

RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 10th February 2011 in Ravenstonedale High Chapel Room at 7.30pm

Present Cllr Caroline Morris (Chairman) Cllrs Helen Shields, Hilary Law, James Richardson, and Ernest Leach.
Clerk. Chris Elphick
Members of the public, Alex Watts-Tobin and Ian Torkington

Apologies for Absence had been received from Cllrs Paul Capstick & Alison Morriss, County Councillor Peter Thornton and District Councillor George Boustead

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in any item on the agenda.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 13th January 2011 had been circulated and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Upper Eden Community Plan Group

It is proposed to formalise the group by the creation of a Community Interest Company. A Draft copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association were presented at the UECP meeting on February 3rd. The document needs to be ratified by each of the member parishes to validate it.

Ravenstonedale Parish Council studied the document at length and made the following observations;

It was considered that the objectives laid out in the draft Articles of Association are beyond those of the original concept of the Group and exceed the remit afforded to parish councils by current legislation. [Parish Councils includes Town Councils and Parish Meetings].

It was considered that the function of the UECPG should be to act as a cohesive voice to lobby existing agencies for action on matters of common interest such as Highways, Broadband, etc. and that such was the original concept.

These Articles appear to promote diversity into fields such as provision of housing, employment and financial relief, all of which would duplicate and dilute the efforts of others.

Within the document there is no definition of "Member" or the qualification for membership. This tends to create confusion throughout.

Presumably, as a Registered Company, it will be necessary to employ a Company Secretary and a Financial Controller. There is no mention of staff or financial viability.

There has been no financial forecast or business plan for the proposed company.

There have been no published accounts for the UECP since its inception and the engagement of a project officer.

The Group must take care to ensure accountability and transparency.

It is not clear how the proposed CIC, with one Director from each member council, may make decisions which would be binding upon those councils and still be compliant with **Local Government act 1972 section 101** which states that "**a Local Council may delegate decisions to a committee**" (see the Act for full wording)

A committee **MUST** comprise more than one member therefore the appointed Director would need to refer recommendations back to his council for confirmation before they may be considered as resolutions.

A substantial number of amendments to the draft were considered essential if the Articles were to be agreed (Appendix 1) on the assumption that compatibility with LGA 1972 s101 is achievable.

It was **resolved** that Ravenstonedale Parish Council defer a decision on formation of a Community Interest Company until the foregoing observations are clarified.

Neighbourhood Plan Pilot Project Concept

This item related to the Localism Bill currently under discussion in parliament. UECP had hoped to initiate a plan in partnership with Eden District Council. EDC, however, did not support the proposal to apply to become a pilot area for the Neighbourhood Planning part of the Localism Bill. This was decided by the Executive Committee at their meeting in Penrith on Tuesday 8th February. UECP may elect to submit their own bid to run the pilot on a community level.

Ravenstonedale Local History Group

The first presentation on the "Milner family of Ravenstonedale" was made by Val & Steve Fermer. A programme of monthly evening meetings and events is being planned. Christopher Read will present "Growing Up in Ravenstonedale in the 1940/50s" on Tuesday 1st March.

Ravenstonedale High Chapel

A Planning Application has been submitted for Listed Building Consent to remove pews etc. Consultations have been made with EDC Conservation and Planning Officers. Garsdale Design Ltd is preparing plans for installation of toilets etc.

Broadband in Ravenstonedale

A survey of existing download and upload speeds facilities is being conducted on the ravenstonedale.org website. A map of existing reception in the local area is being created. Residents are urged to respond.

Finance

Accounts Paid prior to meeting

Parish Mag Printers Ltd (Newsletter)	£ 71.00
A R Mason (URC Electric)	£ 60.37

Accounts for Payment

Friends of the Lake District (Subscription)	£ 30.00
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Planning Applications

No. 11/0081	REMOVAL OF INTERNAL FEATURES OF CHAPEL
Type	Listed Building
Location	High Chapel, Ravenstonedale
Applicant	Ravenstonedale Parish Council
Parish Council	Support this application
No. 10/0261	CONVERSION OF BYRE TO A HOLIDAY LET
Type	Full Application – Amended Plans
Location	Lytheside Farm, Ravenstonedale
Applicant	Mr R Staley
Parish Council	No objection to this application.

Proposed R-dale – N-o-L Cycleway

It was reported that the County Highways contract with Capita has terminated and the work has returned "in house". This could have a bearing on the project once the budget has been ascertained.

Parish Council Newsletter

The Winter 2010-2011 Newsletter was published at the beginning of February. New printers had been employed. They provided a competitive price, excellent quality & rapid service.

Scandal Beck Green

New swings have been installed with the help of a £3,000 grant from Cumbria CC. The following comments from schoolchildren were published in The Link, parish magazine

The new swings by Kodi and Leanne Year 6

You might have noticed, that across the road at Ravenstonedale park there is some new stuff.

There are two new junior swings plus some baby swings and with our detective skills we think that they are on with a big basket sort of thing.

Of course, this is good news and we are so excited we can't wait until they are finished!

At the moment, there is a red banner around them because the work isn't finished yet.

We think that there is soft, spongy flooring so if someone falls off they don't hurt themselves.

It also has a wooden base and chains. Because of the swings it has brightened up the park and we really hope that there is more stuff to come!!!!

This is what people think in Year 6Caria: "I think that it has made the park much better!!!"

Niamh: "Brilliant and fantastic!!"

Jack: "They look good. I can't wait until they are finished!"

Leanne: "Terrific and amazing!"

Kodi: "They make the park more exciting!"

A grant application is being made to CWMET for a contribution towards the becksidewall reinstatement.

Highways

Wall, Land & Trees opposite Scar Gallery. The Chairman and Clerk had a meeting with Rob Lawley, area engineer with Cumbria Highways to establish responsibility for the repairs to the roadside wall. There is no known owner for the land beyond the wall. Mr Lawley has noted the problem but, as previously mentioned, Cumbria Highways has just resumed responsibility from Capita and the department is in a state of flux until budget has been established.

ACRE – Hallmark Scheme

Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) runs a "Hallmark" scheme which aims to set standards for village halls. This includes the premises, the facilities offered and the management.

The Clerk has attended a training course for volunteer inspectors, run by ACT (Action with Communities in Cumbria – formerly VAC). Knowledge of standards expected, management, etc should be of value in the development of the High Chapel as a Community & heritage Centre.

Public Participation

There were no contributions from members of the public

Correspondence received

CALC – Circular, February 2011

ASHTAV – Magazine

The foregoing items of correspondence were noted or circulated as appropriate.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 10th March 2011

Signed _____ Chairman

Date 10th March 2011