

ORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19th September 2011 in the Market Hall at 7.30pm

Present Cllr K Blue (Chairman) Cllrs S Dunning, E Potter and M Coates
Clerk, C J Elphick
Internal Auditor, Jane Arckless

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Menna Lewis, Mary Jenkin, Peter Knowles and County Councillor Peter Thornton,

Declarations of Interest

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 18th July 2011 were circulated and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The former Orton Liberal Club

Concerns had been raised about the unkempt condition of the property which is believed to be held in trust for the benefit of the youth of Orton. It is believed that the youth club which had formerly benefited from a rental income was no longer receiving it. Trustees were believed to have been the former youth leader, Tom Minton, the vicar, Harold Sawrey and the school head teacher, John Falshaw. It was not clear whether the trustee was the individual or the office holder for the time being. John Falshaw attended the meeting but was unable to shed any light on the matter. It was considered that the premises might be put to beneficial use by local bodies such as Orton and Tebay History Society.
The Clerk is to make enquiries as to the current ownership of the property.

Orton Playground

The annual inspection recorded several remedial works needed to bring the equipment up to standard. The Clerk to organise repairs.

Orton Market Hall Toilets

The upgrading of the facilities has been completed and a provisional "Official Opening date was suggested as Saturday 8th October to coincide with the Farmers' Market. Clerk to check availability of appropriate parties.

Finance

Account paid prior to meeting

United Utilities (Water Rate, Toilets)	£	50.15
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Accounts for payment

Orton Market Hall (Rent)	£	27.00
C J Elphick (Admin Expenses)	£	112.45
Eden District Council (Election Costs)	£	70.00
Lynne Potter (Toilets, September)	£	210.00
Lynne Potter (Toilets, to 13/10/2011)	£	210.00

Planning Applications

No. 11/0522	Install anaerobic digester to provide biogas for a 10kw combined heat and power unit
Type	Full Application
Location	Bowness Farm, Orton
Applicant	JP & S Thorpe – Mr J Thorpe
Parish Council	No objections

No. 11/0424	Proposed bedroom & 1 st floor conservatory extension
Type	Full Application
Location	Curlew Close, Orton
Applicant	Mr K James
	GRANTED

Orton with Tebay First Responders

A request for funding had been received from Orton with Tebay First Responders towards the running cost of their emergency call pagers which amounts to £400. per annum.

It was **resolved** that the sum of £200. be donated.

Public Participation

There were no contributions from members of the public.

Annual review of Clerk's pay & conditions from 1st April 2011

It was noted that, despite the Clerk's contract of employment containing a clause requiring an annual review of pay and conditions, no review had been carried out since 1st April 2009. During that two year period the clerk's workload has increased substantially. Lately the Inland Revenue has insisted that all parish councils, however small, must register as employers and account for PAYE, whereas there had previously been an agreement that due to the minimal sums involved clerks could make their own annual return. Getting the Council registered and the consequent monthly form filling is another additional chore.

It was **resolved** that the Clerk's working hours be increased to thirty-five per calendar month and that the hourly rate be rounded up by 6.8 pence to the nearest pound. The increase to be backdated to 1st April 2011.

Correspondence Received

CALC Circular – September 2011
Cumbria Police – Independent Custody Visitors – Poster
Cumbria Fire & Rescue – Letter from County Councillor Gary Strong
FoLD - Conserving Lakeland magazine
Clerks & Councils Direct magazine
CPRE – Countryside Voice magazine
CALC – Training Programme 2011-2012
Cumbria Registration Service – Information on Modernisation and Improved Services

Date of next meeting – Monday 17th October 2011

Signed _____ Chairman

Date 17th October 2011