

ORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 18th January 2010 in Orton Market Hall

Present Cllr K Blue (Chairman) Cllrs S Dunning, D Smith, W Parker, E Potter,
M Lewis, M Coates
Clerk, C J Elphick Internal Auditor, Jane Arckless
County Councillor Peter Thornton, District Councillor Margaret Wilcox,
Jack Ellerby representing Friends of the Lake District.
More than 30 members of the public

Apologies for absence had been received from PCSO Gemma Threlkeld

Declarations of Interest

Cllr E Potter declared an interest in agenda item 7, 09/0972, being related to the applicant.

Cllr M Lewis declared an interest in agenda item 7, 09/1064, being the applicant
Neither councillor took part in the discussion.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 16th November 2009 had been circulated and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Proposed Designation of Orton as part of National Park

An unprecedented number of members of the public had attended this parish council meeting to gather information on the proposals for designation of all or part of the parish as National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Natural England is the public body responsible for conserving and enhancing the natural environment in England and is currently considering whether certain areas between the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks should be designated in this way. This study has been going on since 2004 and is continuing from earlier works as far back as the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1947.

Following thorough analysis it has been concluded that the area described loosely as the Northern Howgills and the Orton Fells, which includes the parishes of Orton and Ravenstonedale, have the necessary qualities of natural beauty and opportunities for open-air recreation, and that they should be designated as extensions to the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks.

The purpose of the current consultation is to seek residents' views on whether these areas have the qualities necessary to be in a National Park and whether they should be given National Park status.

Chairman, Kyle Blue gave a comprehensive appraisal of the positive and negative aspects of inclusion within a National Park or AONB plus the logic for being included in either the Yorkshire Dales or the Lake District National Park. He then invited comments and questions from the public.

The prospect of significant economic advantage was acknowledged by the meeting, and Mr. John Dunning spoke about the potential of this at some length. The general public discussion relating to the implications of inclusion involved topics as diverse as altering boundaries to include Tebay village, and windfarm development.

A show of hands indicated that an overwhelming majority of those in attendance considered entry into a Park to be beneficial for the parish. There were no votes for an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or for the status quo to be maintained.

Following the public debate it was **resolved** that the Clerk should prepare a draft response to the Consultation Document for approval by members.

Orton Toilets

The Market Hall Toilets, which are also open to the public, are currently being serviced and maintained by the Parish Council.

It was suggested that, since that the toilets are an essential part of the Market Hall which receives a 100% rebate on the rates as a registered charity, it would be reasonable to argue that the facility is NOT a public toilet but a Market Hall toilet which is open to the public.

The Parish Council could still insure that section of the building and pay for cleaning and maintenance - probably without the need for a separate lease as the arrangement could be terminated at any time. This would still be legitimate council expenditure.

Resolved that the foregoing proposal be put to the Manor Court, Market Hall Committee and Eden District Council.

Finance

Accounts for payment

C J Elphick (Tree lights reimbursement)	£ 73.10
Lynne Potter (Toilet Cleaning to 17 th Dec)	£210.00
Lynne Potter (Toilet Cleaning to 14 th Jan)	£210.00
C J Elphick (Admin expenses to 31 st Dec)	£226.43
Eden District Council (Toilet rates)	£174.62
Scottish Hydro Electric (Toilets)	£ 39.91
J Bainbridge (Toilet repairs)	£ 17.07

The foregoing seven accounts were approved for payment

Planning Applications

No. 09/0553	Land adjacent Birch Tree Cottage Erection of Two Dwellings	GRANTED
No. 09/0761	Rendering walls to rear and gable of Sauna Building (Retrospective)	
Location	Bretherdale Hall	GRANTED
No. 09/0972	Sunroom extension to rear of property, garage extension and porch to front elevation	
Type	Full Application	
Location	West Fell View, Kelleth	
Applicant	Mr & Mrs M Potter	
Parish Council	No objections	
No. 09/0918	Erection of poultry unit, 2 feed silos and foundation of hardcore access track and ancillary hard standing	
Type	Full Application	
Location	Byebeck, Tebay, Penrith CA10 3SZ	
Parish Council	Buildings & silos should be green or dark colour.	
No. 09/1009	Erection of porch	
Type	Full Application	
Location	Scar Side Farm, Orton	
Applicant	Mr & Mrs D Pickersgill	
Parish Council	No objections	
No. 09/1064	Fell 1 Laburnum and one Cedar in Orton Conservation Area	
Type	Tree Works (CA)	
Location	1 Ashfield Court, Orton	
Applicant	Mrs M Lewis	
Parish Council	No objections	

Quality Parish Status

Clerk reported that the council's four year Quality Parish Status has expired and must be renewed within three months.

Resolved that the Clerk should make the necessary arrangements.

10. Public Participation

Contributions from members of the public.

11. Correspondence Received

CALC – County Circular December/January 2009 /10

CCC – Cumbria Minerals & Waste Development Framework

Eden CAB - Request for volunteers & funding

CCC – Highways Stewards Schedule 2010

SELRAP – Support & Funding request for Skipton/East Lancs Rail Action Partnership

Riverside Group - "Safe as Houses" – Handyperson Service

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

Date of next meeting – Monday 15th February 2010

Signed _____ Chairman

Date 15th February 2010