

RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th March 2018

in Ravenstonedale Community & Heritage Centre at 7.30pm

Present Cllr. Ernest Leach (Chairman) Cllrs. Hilary Law, James Richardson, Paul Capstick and Helen Shields.
County Councillor Phil Dew
Clerk. Chris Elphick

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. Alison Morriss and District Councillor Angela Meadowcroft.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Richardson declared an interest in planning application result E/12/32 as he was the applicant.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 8th February 2018 had been circulated and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Public Participation

The Chairman read a letter, received from Caroline Morris. Caroline had been nominated by the council for recognition by the Chairman of Eden District Council, Mary Warburton, who wished to make awards to those who had given outstanding service to their community. She had just received an invitation to the Chairman's Dinner on 5th May 2018 to receive her award. Caroline, who had not previously been advised of her nomination, was delighted to have been so appreciated by the councillors.

County Councillor Phil Dew presented a report of his activities during the past month. These are noted in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

Eden District Council – Devolution of Services

A Draft contract for taking over existing lights has been requested in accordance with a resolution recorded in Minutes of January 2018.

Advice had subsequently been received from NALC regarding terms of proposed EDC contract. It is recommended that the EDC contract should not be signed without further clarification and revision of terms offered. The deadline for signing of contracts has now been extended by twelve months to March 2019.

Ravenstonedale Community & Heritage Centre

A grant has been applied for to facilitate alterations to lighting in the hall which is already proposed.

A sample 6ft twin LED fitting has been received for assessment.

Scandal Beck Play Area

Having received approval of a grant of £5,000 for the Scandal Beck drainage scheme from YDSDF we now have sufficient to proceed with the work. This will involve substantial groundworks. Alteration to the layout of existing footpaths will be considered in the light of experience by users since the original plan.

Risk assessment criteria for the area to be updated in consideration of user group changes, with the closure of the school and opening of Biggins day nursery opposite.

Request for funding support from N-o-L Public Hall

Details of funding sources and advice provided by Action with Communities in Cumbria have been forwarded to councillors and secretary.

It was noted that, wherever possible, grant funding should be sought from sources outside the parish to maximise benefit to the community.

An appropriate grant application form is to be sent from the parish council.

Upper Eden Community Plan – Review Committee

Libby Bateman reported that a 33 question “Have Your Say” consultation survey is now available online at

<https://cumbria.citizenspace.com/other-public-sector/uecp-refresh-2018>.

Hard copies may be obtained from – one-stop-shop, Brough, Nateby Service Station and Kirkby Stephen Local Links. Questionnaires to be returned by 5th April 2018.

Libby also reported that a Defibrillator was now installed on her house at Cold Keld, Fell End. Access Code Number available on request.

Planning

Application No. E/12/32	Section 73 application to remove Condition 2 of S/97/0254 in respect of Local Occupancy.
Location	Hill Top Barn, Newbiggin-on-Lune - REFUSED
Application No. E/12/34	Full planning permission for demolition & re-building of part of barn and conversion of the whole of the barn to create a three bedroom dwelling with associated parking and curtilage.
Location	Kiln Barn, Wath Lane, Newbiggin-on-Lune – GRANTED
Carr House, Mallerstang	This controversial proposal was, after several years, finally GRANTED following a recommendation by referendum throughout the Upper Eden parishes.

Finance

The Clerk had provided a current copy of the 2017-2018 accounts, complete with analysis, plus a current bank statement for perusal.

Accounts Paid prior to meeting

Allan Stobart (Heating Oil)	£ 203.28
Bateman Engineering (Church Mower)	£ 183.60
LED Store (Hall Lighting)	£ 108.55
BT (Phone & Broadband)	£ 187.68

Accounts for Payment

C J Elphick (Month 12)	£ 577.20
HMRC (month 12)	£ 37.20
C J Elphick (Admin Exp. to 08/03/18)	£ 97.20

The foregoing payments were approved.

Eden District Council – Waste Skip Agreement 2018

The Clerk reported that he had signed the agreement for a garden waste skip to be deposited near the former school each month during the coming year. This action was taken under delegated powers to ensure prompt commencement of the service. There will be no charge for this service.

Kirkby Stephen All Weather Pitch

A Letter of Support had been requested for favourable consideration by Cumbria County Council for funding to enable the refurbishment of the Kirkby Stephen All Weather Pitch. This facility is well used by all age groups from Kirkby Stephen and the surrounding area. It was agreed to support this proposal.

Publications & Correspondence Received

The Clerk reported a number of publications which had been received since the last meeting. Those received by e-mail had been circulated. There were substantial documents of instruction on the forthcoming General Data Protection Regulations which will come into force in May 2018.

e-mail CALC Circular, March 2018 (Circulated)
e-mail NALC - General Data Protection Regulations 63pp
e-mail General Data Protection Regulations (NALC Summary) 18pp
e-mail ACT Gazette – Spring 2018 – 18pp
e-mail Came & Company – Insurance weather warnings
e-mail Cumbria Constabulary – Update
e-mail YDNPA – Second Homes Council Tax
e-mail YDNPA – Parish Briefing Note
e-mail EE 4G Home Broadband
FoLD - Conserving Lakeland
SLCC – Clerk Magazine – March 2018
Clerks & Councils Direct
Kirkby Stephen & Upper Eden News

Date of next meeting Thursday 12th April 2018

Signed

Chairman

Date 12th April 2018

Appendix 1

Report to Ravenstonedale Parish Council 8 March, 2018 - Phil Dew

Highways

The whole of East Cumbria - including Upper Eden - faced very demanding weather conditions last week. CCC Highways worked 24/7 to keep the major routes open and cleared other roads as time allowed. The team even managed to replenish the grit-bins on Sunday evening!

The control centre coordinating the multi-agency response in our District was located at the Fire Headquarters in Penrith and the Eden Area Manager, Nick Wright, acted as silver command. I received regular calls and updates and was able to share local information - including the state of the A683. I was made aware - in advance - that the army had been asked to deploy a Chinook helicopter.

Kirkby Stephen Mountain Rescue played an invaluable role rescuing stranded motorists - thus underlying the vital importance of this organisation for Upper Eden. I visited the base earlier in February to discuss various concerns going forward. Rory Stewart is hoping to visit the base on Friday, 9 March, 2018.

Astroturf

A meeting was held with Kevin Beaty, the Leader of EDC, at Penrith Town Hall, on Tuesday, 20 February, 2018, to discuss the renewal of the astroturf in Kirkby Stephen. Council members are generally sympathetic to the project but have to balance this with other demands on EDC's limited funds. I have since written to Kevin Beaty reminding him of the importance of this project to the whole Upper Eden area. Parish councils have been asked to register their support.

Appleby Horse Fair

Planning is currently underway for Appleby Horse Fair, 2018. Some parish councils have been asked for their comments. I have made the point previously that the CCC contribution from the highways budget alone amounted to £62,000 last year - enough to pay for a second gulley cleaner. In total, the fair cost £230,000 in 2017 - and that doesn't include significant staff costs incurred throughout the year. In my opinion the Fair should either be actively discouraged or a way should be found to ensure that the families who attend it make a significant contribution to the running costs.

Western Dales Bus

An edited version of the WDB film shot by the BBC Date Unit on Thursday, 25 January, 2018, is available on-line and has been used extensively by other networks. The response has been positive and new volunteers have come forward.

Planning

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has failed in its bid to increase the council tax paid on second homes in the Park. This had been estimated to affect two hundred homes in Eden. Richmondshire District Council rejected the proposal thus making it impossible to implement.

Policing

I have an ongoing debate with Cumbria Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner, Peter McCall, about rural policing in Cumbria. The newly appointed Chief Constable, Michelle Skeer, has talked about making the police more 'visible' whereas the real challenge is to make the service more effective.

General

Geraldine and Robert Bolton, who run the local hearing clinic, Eden Hearing Services, are trying to encourage more people to attend the clinic and are hoping to make some home visits in the future. They have several other ideas to develop the service.