

ORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 17th November 2008 in Orton Market Hall

Present K K C Blue (Chairman) Cllrs S W Dunning, M Coates, E C Potter, D Smith, W Parker and M Lewis.
Clerk, C J Elphick
Internal Auditor, Jane Arckless
Community Police Officer PC Nick Hodgkinson
Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Stuart Brownrigg.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr D Smith declared a prejudicial interest in Planning Application No. 08/0796. The proposal is for land adjacent to his residence. Cllr Smith also declared a personal interest in a payment to David Smith & Son Ltd of which he is a director.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Tim Stoddard, Cumbria CC, Cllr Margaret Wilcox, EDC and Cllr Tony Brunskill, Chairman EDC.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 20th October 2008 had been circulated and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Chairman welcomed PC Nick Hodgkinson and PCSO Stuart Brownrigg and invited them to comment on police matters affecting Orton Parish.
PC Hodgkinson said that crime in Orton was almost non-existent apart from the occasional, relatively minor act of vandalism. Vehicles speeding through the village continued to be of some concern and arrangements were made to monitor speeds in the near future.

Revision of Clerk's Salary & Hours

The Clerk's salary is linked, as recommended by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) directly to local government pay scales which are revised annually. **Resolved** that the Clerk's salary be increased in accordance with new pay scales published November 2008, backdated to 1st April 2008.

The Clerk's workload has increased enormously in recent years both in terms of quantity and complexity - large volumes of consultations, all sorts of new legal procedures to follow and much more besides. A Clerk now has to be professional in approach, whilst still retaining a genuine desire to help the community. Following discussion, during which it was appreciated that the workload was not constant but involved peaks and troughs, it was **resolved** that the Clerk's hours be increased from an average of 22 per month to 30 per month from 1st April 2009.

Precept for 2009-2010

The Clerk had prepared a provisional budget for 2009-2010. Despite some increased costs it was decided that these could be met from reserves. It was **resolved** that the Precept should remain unchanged at £7,900. This equates to less than £30. per D Band property or approximately 30p per elector per week.

Finance

Accounts for payment

TFE Enterprise (Grasscutting)	£1,210.25
David Smith & Son Ltd (Bus Shelter Repairs)	£ 296.10
C J Elphick (Admin Expenses to 30/09/08)	£ 95.50
C J Elphick (Back Pay – award from 1 st April)	£ 109.76

Resolved that the foregoing four payments be approved.

Planning Applications

No. 08/0693	CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR SINGLE STOREY RESIDENTIAL UNITS WITH SERVICE ROAD	
Type	Outline Application	
Location	Land adjacent to Chestnut Garth, Orton	
Applicant	Mr C Cox, Holes Farm Partnership	REFUSED
No. 08/0625	ERECTION OF TWO DETACHED DWELLINGS	
Type	Full Application	
Location	Site adjacent to Birch Tree Cottage, Orton	
Applicant	J R Wharton & Sons	REFUSED
No. 08/0701	PROPOSED ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY CLASSROOM & ICT ROOM EXTENSION AND EXTERNAL CANOPY	
Type	Full Application	
Location	Orton C of E Primary School, Orton	
Applicant	The Governors	GRANTED
No. 08/0866	UP TO SIX RESIDENTIAL UNITS WITH 33% AFFORDABLE HOUSING	
Type	Outline Application	
Location	Silver Yard, Orton	
Applicant	Monastic Woodcraft Ltd	
Parish Council	It was considered that the loss of this unique commercial employment facility would be detrimental to the village of Orton. Suggestion was made that combined Work/Live units may be preferable. The proposed number of units, at six, was considered excessive for this site. The potential damage to mature trees was also questioned.	
No. 08/0796	ERECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSE	
Type	Full Application	
Location	Land adjacent to Birch Tree Cottage, Orton	
Applicant	J R Wharton & Sons	
Parish Council	It was considered that loss of this "buffer zone" would adversely affect the visual amenity of Grade II listed mansion, Orton Hall. The proposal would potentially cause damage to roots of mature trees within the site. It was questioned whether this plot was designated free from development when Frankland Park was granted planning consent in or about 1989.	
No 08/0810	PROPOSED PORCH EXTENSION AND CONSERVATORY	
Type	Full Application	
Location	Midfield Farm, Gaisgill	
Applicant	Mr & Mrs T Hutchinson	
Parish Council	No objections,	

Health & Safety and Risk Assessment

The Clerk had attended a Health & Safety and Risk Assessment course on 13th November. This will assist with updating the Council's Risk Assessment Register and remind us of the Council's obligation to be constantly aware of its responsibilities in this field.

Christmas Trees & Lights 2008

Cllrs Blue, Smith & Parker will obtain four trees to be erected in the village for the festive season.

“Stop the Drop”

The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) had provided the Council with an “Anti-Litter Campaign Toolkit”. It was considered that Orton was already carrying out the suggested activities and the Toolkit was superfluous.

CALC – AGM 8th November – Rheged

The Clerk had represented the Parish Council at the AGM of CALC on 8th November. The guest speaker was the Chief Constable of Cumbria, Craig Mackay, who gave a well received presentation which ranged over many issues of interest to local councils. The presentation included some very revealing statistics about crime and policing activity in the county.

A copy of the presentation is available from the Clerk on request.

Highways

Cumbria CC has agreed to pay the cost of materials to fit new gates on the footpath from East Lane to Market Hall in place of the redundant “Kissing Gates”. The Parish Council would have to bear the cost of labour. The quotation was to provide a metal gate on the existing metal posts. Councillors considered that wooden gates would be more appropriate. Clerk to negotiate with Cumbria footpaths dept.

Public Participation

It was reported that three street lights were not working, at The Old Vicarage, The Cottage, and Lindsey Cottage. Clerk will report to EDC.

Correspondence Received

CALC – County Circular November 2008

EDC – Eden Parish – District Liaison Group. Agenda for 19th November 2008

CCC – Neighbourhood Forum – Kirkby Stephen – 19th November 2008

CALC Annual Report

Local Council Review

Clerks & Councils Direct

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

Date of next meeting – Monday 19th January 2009

Signed _____ Chairman

Date 19th January 2009