

ORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday 16th September 2013 in the Market Hall at 7.30pm

Present Cllr Kyle Blue (Chairman) Cllrs S Dunning, M Lewis, P Knowles, M Coates, E Potter and M Jenkin
Clerk, C J Elphick
County Councillor Libby Bateman
3 members of the public

Apologies for absence had been received from District Councillor Adrian Todd

Declarations of Interest

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 15th July 2013 had been circulated and were signed by the chairman as a correct record.

Coronation Haymeadows 2013

It was reported that the additional seeding at Carsa Brow, organised by Claire Cornish, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, had been well supported.

Children's Playground

The Clerk reported that the Annual playground Inspection had been arranged. The company that has reported for the previous three years has ceased trading but an alternative firm, recommended by the council's insurers, has been appointed.

Orton Broadband

The following report was received from Roger Frank, Broadband Hub Co-ordinator.

Orton Parish Superfast Broadband Upgrade Status Report. - Sept 2013.

After numerous years of discussions, funding allocation and deliberations the "Connecting Cumbria through Superfast Broadband Project" is now underway.

Last November B.T. was awarded the contract to increase its original Commercial roll out plan (set at 60%) up to a minimum of 93% of all Cumbrian households. The finance didn't materialise until May this year when the work effectively started.

So what does this mean for our Parish?

In order to establish, first hand, what we can expect to receive and by when, a local meeting was set up with the BT Group Business Development Director (Julia Watts) and the BT Group Program Manager (Paul Cretney).

Currently BT is working on the larger population centres as the fibre system has to cascade out from them. They will then move onto the smaller towns and then the villages / parishes such as ours.

So where do we stand and timescale?

As above, we are effectively in phase 3 and work will start with an Engineering Survey of our Parish in 2014. This will comprise of a detailed, physical review of the existing system and layout so that the optimum solution can be established by the engineers. This solution will then be implemented by the end of 2015 which is towards the end of the current BT contract.

So what will be our likely solution?

The current communication network is based on copper wires and unfortunately it's just not feasible to replace the entire copper network with fibre. The realistic solution being a part-fibre, part-copper compromise (known as Fibre to the Cabinet [FTTC]) and the vast majority of the Connecting Cumbria delivery will be on this basis.

In practice, the telephone exchange will be connected by fibre to a new (green) distribution box (Dslam) that will be located adjacent to the current cabinet (opposite the George). The two cabinets would be interconnected thereby picking up the existing copper cabling to the

individual dwellings. The new box (Dslam) will be slightly bigger in size and will require an electrical supply.

What can we expect in terms of Broadband speed?

As copper is the final link, the length of the copper line in rural locations will be the limiting factor. True Superfast Broadband (SFBB) is classed as speeds above 24 Mbps (megabytes per second) and this level should be achieved in Orton village (adjacent to the Dslam) with the speed diminishing with distance to the individual's dwelling. The extent of this reduction will only become known as the engineering study work progresses.

Perceived Benefits of Superfast Broadband?

Even though a Superfast Broadband facility will be available, it is not anticipated that every household will take up the increased service as this is likely to incur a higher price from the individuals / chosen Internet Service Provider (ISP). Present thinking being that a speed of about 8 Mbps is adequate for normal domestic usage.

What can be expected in our more Rural Locations?

As described above, speed is a function of the length and to some extent the quality of the line feeding the property and this will be established at the time of the roll out in the Parish. BT has committed to getting as many properties as they can above a minimum 2 Mbps level and have a variety of alternative solutions (radio, satellite) that can be employed. BT is also currently trialling local Broadband boosters that take their electrical feed directly from the line thereby avoiding a separate power supply.

Community Lead Projects

Connecting Cumbria, and in turn BT, have been actively encouraging community-led Fibre Projects with the local Fell End Initiative taking a Nationwide lead and securing funding for a Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) solution. Topographically the Fell End linear Valley lends itself to such a solution whereas the Orton Parish configuration of a main hub with radial supplies to the outlying areas does not so easily lend itself to such an arrangement.

Looking Forward

Good contact has been made with the BT team and this will be maintained over the next couple of years with the aim of specific input / involvement during the engineering appraisal and implementation stages throughout 2014/15. Close contact will also be maintained with the County's Hub Coordinator Group to obtain an overall view of the project and lessons learned in other areas.

Planning

No. 13/0461	Proposed Garden Store	
Location	2 Manor Cottages, Orton CA10 3RF	GRANTED
No. 13/0607	Bedroom, study & garage extension	
Type	Full Application	
Location	Curlew Cottage, Orton	
Applicant	Mr P Ridgewell	
Parish Council	No objections	

Finance

<u>Accounts for payment</u>	
C J Elphick (Month 6)	£ 338.80
HMRC (Month 6)	£ 81.20
Lynne Potter (52)	£ 210.00
Gary Sedgwick (Toilet repair)	£ 56.38
Orton Market Hall (Rent)	£ 45.00
C J Elphick (Admin Expenses)	£ 220.36
Lynne Potter (53)	£ 210.00

Highways

Cumbria Highways had received a request from a resident for a "SLOW" sign at Street Lane. The Parish Council had been invited to comment.

It was felt that additional signage would be unsightly and make little difference to traffic speeds at this location. Offenders were most likely to be local.

Orton Beacon

It had been suggested that an for additional inscription should be appended to Orton Beacon in commemoration of the celebrations of the Queen's Golden Jubilee and Diamond Jubilee at a cost of £805.00. Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council had been invited to join in the proposal and contribute to the cost. CRPC had declined the invitation on grounds of cost. County Councillor Libby Bateman offered to contribute the sum of £500. From her Members Budget.

Clerk to pass this information to CRPC to see if there would be a change of opinion.

Public Participation

It was noted that the Manor Court had proposed to fix a sign to the exterior of the Dame School at Raisbeck. No objections were raised to this proposal.

Annual Review of Clerk's Salary

New rates had been received from NALC, the previous amendments having been in 2011. If implemented, the gross increase would be £1.82 per calendar month.

Correspondence & Publications Received

CALC Circular – September 2013

Clerks & Councils Direct

FoLD – Wainwright's Reflections – Eric Robson, 4th October, £29.50

CPRE – Countryside Voice

Date of next meeting

Monday 21st October 2013

Signed _____ Chairman

Date 21st October 2013