

ORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 21st March 2011 in Orton Market Hall at 7.30pm

Present Cllrs. Kyle Blue (Chairman) M Lewis, M Coates, M Jenkin and P Knowles
S Dunning
Clerk, C J Elphick
County Councillor Peter Thornton District Councillor Margaret Wilcox
Annie Hamilton-Gibney – ACT – Local Distinctiveness Project

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr E Potter and Internal Auditor, Jane Arkless

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Coates declared an interest in Planning Application No. 10/1018. He is related to the applicant.

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 21st February 2011 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Local Identity

Annie Hamilton-Gibney from ACT has been leading the Tebay and Orton Local Distinctiveness Project. Annie reported on the successful formation of the Lunesdale Archaeological Society (LAS) and of its activities, including a walk around Gamelands stone circle which resulted in some interesting archaeological finds. The Society is holding its first AGM in the Green Room, Shap Village Hall on Tuesday 19th April at 7.30pm.

Other activities within the project include 'Local Tourism Business' events, a 'Then and Now' photographic project plus work with Friends of Tebay Church. Further activities are being planned.

Orton Toilets

Work commenced 14th March 2011 on the upgrading of the Market Hall Public Toilets. The project is expected to take between six and seven weeks.

Funding for the project has been received as follows:

EDC (Closing down costs)	£ 13,152.00
CCC	£ 6,000.00
Orton Parish Council	£ 10,000.00
Orton Manor Court	£ 5,000.00
Orton Market Hall	£ 5,150.00
	£ 39,302.00

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's contribution was achieved by viring £5,000 from each of the Parkland and Playground accounts.

HMRC – New PAYE Regulations.

HMRC has issued a new directive that, from April 5th 2011, all parish councils must become registered as employers and pay the clerk's salary through a PAYE scheme. The Clerk has always been an employee, with a Contract of Employment, but due to the small sums involved previous legislation permitted one annual return to be made. The Clerk has hitherto been paid monthly by Standing Order to minimise administrative costs.

It was **resolved** that an Imprest Account be opened for payment of salary and PAYE by the Clerk. This would have a fixed maximum balance which would be replenished as necessary by authorised signatories.

It was further **resolved** that the Clerk's hours be increased by one hour per month from April 2011 to compensate for the additional work involved. It was noted that external accounting firms would charge substantially more to carry out the work.

Finance

Accounts for Payment

Orton Market Hall (Hire fees)	£ 54.00
C J Elphick (Expenses)	£ 240.56
FoLD (Donation re. Orton Woodland)	£ 15.00
Scottish Hydro Electric (Toilets)	£ 270.36

The foregoing four accounts were approved for payment.

Planning Applications

No. 10/1018	RESERVED MATTERS FOR 1. No DWELLING
Location	Land adjacent to Chestnut Garth, Orton
Applicant	Holes Farm Partnership – Mr C Cox
Parish Council	Councillors expressed concern about the proposed height highway boundary wall. This should be low enough to permit clear line of sight for car drivers exiting the development on to East Lane.

Superfast Broadband Provision in Orton Parish

The council had previously received a presentation from the Community Interest Company NextGenUs with a proposal to provide much faster broadband upload and download speeds throughout the parish. The viability of the project would depend on a high proportion of properties signing up for the service. The possibilities will be publicised at the Annual Parish Meeting in April where the degree of public support may be ascertained. If there is sufficient support a "Broadband Champion" would be appointed to progress the project.

Cllr Knowles agreed to attend a meeting at Morland Village Hall to obtain further information.

Parish Council Elections

The Clerk had received Nomination Forms for the forthcoming Local Council Elections which will take place on 5th May 2011. Those councillors present received forms for return to Eden District Council by 4th April 2011.

Date & Arrangements for Litter Pick

A "Litter Pick" will take place on Tuesday 12th April starting at 6.30pm from Orton Market Hall. Clerk to arrange supply of bags etc. from EDC.

Public Participation

Peter Thornton spoke of the implications of the Localism Bill currently being debated in Parliament.

Correspondence Received

EALC Meeting – 28th March, Penrith TH. Clerk to attend.
Clerks & Councils Direct
Zoned Refuse Collections – new EDC arrangements
CALC – Circular, March

Date of next meeting (Annual Parish Meeting) – Monday 18th April 2011

Signed _____ Chairman Monday 18th April 2011