria Link Main would have any impact on water being released from the dam/water levels within the reservoir.

As part of this scoping study the wider impacts would be considered, once all the modelling has been completed as part of the scoping landowners would be able to opt in/out. The EA are not willing to get to this stage unless there is some initial interest from local people/landowners to the possibilities.

The Parish Council sought clarity on if a meeting would be held with all affected landowners?

Cath confirmed that such a meeting would be held for all affected landowners/property owners/users of the water course.

Mrs Evans queried who should call the meeting? The EA? Or the PC?

**Resolved** by all present that the meeting would be best called by the EA, with the support of the Parish Council.

**Resolved** that Cllr D Lamb's contact details be passed to Mrs Evans as a starting point for organising the meeting. Cllr D Lamb & Mrs C Evans to keep the Parish Council informed on the progress of this project.

#### **07/18 Update from visiting councillors/other bodies.**

- i) *Allerdale Borough Council*

**Resolved** by all present that the letter from Mr M Pugmire be noted as received raising concern about the time/date of St John's, Castlerigg & Wythburn Parish Council meetings. Parish Council meetings have been held on Thursday evenings for in excess of 15 years.

No other representatives of other bodies were present.

#### **8/18 Reports on Matters Arising/Clerks Report**

**Resolved** that the Clerks report as circulated be noted as received.

**Resolved** by all present that the Council will not be attending the Friends of the Lake District rally regarding the Thirlmere Activity Hub and Zip Wire proposal. The Council have submitted comments which are available in the public domain for anyone to read if they wish.

**Action: Clerk to communicate this decision to Friends of the Lake District.**

*A66 Overnight Road Closures*

It was noted that the A66 will be closed over night from the 11<sup>th</sup> February potentially until the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The diversion is via Carlisle & the A591 from Cockermouth.

**Resolved** by all present that the lack of Community Consultation be noted. This is potentially going to be very disruptive and spans the half term period which will have an impact on the local economy.

**Action: Clerk to note this to Highways England.**

*Letter to United Utilities*

**Resolved** by all present that the letter prepared by Cllr P Darrall be circulated to all councillors via email with a view to this being send to the Chief Exec of UU prior to the next Parish Council meeting.

**Action: Clerk to act upon this.**

**Action: Clerk to agenda the matter of a letter to LDNPA for the March meeting.**

**9/18 Highways & Transport Matters**

**Action: Clerk to enquire to CCC the purpose for the installation of the new large street lights between Lonsties at Rakefoot Lane end.**

**10/18 Planning Applications**

**Ref: 7/2017/2307**

Location: The site is located on the forest track, Summerhouse & Fisher Crag Plantation, West of Thirlmere Reservoir

Proposal: Upgrade and improvement of existing forest track including creation of stacking areas and turning circle (retrospective).

**Resolved** by all present that the Council have no comment on this application.

**Action: Clerk to submit these comments.**

**Ref: 7/2017/2298**

Location: Land at Thirlmere

Proposal: Thirlmere Activity Hub, Development of a zipwire attraction, a series of improvements etc. (Additional Documentation)

**Resolved** by all present that the additional documents don't alter the position of the Parish Council regarding this application.

**Ref: 7/2017/2322**

Location: Castlerigg Hall, Castlerigg, Keswick

Proposal: Proposed workshop & storage building with staff accommodation above.

Cllr M Cockbain declared an interest in this item.

**Resolved** by all present that the Council have no comments relating to this application.

**Action: Clerk to submit these comments.**

**11/18 Planning Decisions.**

**Resolved** by all present that the below decisions be noted as received.

<u>Ref No</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Decision</u>
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7/2017/2191	Bram Cragg Farm,	Use of land for the siting of two static homes for the purpose of holiday letting accommodation and for year round use	Approved with Conditions
7/2017/2238	Castlerigg Farm, Castlerigg	Use of south field for caravans, motorhomes & campervans and full year use of the whoel site	Approved with conditions

**12/18 Correspondence Received.**

- i) *Letter of thanks from Eden Valley Hospice*

Cllr P Darrall read out a letter thanking the parish for the funding donated by them following the Christmas Carol Singing around the Parish.

**13/18 Finance, Accounts & Governance**

- i. *Invoices for Approval*

None

- ii. *Approval of Bank Reconciliation & Spend Against Budget Report*

**Resolved** by all present that this be noted as received and be signed by Cllr D Lamb as a true and accurate record.

- iii. *Consideration of Draft Budget 18-19*

**Resolved** by all present that the precept be increased by 10% to £8,087.08 to allow for Data Controller Fees after the change of legislation in May 2018, and to ensure that the Council has acceptable reserves at the end of the Financial year.

**Action: Clerk to process this paperwork.**

- iv. *Request for support Cumbria Children’s Dyslexia Project*

**Resolved** by all present that a donation to this organisation doesn’t fit with the Parish Council policy on only giving donations to organisations active within the parish.

**Action: Clerk to convey this decision.**

- v. *Request for Support Great North Air Ambulance*

**Resolved** by all present that a donation can’t be offered at this time, but that the funding from the 2018 Carol Service would be donated to this charity.

- vi. *Dalebottom Noticeboard.*

**Resolved** by all present that a budget of £200 be allocated to allow for repairs/replacement of this noticeboard. If the work is likely to cost more than this a formal quote to be bought to the March 2018 Parish Council meeting.

**Action: Cllr P Darrall to speak to the relevant contractor regarding this work.**

**14/18 Date of Next meeting**

**Resolved** that the next meeting time be 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 at 19:00.

Meeting Closed 20:20

Signed..... Cllr I Hartland (Chairman)