

Minutes of a meeting of Burneside Parish Council held by ZOOM on Tuesday 6th April 2021 at 7pm.

Present were Councillors Pennie Ridyard (Chairman), Phil Alder, Tonia Armer, Julie Huck, Will Huck, Judith Notley, Paul Senior and Keith Tondeur, County Councillor Stan Collins, District Councillors Pat Bell and Hazel Hodgson, four members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were noted from Councillor Derrick Wade (leave of absence).

21/28 Public participation:

John Peatfield gave a very full summary and explanation of the planning application before the Council for Bowston Weir (SL/2020/0817. Removal of the existing weir structure and associated fish passes, the installation of a 'nature-like' rock ramp downstream of the weir location, with associated scour protection along the toe of the existing wall on the right bank of the river, and the excavation of a 'proto-channel' extending 140 m upstream of the rock ramp).

The Council recognises that the removal/modification of weirs can contribute to the re-naturalisation of river systems and that, as part of a grander, catchment wide, scheme, can lead to increases in habitat and biodiversity. The Council is concerned that this revised and amended planning application does not fully align with either the Environment Agency's consultees request (14/01), nor our original proposal, nor SLDC's own policies.

In the Council's view there is still a high risk of a net loss of existing biodiversity. Much more detail is required and a full legal commitment to work being done at the same time as weir removal, if granted. Possibly the new structure should not be permitted? One key question of SCRT/cbec is how long will this be required to mitigate silt transport and will it, in effect, be redundant after 1 or 2 years? If the new structure is minimised the financial savings could be directed to habitat/biodiversity retention, protection and mitigation.

Therefore SLDC should do detailed due diligence on the revised and amended application to ensure that these key habitats are not harmed; and that existing bankside habitat is protected against any loss of biodiversity. This must include a new consultees response from the Environment Agency with specific reference to their 14/01 requests (pg2, para2).

In the final analysis South Lakeland District Council Planning should set appropriate conditions to any planning permissions granted to South Cumbria Rivers Trust to minimise harm and ensure the protection of the 'existing bankside habitat(s)'.

The above proposal, from Burneside Parish Council's Biodiversity and Sustainability Group, has been coordinated by John Peatfield in consultation with the wider group and was approved by the Council. The full text will be circulated to all Councillors and will be on the website.

A number of residents had contacted the Council, expressing their objections to this application.

21/29 Requests for Dispensations: None.

21/30 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Alder declared an interest, as a member of that committee, should any matters relating to the Burneside Residents Association be discussed. Councillors Julie Huck and Will Huck declared an interest in planning application SL/2021/0220 (Hill Barn, Sharps Lane, Burneside) and Councillor Will Huck as a School Governor, should any relevant matters be raised. Councillor Senior declared an interest in agenda item 13 (Carus Green to Burneside footway).

21/31 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2021, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Alder wished it to be recorded that he had not agreed to the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2021 being signed-off.

21/32 Updates:

- a. Use of plastic poppies for the remembrance wreaths was discussed. Councillor Will Huck agreed to ask the local British Legion for a list of alternative products. The Council will endeavour, whenever possible, to pursue a non-plastic policy.
- b. Memorial bench. The Clerk had not heard anything further but was assured that the information is to hand and will be re-sent this week.
- c. Allotments. Ann from Burneside Regeneration Group had not been able to make progress on this. Councillor Notley wondered about going directly to Mark Cropper.
- d. Community fridge. A donation of £2,500 had been received from the Department of Work & Pensions. This is to provide vulnerable families with supermarket vouchers that will be distributed by the head teacher of the local primary school during April. Also, to purchase a community fridge to be housed securely in the community and/or other start up costs attributed to a Community Fridge. Gillian Holmes of CCC was thanked for negotiating this funding for the Council. St Oswald's Church has agreed to house the fridge, within the entrance hall
- e. Assets Register update and mapping. This is in hand and will be completed, together with the insurance revision, in time for the renewal of the policy on 1st June.
- f. Play area. A meeting has been requested and agreed, between Hannah Hill and Patrick Willink, to discuss the Parish Council's involvement in the play area.
- g. Councillor Notley was pleased to report that the trees, planted by the Council on Potter Fell, have survived.
- h. The Dapper Dick Award will not be presented until the July meeting, assuming that this will be face-to-face.

21/33 Finance:

- a. The provisional accounts for 2020-21 will be presented at the next meeting.
- b. It was agreed in principle that the Council will assist in funding the B4RN project for Strickland Ketel, if required. An application will be considered, when submitted to a future meeting.

21/34 Reports:

Councillor Collins reported on the four proposals for a Unitary Authority in Cumbria but felt that this was being consulted upon at an inappropriate time, bearing in mind the pandemic is still ongoing.

He is following up a number of highways issues in the area.

Councillor Hodgson said the government consultation referred to is open until 16th April.

Discussion continues on the extension of B4RN to Strickland Ketel.

21/35 Burneside Residents Association:

The latest communication from the Residents Association had been circulated to all Councillors. The members of the sub-group are happy to meet with the Association at a date to be mutually decided. Because of the 'rule of six' operating until at least 21st June, this may need to be a remote meeting. The sub-group will be independent of the Council but will report back to the Council on a regular basis. Councillor Alder agreed to lead on this and to arrange a meeting. Councillor Bell agreed to attend such meetings whenever possible and would liaise between the two bodies.

21/36 GDPR Policy:

The Clerk had contacted all Councillors for their personal email addresses, that were to be used for communications between Councillors and between meetings. It was made clear that this is a confidential list, yet the confidentiality was broken and emails had been distributed by an unknown party, using all these addresses, and these were not 'BCC'd' as required. It is suggested that anyone wishing to circulate communications to all Councillors should do so via the Clerk.

The attention of Councillors and members of the public was drawn to the Policy published on the website.

21/37 Public Space Protection Orders:

Councillor Alder said the Residents Association had done quite a lot of work on this issue and suggested it might be a good idea to join forces and make it a joint project. The Council was in agreement and Councillor Alder agreed to arrange a meeting to progress matters.

21/38 Bowston:

Various issues were considered in relation to Bowston:

- a. The old notice board - the owner of the adjacent property does not want it there. If an alternative site could be found, it could be removed.
- b. BT did attend to remove the telephone kiosk but could not access it. The Clerk will write to the owner of the boatyard and ask if a way could be cleared, and then contact BT to ask them to attend again.
- c. The boatyard is an eyesore and the whole area needs tidying up. Councillor Hodgson agreed to look into it with SLDC, in order to ascertain ownership.
- d. Councillor Will Huck will arrange for the supply of a sponsored litter bin in Bowston and he will contact Councillors to decide on a location.
- e. The Clerk is in touch with CCC, pointing out that the path between Bowston and Burneside is currently very muddy and requires some maintenance, as it is difficult to use, but dangerous to walk along the road.

21/39 Carus Green to Burneside footway:

The trees on the path from Carus Green to Burneside have now been left to grow completely out of control, to 40 feet tall and blocking out all the light to nearby homes. Much foliage is being deposited on to the road and over the wall. This is a problem the Council has tried to deal with many times over the years, including the consideration of lighting along that stretch (which would cost a vast amount). CCC will not allow the Parish Council to undertake any maintenance there. Councillor Collins agreed to follow this up with CCC.

21/40 Footpaths:

Councillor Will Huck and Stewart Menzies 'screen-shared' details of the footpath records and mapping recently completed. Full details of all the footpaths in the parish are now available on the website. The thanks of the Council is recorded for this most useful and complete work.

21/41 Pollinator project:

Councillor Armer gave a presentation on the pollinator project surrounding what works have been undertaken so far and some background to the reduction of pollinator habitat in the parish and why it is so crucial. She has completed the first stage of planting work and is negotiating grass cutting with Croppers PLC and their contractor to establish the correct cutting regime for the enhanced areas. The Council gave thanks for the work undertaken on this important project.

21/42 Planning - the following applications were considered:

SL/2021/0220 Hill Barn, Sharps Lane, Burneside. Restoration and conversion of field barn to self contained off grid accommodation.

This was voted upon, two Councillors voting for, and four against. Refusal is recommended, the following concerns being raised:

- a. Use of diesel to generate power.
- b. There is a barn owl in residence.
- c. Photographic evidence of owl activity and bats are regularly seen in the area. It was felt more needed to be done to protect these creatures.
- d. The proposed access from Sharps Lane brought some concern.

SL/2021/0260 Crandon, Sprint Holme, Burneside. Porch at side of house. The details of this application are not yet visible on the SLDC website. The recommendation is delegated to the Clerk, in conjunction with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

SL/2021/0264 2 Holme Houses, Burneside. Creation of off road parking area. This details of this application are not yet visible on the SLDC website. The recommendation is delegated to the Clerk, in conjunction with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

SL/2021/0173 Gateside Farm, Burneside. Subdivision and refurbishment of farmhouse and grounds to create two self-contained dwellings, raising height of boundary wall and alterations to access. Approval is recommended, with a request that a 'left turn only' be established for vehicles exiting the site, due to the danger of turning right into traffic travelling towards Windermere on a very busy stretch of road.

21/43 Traffic issues: No report.

21/44 United Utilities work in the village:

Both Councillor Will Huck and the Clerk had been in touch with United Utilities and they had replied:

"Our site investigation work is complete, however, elements of the solution for the Burneside project have changed on the back of this work. For example, the location of the new pumping station and the storage required have been revised. This is not unusual for a project of this size and scale and ultimately will help ensure the project we deliver, meets the needs of the area.

Making these necessary design changes led to an increase in the estimated cost for the project, and therefore required additional approval, before proceeding.

We are now working through the process of awarding the contract and obtaining the necessary permissions to implement the scheme. This is likely to take approximately six months.

As soon as the programme of work is available, including dates we will be back in touch with you. Once we are in a position to share our plans and discuss the project in detail, we will engage with both the Parish Council and the wider community as our plans develop and we prepare to start on site".

21/45 Re-claiming of disused/underused buildings in the parish:

Councillor Notley and Councillor Bell have both looked into this and have made contact with the owner of the 'former toilet block'.

21/46 Neighbourhood Plan: No report.

21/47 Open Forum: None.

21/48 Date of the next meeting:

***Tuesday 4th May 2021 by ZOOM at 7pm
(This will be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Council Meeting).***

As the 'rule of six' is expected to be still in force until the projected date of 21st June for the lifting of all government restrictions, it was noted that the meeting scheduled for 1st June will be held by ZOOM and a return to face to face meetings is not expected until the meeting to be held on 6th July.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed:

Dated: