

**MINUTES OF LOWER HOLKER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT LOWER HOLKER VILLAGE
HALL ON WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2015**

PRESENT

Parish Councillors R Airey, B Dawson, G Gardner (& District Councillor), M Keith, S Rawsthorn & J Ryland, Parish Clerk L Prescott, Ms R Barton & Mr T Ryland.

- 15/130 **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received and accepted from Parish Councillor T Wilson, County Councillor S Sanderson, Police Sergeant W Nolan and PCSO H Firth.
- 15/131 **Requests for Dispensations**
None
- 15/132 **Declarations of Interest**
None
- 15/133 **Minutes of the Last Meeting**
Resolved The acceptance of the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9th September 2015 was agreed unanimously and signed by the Vice Chairman.
- 15/134 **Public Participation (at the Chairman's discretion)**
None
- 15/135 **Police**
Police Sergeant W Nolan was absent however he plans to attend the November meeting and sent a Police report for September 2015 for Lower Holker as follows:
There were 42 calls for service, of these 15 were directly related to Lakeland Leisure Park. The calls include assaults, concerns for welfare, suspicious incidents, thefts, fraud and forgery, missing persons, criminal damage, anti-social behaviour, sexual offence & domestic incident.
- 15/136 **Patient Participation Group for the Peninsula Practice Surgery**
Rhona Barton, a member of the Patient Participation Group (PPG), reported that this group was set up in August 2013, with 4 patient members (2 from Flookburgh and 2 from Grange) and representatives from the Surgery staff. They meet every 3 months, alternating between Fairfield and Grange and provide a patient voice with a view to improving communication, improve health and influence decisions. They have managed to improve the practice telephone system and amend the waiting system at Flookburgh, set up a PPG email, join the National PPG and discuss patient feedback and statistics. PPGs have been mandatory since 1st April 2015 in England and Wales.
- 15/137 **District and County Councils**
a) District Councillor Gill Gardner reported
i) She has been busy with planning issues, particularly relating to a house with asbestos which can't be lived in but is being charged Council Tax.
ii) She has collected a petition with 54 signatures and received 4 letters from parents which she has sent to Carol Last at Cumbria County Council supporting the reinstatement of a school bus service to Ravenstown instead of children having to get on the school buses at Flookburgh.
iii) Dog fouling is an ongoing problem on Winder Lane and Shore Lane.
iv) She has met with the newly appointed Head teacher at Flookburgh Primary and discussed the dog fouling on the school field and the school hedge overgrowing the bridlepath, which is the school's responsibility, although the Parish Council will cut it back this year.
v) There will be the last community clean up of the year on 17th October, meeting at 10 am on Flookburgh Square.
b) County Councillor Sue Sanderson was absent, but has sent the following report:

- i) The County Council is committed to helping with the Syrian refugee crisis. Discussions have taken place with the District Councils, health, emergency services and voluntary organisations and they are waiting for government to action their plans.
- ii) There will be a consultation on how Cumbria will meet the increasing demand for social care services, as the number of older people in Cumbria increases, while there are significant reductions in funding. People are being asked to comment on the accuracy of the challenge and the appropriateness of the response.
- iii) A number of Services provided by the County Council are being reviewed including Fire and Rescue.
- iv) The County Council took responsibility for commissioning 0-5 years public health provision, previously a NHS responsibility on 1st October. The Council is now responsible for the 0-19 age range. Consultations will take place with a view to providing a fully integrated service by April 2017 for 0-19.
- v) Connecting Cumbria Action for Sustainability and can access speeds over 50Mbps but a lot of people in our area are not accessing these speeds.
- vi) This October, the council's Public Health and Wellbeing Team are supporting Stoptober, the national 28 day campaign to help smokers quit.

15/138 **Planning Applications**

The following Planning Application was considered:

- a) TR/2015/0117. 3 Dobbie Bank Cark In Cartmel Grange Over Sands LA11 7PX. T1 Maple - Crown thin by 20%, Crown Clean and Crown Raise to create a 5.2 metre clearance over road and balance with property side of crown.

Resolved No comments.

15/139 **Planning Decisions**

The following Planning Decision was noted:

- a) SL/2015/0620. 27 Allithwaite Road, Flookburgh, Grange Over Sands LA11 7JR Demolitions, extensions and alterations. Granted with conditions relating to plans and roof covering.

15/140 **Financial Report**

Resolved The Financial report including budget comparison and bank reconciliation as at 24 September 2015 was accepted unanimously.

15/141 **Payment of Accounts**

Resolved The authorisation of the following payments was agreed unanimously:

Clerk's Salary (September 2015)	£268.80
PAYE for Clerk's Salary (September 2015)	£67.20
South Lakes Services – Toilets Cleaning (September 2015) SO	£247.26
T & M Rowlandson (Toilet repairs)	£30.00
E.On Electricity – Street Lighting (1/8/2015-31/8/2015) DD	£36.05
United Utilities (Water & Waste Water – Toilets) (9/6/2015-8/9/2015) DD	£781.93*

*This is over double the usual quarterly invoice. We were notified by a United Utilities Engineer on 18/9/2015 that the water meter was faulty and a credit would be arranged. United Utilities advise that they will monitor the usage for a month after the meter has been replaced and issue a credit before the next invoice which is due in December 2015.

15/142 **Consultations & Surveys**

The following consultations & surveys were considered and responses prepared as follows:

- a) **Ministry of Justice proposal to close both Kendal Magistrates and County Courts.**

Resolved No objections as access from Lower Holker is easier to Barrow than Kendal.

- b) **Healthy Living and Lifestyles Chapter – Cumbria JSNA, 2015**

Resolved to respond as follows:

Do you think that the above topic summary provides a comprehensive understanding of Cumbria's key issues and needs relating to healthy living and lifestyles? Yes

Are the key issues and needs identified in the topic summary the key issues and needs you expected to be identified? Yes

Please provide any other comments you have about the contents of the topic summary below: Our main concern locally is that we have already had a reduction in services/hours at our local GP Surgery in the village and we are concerned that it might close. Appointments are often being made for patients at another connected surgery miles away which generally requires car/taxi transport due to a very limited (and reducing) local bus service. Any plans should recognise that if residents can't get easy access to a GP in the first instance then they won't get the benefits of any of these policies.

c) National Association of Local Councils re zero rating public toilets.

Resolved to respond as follows:

Name of Council: Lower Holker Parish Council

Council's Income or Expenditure (whichever is higher)?: £16,894.

What is your Council's Precept income? £14,428.76

What are your council's yearly costs of running and maintaining public conveniences? £4,000.

How much money does your council pay in business rates for public conveniences? £0.00

Are there any other issues on business rates on public conveniences you would like to raise? The owner of the toilets (South Lakeland District Council) the Parish Council operate are also the billing authority for Business Rates and they have issued £0.00 Business Rates under 100% BR relief since the toilets were leased to the Parish Council in 2011.

d) National Association of Local Councils re a new national improvement strategy for town and parish councils.

Resolved to respond as follows

Thinking about what your council will be like in 2020. Quite different from how it is now

How do you think local councils in general and your council in particular should change? (answered for 'your council' only)

Change – get more local people involved, have a stronger voice, benefit from more active councillors.

No Change – Not at all, spend more, spend less, provide more services, cut back on activities, become more professional, employ more staff, become more representative, combine with other councils.

How do you feel about the future of your council? Unsure.

If you could pick the single most important change for your council or councils in general what would it be? (answered for 'your council' only) Have a stronger voice

Finding out a bit more about you and your council's involvement in current national improvement and development programmes:

The council is a member of NALC and the County Association Yes

The council has taken part in the Local Council Award Scheme No

The council is eligible to use the General Power of Competence No

The clerk is a member of SLCC No

The clerk (and/or other staff) has the CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration)

Qualification No, but we plan to

The clerk (and/or other staff) has other sector specific qualifications eg Community Governance, Local Policy, etc. Yes

Council officers achieve 12 Continuous Professional Development points each year No

Councillors (one or more) at this council have attended councillor training at some point Yes

Councillors at this council regularly attend Councillor training Yes

Councillors and/or council staff have attended training delivered by the County Association, SLCC or NALC Yes

Overall how would you rate the training and development offer from National Training Strategy Partners? Good

If you could see one thing new or different in a future improvement strategy, what would this be? Keep things local.

15/143

Flookburgh Square

County Councillor Sanderson has advised that the County Council will not be undertaking additional tarmacking work adjoining the Square but have scheduled the line markings as

specified. The tarmacking will therefore be scheduled for next year as it is now too late in the year for it to be laid. Double yellow lines are being designed at the moment for the Square.

15/144 **Highways**

The reports were received on the following Highways matters:

- a) School Lane – hedges
The hedges on School Lane have not yet been cut. The Parish Clerk will chase.
- b) Moor Lane – grass
This has become overgrown again, the Highways will now only cut once a year.
Resolved Parish Council to arrange for this to be cut again.
- c) Dropped Pavements
The pavements alongside the station are dropped at either end, however there is no access between these points. Other pavements which do not have an access point ie dropped pavement include adjoining the Garden Centre entrance, by the hairdressers in Flookburgh Square, at Field Head/Moorside.
Resolved to report to Highways/County Councillor and request these pavements be dropped to allow access for wheelchairs/pushchairs/mobility scooters.
- d) Other Highways matters
White lining has been allocated funding by Highways and is in process of being organised. Cars are parking on the pavement outside a holiday cottage on Station Road, blocking the pavement so pedestrians (including school children walking to the school bus), have to walk in the road on a dangerous corner.
Resolved To contact the owners to request that they advise visitors not to park on the pavement.

15/145 **Defibrillators**

The Parish Council has a budget of £1700 for the purchase and installation of an external defibrillator (ie defibrillator plus box with code) in Flookburgh Square. First Responder Dot Rowlandson contacted the Parish Council to advise that funds are available from donations sufficient to purchase a defibrillator and there is another defibrillator available which can be donated to the parish. These defibrillators will require external cases at a cost (for 2) of £1490 + VAT. One could be installed outside the Primary School (they are in agreement with this) and one in Flookburgh Square.

Resolved to proceed with the purchase of 2 boxes so that two can be installed in the Parish.

15/146 **Speed Gun Purchase**

Councillor Gardner will take delivery of a speed gun next week, this will be used to check speeding vehicles and depending on the numbers of volunteers available, will then decide if it is feasible to buy one for the Parish.

15/147 **Moor Lane Field**

A letter has been received from NWA Professional on behalf of Mrs Wilson regarding the boundary hedge between the Parish Council field on Moor Lane and Mrs Wilson's field. Mrs Wilson's complaint is that the infilling by contractors has damaged the existing hedge and it is no longer stockproof and she requests that the hedge be restored and the boundary made stockproof. Mrs Wilson's field is not specified and it is unclear if it is the field to the north or west of the Parish Council field. Given this uncertainty the actual condition of the boundary referred to is not known.

Resolved To contact NWA Professional for clarification as to which field the letter refers to and thereafter visit the field to examine the boundary and then consider at the November Parish Council meeting.

15/148 **Cark Station**

- a) A complaint was received by SLDC about the location of the recycling bins blocking access to the Kingdom Hall. The contractor has resited the bins.
- b) A mural, designed by Flookburgh School, is being officially unveiled at Cark Station at 10.30 on Friday 9th October.

- c) Northern Rail advise that Cark station is to be equipped with a Customer Information System (CIS) in the near future. The concrete bases have already been installed.

15/149 **Public Toilets**

- a) The Electricity Contract was to be renewed for 17.633 KWH plus £6.357/month. A new contract (small users) has been agreed for 14.167 KWH + £20.54/quarter.
- e) NPS (for SLDC) has been contacted regarding the lack of a dropped pavement to access the Disabled Toilet. They will look at it and see if there are any grants available to pay for work for disabled access.
- f) NPS advise regarding a proposed donation slot they would require a written proposal for approval before proceeding. They also suggested looking at Bardsea toilets who have a donations box.

15/150 **Flookburgh & District Recreational Charity**

The tenders received have been analysed and there will be a meeting tomorrow to consider the two top scoring choices in order to decide on which will be chosen.

15/151 **Correspondence**

The following correspondence was noted:

- a Cumbria County Council
Grange & Cartmel Neighbourhood Forum meeting – 6th October, Lower Holker Village Hall.
Connecting Cumbria live cabinet updates.
Provision of Youth Activities – changes from Autumn 2015.
- b South Lakeland District Council
Overview and Scrutiny - invite to Committee Meeting - finance, housing and policing - Tuesday 15 sept, 12.00 / 14.00, Kendal Town Hall
- c Cumbria Association for Local Councils (CALC)
NALC County Training Partnership Newsletter
Weekly updates
Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS) - free event in Kendal on Saturday 17th October to help people either initiate new or complete existing community energy projects.
- d HMRC
Pension registration reminder.
- e Neighbourhood Alerts
- f Cumbria Volunteer Services
Funding Fair, Thursday 8 October 2015 in Carlisle
Cumbria CVS Training and Events Update
- g Action with Communities in Cumbria
Free Community Buildings Event being held on Saturday 17th October at Shap Memorial Hall to provide advice and guidance for groups running village halls.
New tourism development funding for rural Cumbria businesses.
Making a Difference in South Lakes - Volunteer Celebration and Recognition Event - 22nd October in Kendal Town Hall.
Community Activity Consultation (closes 4th October)
Age UK Winter Warmth event 2-4 pm, 7th October, Gateway Centre, Kendal.
- h Healthwatch Cumbria
Furness Listening Event, Friday 25th September 2015 at Barrow Town Hall.

15/152 **Forthcoming Events**

The following event was noted:

10 am, 17th October, Community Clear Up (meet on Flookburgh Square)

15/153 **Date of Next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was noted:

4th November 2015 at Flookburgh Holker Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Clerk to the Council: - Lyn Prescott, 13 Church Walk, Flookburgh, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 7JX