

ORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 17th March 2008

Present Cllr. Kyle Blue (Chairman), M Coates, EC Potter and M I Lewis,
District Councillor Margaret Wilcox
Clerk, C J Elphick
Internal Auditor, Jane Arckless

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in any item on the agenda.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs S Dunning, W Parker and County Councillor Tim Stoddard

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 18th February 2008 had been circulated and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Planning Applications

No. 07/0927 CONVERSION OF BARN TO DWELLING
Type Full Application
Location Barn at rear of Front Street, Orton.
Applicant Mr & Mrs A Robertson
Parish Council No objections GRANTED

No. 08/0131 REVISED SCHEME TO PLANNING APPROVAL 04/0271 FOR THE
CONVERSION OF THE BARN TO ONE HOLIDAY LETTING UNIT
INCLUDING ALTERATION TO THE BUILDING
Type Full Application
Location Bretherdale Hall, Bretherdale, Orton
Applicant Mr & Mrs J Anderson
Parish Council No objections

No. 08/0063 EXTENSION
Type Full Application
Location Low Shaw Farm, Longdale, Tebay
Applicant S & S Ogden
Parish Council No objections

National Standard Planning Application Forms

It was reported that all Planning Applications will now be made on National Standard application forms with additional lists of requirements for individual local planning authorities instead of each LPA designing its own form. All applications may now be made online.

Finance

<u>Sums Received</u>	
Cumbria CC (PPI)	£540.00
HMRC VAT repayment	£248.88

<u>Accounts for Payment</u>	
C J Elphick (Admin Expenses)	£122.70
Orton Market Hall (Lunch Club)	£ 70.00
Orton Market Hall (PC Meetings)	£ 48.00
Steven Hodgson (PPI)	£540.00
Great North Air Ambulance (Donation)	£ 50.00

Orton Community Parkland

A meeting is to be arranged to develop a Management Programme.

Gravestone Safety

No response had been received from Orton PCC.

Market Hall Toilets

It was reported that Eden District Council has Orton Toilets on the agenda for its meeting on 17th April 2008.

Launch of Parish/District/County Charter

Clerk had attended the launch of the new Parish Councils Charter for Eden at Penrith Town Hall on 12th March. Copies of the Charter will be available soon.

Eden District Council – Options for New Political Arrangements

Options for the future configuration of Eden District Council had been sent to all councillors with the agenda. EDC's preferred option is for a cabinet system comprising a leader elected by the Councillors plus seven other members. Orton Parish Council expressed the opinion that, by reducing the number of decision-making members, the individual wards would lose effective representation.

Grasscutting 2008

A quote had been received from TFE Endeavour of £1,030.00 plus VAT for each of the years 2008 and 2009.

Resolved that this quotation be accepted.

Great North Air Ambulance

Resolved that a donation of £50.00 be made towards the operating costs of the Pride of Cumbria air ambulance.

Mencap

A request for funding was refused in accordance with Parish Council policy of funding only causes which are of local benefit.

Public Participation

There were no contributions from members of the public

16. Correspondence Received

CALC – County Circular March 2008

Local Council Review

Clerks & Councils Direct

The foregoing items of correspondence were noted or circulated as appropriate.

Date of next meeting (& Annual Parish Meeting) – Monday 21st April 2008

Signed _____ Chairman

Date 21st April 2008

Appendix 1 to Orton PC Agenda for 17th March 2008

From Eden District Council – 8th March 2008

Eden District Council - Options for New Political Arrangements

At its meeting on 21 February 2008, Eden District Council indicated that it was 'minded to change' the way it conducts its political business by moving from a Modernised Committee System to a Cabinet with Leader Model.

The reasons for the proposed change are to speed up decision making, to provide clearer and greater accountability for Councillors and Officers and better scrutiny of decisions.

In order to make this change, the Council is undertaking formal consultation with local residents, key partners and other interested parties including Parish Councils and Parish Meetings within the District. A response can be made by individuals and/or on behalf of Parish Councils using the methods as detailed at the end of this letter. Parishes also have the opportunity to ask questions at the annual District/Parish liaison meeting on **Wednesday 12 March at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Penrith** (you should have already received an agenda for this meeting from CALC)

In responding there are four options from which you can choose. Each of the options is listed below with some facts that underpin the options. Please consider each one and choose the one you feel would be your preference. You may wish to comment upon the reasons for your choice. **The deadline for responses is 14 April 2008.**

Option 1 A Cabinet with Leader, Elected By the Council

One of the existing Councillors would be elected as Leader by the Council.

A Cabinet of up to seven members would be appointed by the Leader.

The Cabinet members would have responsibility for specific activities such as the environment.

The Cabinet could be drawn from a single party or coalition - it would not necessarily have to reflect the political make-up of the Council.

Decisions would be made by the Cabinet or the Cabinet Members.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees would monitor decisions and help with policy formulation and development.

These committees could also include co-opted advisor

There would also be 'regulatory' committees for Planning and Licensing, and a Standards Committee.

The Leader would serve for a four year term.

Option 2 A Directly-Elected Mayor with Cabinet

A Mayor would be elected by Eden voters for a four-year term.

The Mayor would be a political leader for the community, proposing policy for approval by the Council.

He or she would select a Cabinet of no more than seven members from among the Councillors.

The Cabinet could be drawn from a single party or a coalition - it would not have to reflect the political make-up of the Council.

The Mayor would decide how the Cabinet would take decisions - decisions could be taken either by the Cabinet as a whole, or the Mayor could give individual Cabinet members responsibility for particular services.

Overview and Scrutiny committees would monitor Cabinet decisions and help with policy formulation and development.

There would also be 'regulatory' committees for Planning and Licensing, and a Standards Committee.

This option will require a referendum.

Option 3 Elected Executive

This option arises under the new 2007 Local Government Act.

There would be seven members of the Executive who would be directly elected as Cabinet members.

In most respects this option is the same as Option 1.

Option 4 'Stay the Same'

A Modernised Committee System with Joint Leaders (the current system)

Decisions are taken in Committees. Individual councillors have no powers to act or take decisions.

There will continue to be four decision-making committees.

There is a Scrutiny Committee which monitors decisions and helps with policy formulation and development.

There are also 'regulatory' committees for Planning and Licensing, and a Standards Committee which is concerned with probity issues.

All Committees would have to reflect the political make-up of the Council.