

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL MILLBECK ON Thursday 17 July 2008 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT : Mr J Wilson Mrs B Bulman Mr T Gibbs Mrs E Helme Mr J Wood
In attendance Clerk Dr T Donaldson and Mr N Moor

2008.60 **Apologies** Mr D Roberts and Mrs J Boniface

2008.61 **Declarations of Interest** None made.

2008.62 **Minutes** The Chairman was authorised to sign the Minutes of the last meeting, being the AGM, held on 21 May 2008

2008.63 **Opportunity for Public Participation**

Dr Donaldson drew the attention of the Council to a number of defects in the road and drainage system : the mistake that had been made in sweeping the gravel off the newly laid tarmac on a hot day and too soon; a blocked drain uphill from the Hall caused by mud running in from a nearby garden; damage caused by a lorry to the wall on the corner opposite the Hall; a blockage in the Mill Race culvert (already reported to Highways). All these matters were noted for action by the Clerk.

2008.64 **Finances**

It was resolved that a cheque for £17 should be paid to CALC for a training course to be attended by the Chairman.

A letter had been received from Allianz Cornhill stating that if the two bus shelters were removed from the Insurance Policy the premium would have been reduced by just over £100. It was agreed that Parishioners should be consulted on this point in the next Newsletter before a decision was taken.

Information received from Allerdale BC was noted to the effect that there should continue to be no basic expense allowance to Parish Councillors but that if they wished to claim travel and subsistence allowance for attending particular events then this would be at rates set for Allerdale Councillors. It was noted that it had never been the practice of the parish council to claim any allowance.

2008.65 **Lake District National Park Authority**

Planning Approvals were noted for **Merelestead, Glenside and Little Dodd Garden Centre.**

Response to consultation on Local Development Framework

The Councillors had had an opportunity to read the Consultation document during the previous five weeks; this was a document of 192 pages containing 45 “Preferred Options” for comment. The Councillors decided to focus on the Options relating to Housing and Transport as being of most relevance to the Parish. Mr Moor was invited to comment in view of his expertise in the field of housing. He said that the Authority was moving to a wider definition of need - so that it would encompass both affordable and market housing, where the need for market housing would also be local. The definition of “Housing Need” in paragraph 4.15 of the document as “someone inappropriately housed, unable to rent or buy on the open market and having a need to live in the locality” needed clarification.

In its response the Council would highlight questions about the definition of “local”, and indicate the need for tighter control on unoccupied property, In relation to Transport there was scepticism about the value of “park and ride” schemes and also about the ability of an authority with no traffic powers to “tailor traffic” to the roads, particularly in view of its stated intention not to refuse planning permission on the grounds of the development attracting increased traffic into the area.

The response would also ask how long the new policy would take to come into effect, given the range of issues being considered and the need to consult and feed back. The present situation of waiting for the new policy bred uncertainty.

Information was noted regarding an Open Space study, the problems presented by Himalayan Balsam and the Local Access Forum.

2008.66 **Allerdale Borough Council**

Information was received about the latest meetings of the Standards Committee.

2008.67 **Cumbria County Council**

Highways The Councillors were pleased with the considerable amount of work which had been carried out on the Terrace Road in recent weeks, although there were some problems. These included some bitumen remaining uncovered by gravel and therefore likely to melt and be trodden in, water draining into the underground telephone chambers, some stop taps being covered over with tar.

Highways Stewards It was agreed that representatives should attend a meeting on 29 July at which the Highway Steward for our parish would be introduced.

Noted Cumbria in Bloom leaflet, invitation for applicants to be Independent Member of Police Authority; Highways Information and Your Cumbria.

2008.68 **Cumbria Association of Local Councils**

Newsletter for June and Clerks Direct were put for circulation.

2008.69 **Correspondence**

Response to the earlier Consultation on Closer to Home and a new Consultation on Mental Health Services in Cumbria were put for circulation.

2008.70 **Report from Village Hall Committee**

Councillor Helme reported that the new Secretary was Ellen Barker. An investigation was to be made into whether the beck could be used as a source of power. An event put on by Bassenthwaite Reflections had taken place at the Hall. Whilst some of this group’s organisation was less than perfect the Hall Committee had made a profit of £700 on the day which was very satisfactory. There would be a Quiz and Shepherd’s pie evening on 20 September.

2008.71 **The next meetings would be as planned on 11 September & 19 November in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.**