

ORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 10th January 2011 in Orton Market Hall at 7.30pm

Present Cllrs. Kyle Blue (Chairman), S Dunning, M Lewis, M Coates, M Jenkin and P Knowles
Clerk, C J Elphick
Internal Auditor, Jane Arkless
County Councillor Peter Thornton
District Councillor Margaret Wilcox
3 Representatives from the Market Hall and Manor Court
3 members of the public

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr E Potter.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr M Coates declared an interest in the Orton Toilets item. He is related to one of the contractors tendering for the work. Cllr Coates took no part in this item.

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 15th November 2010 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Orton Toilets - Proposed upgrade of facilities.

Six building contractors, three from Orton, two from Sedbergh and one from Penrith, had been invited to tender for the refurbishment and upgrading in accordance with drawings and specification agreed at the November 2010 meeting of the Parish Council.

Three completed tender forms had been received from

M Coates & Sons Ltd	Orton
MK Conversions Ltd	Sedbergh
Atkinson Building Contractors Ltd	Penrith

It was **resolved** that the contract be awarded to Atkinson Building Contractors Ltd who had submitted the lowest tender. It was noted that Atkinson's had previously carried out upgrading of Shap public toilets.

It was recommended that negotiations take place with the Atkinsons to hone the specification to ensure maximum value for money. Some areas in which savings may be made are already being examined.

The contract is to be awarded subject to adequate funding being in place prior to commencement. It is expected that, with the dedicated sum currently held by the Parish Council, the balance will be forthcoming from local sources very shortly.

Discussions on funding and practicalities of implementation of the scheme are ongoing with Manor Court and Market Hall representatives.

Finance

Accounts paid prior to meeting

Lynne Potter (Toilets Dec-Jan)	£ 210.00
Scottish Hydro Electric (Toilets)	£ 26.94
C J Elphick (Tree Lights)	£ 115.14

Sum received

HMRC VAT repayment	£ 534.73
--------------------	----------

Precept for 2011-2012

The precept for 2011-2012 was confirmed at £16,000 as agreed November 2010.

Planning Applications

No. 10/0824 Proposed porch to dwelling
Type Full Application
Location Bretherdale Hall
Applicant Mr JPS & Mrs K Anderson
Parish Council No objections GRANTED

No. 10/0718 Change of use of land for siting of temporary kitchen
Type Full Application
Location Westmorland Place, Orton
Applicant Westmorland Ltd
Parish Council No objections GRANTED

No. 10/1087 Fell Sycamore
Type Tree Works (TPO)
Location White House, Orton
Applicant Ms J Powdrill
Parish Council No objections

No. 10/0700 Installation of single wind turbine
Type Full Application
Location Moor House, Orton
Applicant Mr M Mawson
Parish Council Notwithstanding the potentially intrusive nature of the structure, the production of "green energy" in the particular circumstances outweighs the aesthetic disadvantages and no objection would be raised against the proposals.
In consideration of the siting of the turbine it was noted that, to an extent, the tower would be viewed against a background of existing trees. It was recommended that the tower and blades should be of a dark colour to blend with that background.
It was further considered that acceptance of this single wind turbine in the particular location should not be taken as a precedent for any future applications.

EDC Conservation Area Management Consultation - Relevance to Orton Parish

The Parish Council had been invited by EDC to comment on the draft Conservation Area Management Policy. The following item being of particular relevance to Orton.

"5.18 Orton Trees in central fields

The general presumption in favour of tree protection (Eden Local Plan "Saved" Policy BE6) will not apply to areas of woodland or thickets in the central fields of Orton conservation area.

"One of the defining features of Orton conservation area is the open fields in the centre of the conservation area. Although still grazed there has been a significant amount of tree planting over recent years which, as these trees mature, could result in the creation of woodland thickets. This would reduce the open nature of the central fields and restrict views across them. Consequently this could have an adverse affect on Orton conservation area's significance."

This observation was noted and it was agreed that the wording was adequate to permit the retention of open fields in the village centre.

Article 4 Direction

In the light of recent alterations to the frontage of a significant property within the village, which were, in fact, within the scope of "permitted development", it was considered whether Orton conservation area should be covered by an "Article 4

Direction” which would have the effect of removing “permitted development “ rights within the conservation area.

Consensus was that an Article 4 Direction would be excessively restrictive.

It was **resolved** that application should NOT be made for an Article 4 Direction for the conservation area of Orton.

Housing Needs Survey – Orton

The report, based on a recent parish survey on behalf of Eden District Council, had been received from Cumbria Rural Housing Trust. The results may be viewed on the EDC website or by application to the Clerk.

Rural Broadband

In order to assess the current download & upload speeds throughout the parish a survey has been installed on the Orton.org.uk website. Results are automatically submitted to the parish Clerk who will prepare a map showing best and worst reception areas. This information will help in the installation of 100mbps facility.

Orton Scribblers Group

A request for funding was received from the Orton Scribblers Group. The Council expressed support for the group but felt unable to provide funding at this time. Application to the County Council’s Neighbourhood Forum was recommended.

Have Your Say

Cumbria County Council is inviting members of the public to make suggestions regarding council priorities & budgets. Cumbria has to make savings of fifty million pounds for the coming year and wishes to know which elements of council services could best absorb funding reductions. The parish council declined the opportunity to respond but encouraged individuals to do so.

Public Participation

There were no contributions from members of the public.

Correspondence Received

CPRE – Countryside Voice magazine

CCC – Cumbria Rider, guide to public transport

Date of next meeting – Monday 21st February 2011

Signed _____ Chairman

Date 21st February 2011