

Minutes of a meeting of Burneside Parish Council held by ZOOM on Tuesday 1st December 2020 at 7pm.

Present were Councillors Pennie Ridyard (Chairman), Phil Alder, Julie Huck, Will Huck, Judith Notley, Paul Senior and Brian Smith, District Councillors Pat Bell and Hazel Hodgson, five members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were accepted (leave of absence) from Councillor Derrick Wade.

20/87 Recording of meeting:

The Council agreed the meeting could be recorded and the recording deleted once the minutes had been composed.

20/88 Public participation:

Professor David Williams spoke on behalf of the residents of Bowston regarding the proposed Weir removal; he has been representing them since this project first came to light. He outlined the main issues surrounding the proposed removal- why Bowston Weir and how much environmental benefit will there be with weirs below and above. He referred to past commissioned reports and also that the weir has been found to be structurally sound. He also outlined the uses that redundant weirs have, such as being used for hydroelectric power generation.

Mr John Peatfield outlined the current priority habitats present around Bowston Weir and some of the wildlife that they support. He then spoke about the importance of these priority habitats and that the Biodiversity and Sustainability Group are going to push for there to be a habitat retention/mitigation plan; and that this should be a condition of planning. The Council had seen a draft version of this that he has worked on, on behalf of the Biodiversity and Sustainability Group.

20/89 Requests for Dispensations: None.

20/90 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Alder declared an interest, as a member of that committee, should any matters pertaining to the Burneside Resident's Association be discussed.

The Clerk explained, for the benefit of new Councillors, the rules regarding Declarations of Interest.

20/91 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2020, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

It was resolved to add the following paragraph to minute 21/71e, in order to clarify the power under which the Council had made this contribution (for the work on the field drain at Carling Steps):

"Resolved that the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure"

20/92 Council Vacancies:

Two expressions of interest had been received since the last meeting and it was resolved to co-opt Tonia Armer and Keith Tondeur to the Council. The Clerk will arrange for the signing of the necessary documents. He has also ordered a new supply of the 'Good Councillor' booklet and will send these out to new Councillors as soon as possible. The Council's policies will also be circulated.

Councillor Ridyard welcomed the new Councillors and recommended the CALC training courses that are regularly notified to the Council. At present these are being held online. The Council undertakes to pay the course fees.

20/93 Finance:

- a. The cash and budget statements to 30th November 2020 were noted and any retrospective payments were approved.
- b. The Budget Report was considered and it was resolved that this Council makes a Precept upon South Lakeland District Council for the financial year 2021-22 in the sum of £27,764. There is therefore no increase in the Parish element of the Council Tax again.

20/94 Updates:

The Clerk reported as follows:

- a. Memorial bench. The Clerk has been in touch with CCC Highways, and has sent them a draft agreement. They have indicated that they will need to know the design of the bench and what sort of base it will be affixed to. The Clerk regrets the length of time this is taking to bring to fruition - many CCC staff are not in their offices at present due to the pandemic and this tends to make things more difficult.
- b. A letter has been sent to our student, Adam Ford, thanking him for his work in the parish and he had replied, expressing appreciation of this and the opportunity to undertake his research.
- c. The Hon. Robert Jenrick had been advised of the Council's feelings that, in the current pandemic situation, it is not a suitable time to be considering the formation of a Unitary Authority in Cumbria. Individual Councillors had been encouraged to make personal responses to the various consultations available at present.

- d. An email had been received from Jannice Wilkinson, thanking the Council for supporting the Millennium Green, and indicating that the Green is now, at last, fully accessible again and is serving its purpose of being an open green space for the enjoyment of the community.
- e. An email had been received from Gordon Lawson of the Bryce Institute, thanking the Council for support and the increased grant last year, which had certainly helped to offset the loss in income caused by COVID-19 and supported the ongoing costs at the Bryce.
- f. The Clerk thanked Councillor Will Huck for the help given him in connecting his new printer, when the old one failed. It was resolved that the Council will pay the invoices relating to ink supply and the Clerk's other Councils will share the costs as heretofore. The Clerk pointed out that his computer equipment, although the cost was shared by all the other Councils, in the auditor's view technically belongs to Burneside Council as the invoice was paid by them (and the VAT reclaimed). This was mentioned in case it needs to be referred to at a later date.

Councillor Will Huck reported as follows:

- a. Councillor Collins has kindly donated £500 from his allowance for the provision of the village entry signs (minute 20/71b refers) and this project was formally approved by Council. A firm order will now be placed for them. CCC will need to be invoiced for the £500.
- b. Potholes at Steeles Row have been reported.
- c. The Biodiversity Group have begun the pollinator project. Tonia gave a brief update on the work that she and Claire have been doing on this and the sites that have been chosen for enhancement.

20/95 Reports:

Councillor Bell said it is 'business as usual' at SLDC. The proposals put forward for 'The Bay' option for a future Unitary Authority have been submitted and a government decision will be made in due course.

She said a number of potholes and damaged culverts had been reported and attended to. She encouraged residents to report these matters on the website. Councillor Alder said there are serious problems on Sharpes Lane, when water across the road freezes and there has been a number of accidents. He has reported this in the past and will do so again.

Councillor Hodgson said she had donated some money to the Resident's Association towards a Christmas tree. She has been working on wayleave issues in the area, as well as road repairs/blocked culverts. She asked for clarification on the Burneside Regeneration Group, as there appeared to be some confusion about it. However, this is not a Council initiative but one being led by 'IGLOO' and Ann Hall would be the contact for further information.

20/96 Planning:

- a. *The following applications were considered:*

SL/2020/0823 Howgills View, Burneside. Single storey side extension to form home office.

Whilst the Council does not object as such to this application, the proposals seem very large for a home office, especially taking into account the amount of furniture within the space shown on the proposed plans. The bi-folding doors also make it feel like more of a living area than an office space and there is concern that the use will be altered to this.

SL/2020/0807 Gilthroton, Cowan Head, Burneside. Erection of two dwellings.

(Councillor Armer made a Declaration of Interest in respect of this item)

The Council did like the idea that the properties are to be 'passive' homes and taking into consideration sustainability. The proposals are slightly out of character with neighbouring properties and there is too much glass. There are issues with the existing footpath which CCC Access have reported in their response. The market for these was also questioned by Councillors, the larger property probably at the higher end of the market. The Council decided that Councillors will email the Clerk individually with their views once they had had time to digest the proposals sufficiently. .

SL/2020/0817 Bowston Weir, Bowston. Removal of Bowston Weir, re-naturalisation of the channel through the installation of a stepped rock ramp design and upstream re-profiling of right and left river banks.

Refusal is recommended, on the grounds that the Council thinks the plan to remove the weir is not fully developed and does not take into account all considerations. Also, that if permission is granted there must be a stipulation that there is a habitat retention/mitigation plan implemented alongside.

(A letter had also been received from a resident of Bowston, objecting to this application)

- b. *The following decision, notified to the Council by the Planning Authority, was noted:*

SL/2020/0550 James Cropper PLC, Burneside Mills, Burneside. Warehouse external link corridor extension. Granted.

20/97 Traffic issues:

Councillor Ridyard has been informed that the plan will be with her by 2nd December. She will send this to Councillors when it is received and this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

20/98 Emergency Plan:

A volunteer is needed to lead on this project. The Clerk will forward the present plan to the new Councillors.

20/99 Tree planting project on Potter Fell and elsewhere:

Councillor Notley said that the tree planting would take place this coming weekend.

20/100 Re-claiming of disused/underused buildings in the parish:

County Notley cited several buildings in the parish that might be suitable to be designated as Community Assets. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

20/101 Neighbourhood Plan:

Councillor Ridyard said that a bespoke Community Needs Assessment, including housing, is awaited and ACT has been approached for help with this, as the organisations previously approached no longer carry these out.

20/102 Allotments in Burneside:

There is not a lot to report and there is at present no suitable land available. However the local landowner has been approached and hopefully something will materialise in due course.

20/103 Community fridge:

Someone is required to lead on this. Councillor Notley said she is willing to help and Councillor Ridyard will supply her with the details. Councillor Alder also said he would like to be involved and suggested this could be a project undertaken together with the Resident's Association.

20/104 Open Forum:

Some more hand sanitizer is to be ordered for parish use.

20/105 Dates for meetings during 2021:

The following provisional dates for meetings during 2021 were agreed:

(all Tuesdays at 7pm)

2nd February

2nd March

6th April

4th May Annual Parish Assembly and Annual Council Meeting

1st June

6th July

7th September

2nd November

7th December Precept Meeting

20/106 Date of the next meeting:

Tuesday 2nd February 2021 at 7pm by ZOOM.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed:

Dated: