

## RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2012 in Ravenstonedale Community & Heritage Centre at 7.30pm

The meeting scheduled for Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012 had been cancelled due to bad weather (snow & ice)

**Present** Ernest Leach (Chairman) Cllrs Helen Shields, Alison Morriss, and Hilary Law Clerk. Chris Elphick  
County Councillor Peter Thornton  
Orton PC Chairman Kyle Blue  
UECP Project Officer, Libby Bateman.

**Apologies for absence** had been received from Cllrs Paul Capstick. James Richardson, Alex Watts-Tobin and District Councillor Ian Torkington

#### **Declarations of Interest**

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

#### **National Park Extension – Business Survey**

Kyle Blue – Chairman of Orton Parish Council – had carried out a survey of sixty existing tourism orientated businesses in Orton and Ravenstonedale.

The collective turnover currently amounts to some seven million pounds annually.

These businesses employ approximately one hundred and twenty full-time staff plus one hundred and fifty part-time and seasonal staff. Motorway services were not included in the survey.

It was concluded that inclusion in a National Park would result in a turnover increase conservatively estimated at 10 – 20% plus additional employment opportunities.

Over 90% of the businesses contacted strongly support entry into the Park.

**Minutes of the Meeting** held on 12<sup>h</sup> January 2012 had been circulated and were signed by the chairman as a correct record.

#### **Ravenstonedale to Newbiggin-on-Lune Pedestrian/ Cycleway.**

It was reported that work had commenced on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012. A report and photograph had appeared in the Cumberland & Westmorland Herald on 4<sup>th</sup> February.  
**Villages "reunited" after more than 30 years**

A request had been received for improvements to the access from the highway to the footbridge access to the play area opposite the school to accommodate mobility scooters. This would also benefit pram and buggy users. The Clerk had passed the request to Cumbria Highways who have agreed give it urgent consideration.

#### **Ravenstonedale Community & Heritage Centre**

The PC has prepared a schedule of building works required to ensure the long term viability of the property.

Planning and Listed Building approval is being sought as appropriate and quotations for the proposed works invited.

Items for early action include repairs to the floor in the former vestry, installation of an additional fire exit doorway from the hall and replacement of the heating system.

Funding is also being sought for purchase of chairs, tables, etc

#### **What activities may take place in the building in its present state?**

Usage of the building will be restricted due to lack of toilet facilities, heating, etc.

However, it is desirable to encourage suitable activities from an early date.

The Upper Room may be used for meetings, e.g. Parish Council, History Group.

A limited variety of refreshments may be served subject to compliance with Food Handling regulations – hot and cold water plus a separate hand washing sink are installed.

The Main Hall is useable for exhibitions, sales and small group activities where minimum toilet facilities are acceptable.

The Clerk is to ascertain what licences are required (Premises, PRS, etc.)

**Booking Enquiries** must be made to Chris Elphick, 015396 20605, chriselphick@aol.com. CE will arrange a Hirer's Information sheet.

A scale of charges is to be discussed at a later meeting.

### **Table Top Sale**

The Management Committee (MC) is organising a Table Top/Garage sale for Arts-Crafts & Bric a Brac on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2011 from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Charge £10.00 per table or Garage (Location map provided).

## **Finance**

Following the closure of the Sedbergh branch of HSBC it was proposed that a change of banking arrangements to full internet banking would be more convenient.

The service offered to local councils by the Unity Trust Bank complies with all the legal requirements for multiple authorisation of payments. Clerk to make necessary enquiries.

**Insurance** The Management Committee has been added to the Council's insurance policy at no extra cost.

**Rates Relief** Application has been made to EDC for Mandatory & Discretionary relief from Business Rates for the Community & Heritage Centre.

### Sums Received

1818 Auctioneers (Sale of surplus furniture)	£ 504.94
R-dale History Group (Projector donation)	£ 250.00

### Accounts for Payment

C J Elphick (February)	£ 467.60
HMRC (Month 10)	£ 12.60
Atkinsons (Drain Repair)	£ 97.39
Great North Air Ambulance	£ 100.00
C J Elphick (Projector)	£ 298.99
Broker Network Ltd (Added swings Insurance)	£ 25.00

## **Planning Matters**

No. 12/036 Fell trees 1 & 2 (Norway Spruce) Fell tree 3 (Norway Spruce) Remove limbs & branches overhanging Back Lane to trees 4, 5 and 6.

Type Tree Works (CA)

Location Manor House Garth, Back Lane, Ravenstonedale

Parish Council No objections

No. 12/0037 Retrospective change of use of part of a field, for continued use for agricultural and camping for tents (March-October) together with existing visitor amenities housed in a static caravan.

Type Full Application

Location Low Greenside, Ravenstonedale, CA17 4LU

Applicant Ms R Dent

Parish Council No objections

## **HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee**

It was decided not to participate in the national Big Jubilee Lunch. A joint committee with representatives of local groups will meet on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February to co-ordinate events throughout the parish.

### **Great North Air Ambulance**

A request for funding had been received from the Great North Air Ambulance Service. It was **resolved** that one hundred pounds be donated to the "Pride of Cumbria" Air Ambulance as in previous years.

### **Household Waste Recycling Centres – Consultation, 9<sup>th</sup> Jan to 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012**

It was **resolved** that continued support be given for the retention of the County Council's Household Waste Recycling Centre at Kirkby Stephen.

### **UECIC Local Energy Assessment**

Project Officer, Libby Bateman outlined the plans for "Insulating Eden" (see Appendix 1 to these minutes). Activities include;

- External surveying of property types across our area
- In depth survey of 3 of each property types
- Road Show of events
- Development of a community owned Wind Turbine at Wharton

### **Public Participation**

It was reported that the redundant Railway Bridge Parapets on the Kelleth road at Ravenstonedale Station are in a dangerous condition. This had been reported to Highways who proposed removal of the stonework and replacement with timber fencing. There were no objections to this proposal.

### **Correspondence received**

- Notification from Highways that the Irish Ford is to be rebuilt/replaced
- CALC Circular, February
- Cumbria Minerals and Waste Development Framework – Resubmission of the Site Allocations Policies and Proposals Map.
- Bus Stop Infrastructure Information
- Cumbria Rural Forum – Rural Briefing
- Parish Matters – Came & Co. Insurers, information pack
- Historic Counties Trust – County Flag for Westmorland

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

Date 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012

## Appendix 1

### Insulating Eden

A new project, 'Insulating Eden', is underway that aims to benefit and inform residents, and businesses, in the Upper Eden area about property insulation measures along with the development of a community energy generation scheme.

This is following a successful application by the Upper Eden Community Interest Company (formally the Upper Eden Community Plan) to the Local Energy Assessment Fund from the Department for Energy and Climate Change.

A deeply rural area, Upper Eden is heavily dependent on farming and tourism to support the local economy, in these industries it is often that the home is also the place of work. With the rising cost of fuel, low wages and higher travelling distances, all contributing to a high level of 'fuel poverty' in the area, this project seeks to address ways in which the community can tackle energy consumption and thermal efficiency through practical and achievable methods. The ward of Warcop is the 2nd worst in Cumbria in terms of fuel poverty with Brough coming close behind at 4th worst.

The project involves external surveys of properties across the Upper Eden parishes to be carried out by Gilmore & Stone Associates. Residents will be made aware of the surveys by posters and letters to their homes. The surveyors will carry a letter from Appleby based Crimson Chameleon Ltd who have been contracted to manage the co-ordination, marketing and local engagement with residents. The local police will be notified when surveys will be taking place.

Once the surveys have been completed a targeted range of properties, especially those of a more traditional construction and recognised as hard to heat, will be offered in depth surveys. These surveys will use infra-red technology to show heat loss and areas of ingress on the properties. Findings of which will be presented at local road show information sessions to be held in 5 venues across the area, between 10th March and 24th March. These road shows will present the survey results, highlight ways in which property owners can improve their household insulation and introduce the governments 'Green Deal', anticipated to launch in the autumn. Cumbria Action for Sustainability have been engaged to provide expert support at these events. Local businesses, that can add practical experience or supply services in energy efficiency measures, will be invited to the road shows so that residents will have plenty of opportunity to find out what they can do to help reduce their energy bills.

The second element of the Insulating Eden project is that of the further development of the Wharton Wind energy project. This project is already underway, gathering data for a possible wind energy project in the parish. Insulating Eden will support the furtherance of this venture through the production of a business plan, along with the environmental impact assessments, habitat surveys etc.

A website, [www.insulatingeden.org.uk](http://www.insulatingeden.org.uk), has been created to share the findings gathered from the surveys and be a source of information regarding improving thermal efficiencies of properties in Upper Eden.