

ORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday 14th April 2014 in the Market Hall at 7.30pm

Present Cllr Kyle Blue (Chairman) Cllrs M Lewis, M Coates, S Dunning, P Knowles and M Jenkin
Clerk, C J Elphick
County Councilor Libby Bateman
District Councilor Adrian Todd

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr E Potter

Declarations of Interest

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 17th March 2014 had been circulated and were signed by the chairman as a correct record.

Planning

No. 14/0225 Proposed roof over existing silage clamp
Type Full Application
Location Hall Farm, Orton CA10 3RF
Applicant Mr C Robinson
Parish Council It was appreciated that buildings of this large proportion are essential for modern farming practice. Concern was expressed about the domination of the landscape so close to the village and within the Conservation Area of Orton.
It was recommended that, In order to minimise the visual impact, the roof material should be coloured Charcoal and the profile sheet Dark Green.

No. 14/0262 Erection of an agricultural building over an existing midden
Type Full Application
Location Stoney Head, Orton CA10 3SQ
Applicant Mr S Noble
Parish Council It was recommended that, In order to minimise the visual impact, the roof material should be coloured Charcoal and the upright supports Dark Green.

No 13/0870 Proposed alterations and extension to create additional residential accommodation.
Type Full application
Location Scar Side Farm, Orton CA10 3SE
Applicant Mr & Mrs D Pickersgill GRANTED

No. 13/0917 Installation of a single wind turbine measuring 40m to hub and 67m tp blade tip, with associated infrastructure and access route
Type Full Application
Location Raisgill Hall, Tebay CA10 3UB REFUSED

No. 14/0096 New Dwelling
Type Full Application
Location Land opposite Shallowford, Orton
Applicant Mr J Falshaw
Parish Council No objections GRANTED

Proposed diversion of FP355005 at Bretherdale CCC Ref. SP.5.01.69

County Councilor, Libby Bateman, who was present at the meeting, had walked the existing and proposed routes and made the following observations:

- 1 - The surface of the CURRENT route is unsatisfactory with an unacceptable gradient and the beck crossing ford is too deep.
- 2 - The beck crossing is existing and proposed to remain, so would not be considered in the consultation. The following suggestions could improve this section.
- 3 - The proposed route could be improved if it were taken diagonally across the field to cross an existing bridge and join the current route shortly before the river crossing. Although it is probable that the existing bridge is privately owned.

The council supported the diversion of the footpath as amended as it would improve the surface and negate the need to walk down the steep gully that the current route takes. Map attached to these minutes.

Finance

Notice of Repeal of s150 of the Local Government Act 1972 (the two signatures rule) and proposal to adopt revised Financial Regulations.

This has now been approved by Parliament and a legislative reform order (LRO) repealing the statutory requirement for 2 elected members to sign cheques and other orders for payment is in place. This gives councils the opportunity to review how they control their money and if they wish can take advantage of new technology such as internet banking. Any council that wants to take advantage of it must follow "proper practices" in line with the Governance and Accountability Guide for Local Councils (2010). This has been updated in light of this change.

Safeguarding public money.

The guidance states that the two signature rule must not be abandoned until a council has put in place safe and efficient arrangements in accordance with the guidance. It is essential that councils "*maintain robust controls on payments as an integrated part of their overall financial control system*".

New draft Financial Regulations have been received from NALC which contain alternatives to be completed by the individual councils to suit their needs. The Clerk to insert appropriate sections and circulate to members for perusal before the next meeting. It was further proposed to implement full Internet Banking and a Debit Card for the RFO. This would obviate the necessity for the RFO travelling to get two signatures between meetings. Suitable checks and conditions of use to be implemented.

The Clerk recommended that the council's accounts with the Unity Trust Bank be closed. The purpose of these accounts had been to enable a telephone banking authorisation system operated by authorised signatories. This had never been implemented and with the repeal of s150 of LGA 1972, these accounts are redundant.

It was *resolved* that the Clerk put in hand closure procedures.

It was reported that the 2013-2014 Audit instructions had been received from BDO (Auditors).

Accounts for payment

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Scottish Hydro Electric | £ 80.36 |
| Lynne Potter (60) | £ 210.00 |
| C J Elphick | £ 336.00 |
| HMRC | £ 84.00 |
| C J Elphick (Expenses) | £ 47.96 |
| CALC Subscription 2014-2015 | £ 171.00 |
| Norman Watson (Notice Board repairs) | £ 55.00 |
| United Utilities (Water) | £ 70.70 |
| C J Elphick (SLCC Subs (50%)) | £ 73.50 |

The foregoing accounts were approved for payment.

Footbridge Handrails on FP355063 – Market Hall to East Lane.

Parents had questioned the safety and adequacy of existing footbridge handrails for children on their way to school. Cumbria County Council had *responded* “we have inspected this bridge and Dave Clare is of the opinion that no additional maintenance or improvement is required at the present time.”

The safety question had also been applied to the two footbridges further downstream opposite the school. These are not on a Definitive Footpath but a Permissive Footpath which is not the responsibility of the County Council but of the landowner. Councillor Dunning volunteered to enquire the cost of providing handrails at these locations. It would be necessary to obtain the consent of the landowner if this course of action were to be pursued.

Carsa Brow Restoration Programme

. It was **resolved** that Orton Parish Council will co-operate with implementation of the Management Plan devised by Cumbria Wildlife Trust. The Chairman signed the agreement, one copy of which is to be returned to the Trust.

8. Public Participation

County Councillor Libby Bateman outlined the County’s developing policies on reduction of public transport subsidies.

Particular concerns were the provision of school transport for post 16 year olds plus the additional legal requirement for pupils to stay at school up to 18 years of age.

Reduced services would also increase isolation for the elderly.

Correspondence and publications received

CALC Circular April 2014
Parish Matters – Came & Co, Insurers
CPRE - Countryside Voice

Date of next meeting (Annual Parish Meeting & AGM) Monday 19th May 2014

Signed _____ Chairman

Date 19th May 2014