

RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 9th September 2010 in Ravenstonedale High Chapel Room at 7.30pm

Present Cllr Caroline Morris (Chairman) Cllrs Helen Shields, Hilary Law and Ernest Leach.
Clerk. Chris Elphick
UECP Project Officer, Libby Bateman
One member of the Public

Apologies for Absence had been received from Cllrs James Richardson, Paul Capstick, Alison Morriss, County Councillor Peter Thornton, District Councillor George Boustead and PCSO, Janet Allinson

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest in any item on this agenda.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 8th July 2010 had been circulated and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Finance

Accounts paid prior to meeting

A Kirby (Grasscutting)	£681.50
Richard Staley (Walling Stone at Scandal Beck)	£240.00

Accounts for Payment

C J Elphick (Admin Expenses inc. Newsletter)	£251.44
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It was **resolved** that the foregoing three payments be approved

BIG SOCIETY

Councillor Mirrey and the Clerk had attended a meeting, hosted by Rory Stewart MP. The purpose of which was to establish ways in which local organisations, including parish councils, could maximise the effects of projects by minimising bureaucracy. Several officials from Westminster were present, making notes on local problems and may return with suggestions for improvements. A full report is on the website ravenstonedale.org under Parish Council – Big Society.

Rory Stewart gave a brief introduction about the reason for the visit, highlighting that the 'Big Society' was an evolving process that was ours to shape.

4 main 'Big Society' priorities were discussed in detail

Planning – The need for flexibility in the allocations of affordable housing.

Broadband - Many areas have the will and the means to build their own systems to deliver broadband around their communities, often using wireless technology for the 'last mile'.

Kirkby Stephen Community & Council Centre – Re-location and future operation.

Footpaths & Cycleways - UECP Project Officer gave an overview of the issues that the communities are facing in terms of local level development of footpaths and cycleways.

The parish of Ravenstonedale has, for the past 12 years, been developing a project which could provide a model for the delivery of footpaths and cycleways across the area. This project (intended to be a Millennium project), challenges the conventional method of delivery via the county council, who are often burdened with contracts and bureaucracy and are unable to deliver small scale, community level projects at small scale costs.

Ravenstonedale has the wish to build a 600m cycleway between the villages of Ravenstonedale & Newbiggin on Lune, which were divided by the A685 when it was

constructed in the 1970s. The parish council has, on behalf of the community, for the past 8 years precepted towards the cost of the path and now have £8k allocated towards the build cost. The Parish Council is challenging the county council as they have a local contractor, approved by the county council for working on the highway who has given a quote to construct the path for almost £30K less than the county council has quoted. This would enable money to go further and have a local ownership of the facility. It is hoped that the Big Society will help to facilitate the completion of this project.

Ravenstonedale High Chapel

Negotiations for purchase of the property continue. All sections of the draft transfer contract are deemed acceptable except one clause, which is being re-drafted. The Parish Council has permission from the Synod to hold meetings in the premises. It is, however, not currently legal to serve refreshments due to the lack of hot water and separate hand washing facilities in the kitchen. It was **resolved** that a hand basin and water heater be installed. Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

Planning Applications

No. 10/0582	NON-MATERIAL AMENDMENT TO APPLICATION NO. 09/0640 COMPRISING OF RELOCATING UTILITY ROOM TO THE REAR
Location	Brunt Hill, Ravenstonedale
Parish Council	There were no additional comments.

Upper Eden Community Plan Group

The main business of the group currently has been in connection with the Big Society and meetings with our MP Rory Stewart, Lord Wei plus other officials from Westminster who may help with the implementation of then Plan. Minutes of the meetings of the UECP Plan Group may be seen on www.uecp.org.uk/Parishes.html or hard copy obtained from the Parish Clerk.

Scandal Beck Green

“Our Green Space” meeting 13th July – Scandal Beck Green – Report
Project Officer Shirley Muir brought a small group of community workers to demonstrate what can be done with a neglected piece of ground within a community. The group comprised members from six locations including Kirkby Stephen, Windermere, Appleby and Endmoor. Scandal Beck Green had been chosen as a “How to do it” project study insofar as we have made great progress but still have far to go. Discussions ranged from Project Management, Funding & Grants, Health & Safety and a balance between Recreation and Conservation. The meeting included a lively and informative discussion on topics including the relevance of : *history* (local heritage and archaeology and the history of people's involvement) *wildlife* (including do we let the grass grow long?) *amenity* (including do we keep the grass short and tidy?) *access* and how to improve it, *recreation*, *interpretation*, *education* and how to balance all of these needs. It was encouraging that after the meeting Shirley passed on the comment that “several members of the group mentioned that they had been inspired by what you have achieved at Ravenstonedale”.

Proposed Ravenstonedale Local History Group

A meeting for potential members was held in the High Chapel Room on Wednesday 8th September 2010 at 7.30pm. A presentation was made demonstrating the many facets of local history including family research, history of buildings, archaeology, events and much more. Ravenstonedale being an ancient settlement has a wealth of historic records and the aim is to conserve this information for future generations and share it with the wider community.

Approximately thirty people expressed an interest in forming a group. Initially it was agreed to meet informally on Thursday afternoons between 2.00 and 4.00 to catalogue and assemble information currently held. A more formal arrangement would depend on premises being available in the longer term as the parish council completes the acquisition of the high chapel building.

Future of Refuse & Recycling in Eden – Consultation

The various alternatives for domestic collections offered in the consultation document were discussed. It was apparent that the requirements of rural properties differed from those within the village. Clerk to draft a response for confirmation at the October meeting. It was noted that a local plastic recycling facility would be desirable.

Public Participation

It was noted that parking adjacent to the corner outside the Black Swan was obstructing the passage of vehicles and potentially dangerous.

Correspondence received

CALC – County Circular September 2010
Clerks & Councils Direct
Eden Association of Local Councils AGM Wed. 15th September, Town Hall, 7.00
ASHTAV – “The Pevsner View” 2nd October, Langport, Somerset

Date of next meeting: Thursday 14th October 2010

Signed _____ Chairman Date 14th October 2010