

ORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 21st July 2014 in the Market Hall following the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm

Present Cllr K Blue (Chairman) Cllrs P Knowles, M Coates, E Potter and Mary Jenkin
Clerk, C J Elphick
District Councilor Adrian Todd
Broadband coordinator, Roger Frank
Playground Inspector, Andy Cotton
Two members of the public

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs M Lewis, S Dunning, and
County Councilor Libby Bateman

Declarations of Interest

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 16th June 2014 had been circulated and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Orton Parish Superfast Broadband

Roger Frank has been monitoring the progress of Superfast Broadband towards Orton and negotiating with BT on behalf of the parish. Roger presented the current status to the meeting as follows.

With reference to my initial report of Sept 2013 I can advise that the “**Connecting Cumbria through Superfast Broadband Project**“ is well ahead of the original installation schedule as far as the Orton Parish is concerned.

Several meetings have taken place with the BT Project Team and the engineering survey work and installation planning is now well in hand based upon the solution outlined in my Sept 13 report.

Work will start later this year with the installation of the new DSLAM cabinets in Tebay (Cab 1) and Orton (Cab 2) and the current schedule is for Cab 1 to go live during the first few months of 2015 and then Cab 2 to be live by Spring 2015 a good 6 months earlier than originally envisaged.

This will bring a superfast service (above 24 Mbps) to the majority of the premises within Orton village (those properties within approx. 1.4Km line length from the cabinets) with a fall off of service in the outlying areas of the Parish.

BT has promised to look at ways of extending the Superfast coverage once the system is up and running. This will obviously be dependent upon available funding towards the end of the project. The Government however has recently made further funds available and Cumbria County Council will undertake a Market Review before deciding on how best the funds can be spent and whether competitive tendering is required. It is envisaged that this process is likely to take 18months hence beyond the end date of the current BT contract which expires at the end of 2015.

Roger Frank, Orton Hub Coordinator.

Planning

Two complaints had been received regarding apparent breaches of planning regulations, one at East Lane, Orton and one in Kelleth. These have been forwarded to Eden District Council planning department for evaluation.

14/0399 Conversion to one dwelling
Type Full Application
Location Orton Liberal Club
Applicant NL Gibson & BP Charter
Parish Council No objections except for proposed parking provision

GRANTED

No. 14/0515 Change of use, alterations and extensions to form dwelling
Type Full application & Listed Building
Location Old School, Greenholme
Applicant All Saints PCC – Mr A Moore
Parish Council No objections

Children's Play Area

Regular inspections of the equipment had identified that some items were approaching the end of their useful life and that replacements would soon be required.

Play equipment is expensive and would not fit within the council's normal budget therefore funds need to be raised from both local and external sources.

It was resolved that a Playground Committee be formed comprising Parish Council representatives plus school and PTA members and others to

- a. Consult and determine equipment desired and
- b. Assist with organisation of fundraising events.

Initial membership of the committee would be Cllr Menna Lewis, Clerk, Chris Elphick, Andy Cotton who carries out regular inspections, Jackie Cummings and Sharon Wolstenholme who were present at the meeting plus representatives from Orton School and PTA.

Chris Elphick has arranged an initial meeting with a representative from Playdale, who installed the existing equipment, to explore the scope and projected cost of upgrading.

An initial meeting of this committee will be arranged shortly.

Finance

It was proposed that the council's Unity Trust Bank account, which was opened in 2012 and had never been used, for operational reasons, should be closed.

Resolved that Orton Parish Council' account be closed and the balance transferred to the council's HSBC account.

Accounts for payment

C J Elphick (Month 4)	£ 336.00
HMRC (Month 4)	£ 84.00
Lynne Potter (63)	£ 210.00
C J Elphick (Month 5)	£ 336.00
HMRC (Month 5)	£ 84.00
Lynne Potter (64)	£ 210.00
Lynne Potter (65)	£ 210.00
C J Elphick (Toilet Lamps)	£ 43.37
Gary Sedgwick (Toilet repairs)	£ 75.60

The foregoing payments were approved. Some of the payments were in advance due to the difficulty of getting cheques signed in August when the council does not meet.

Ash Dieback

Kyle Blue noted that the arboricultural disease "Ash Dieback" was likely to affect all the ash trees in the county within the next few years. Cllr Blue suggested that consideration should be given to encouraging landowners to embark on a Tree Planting Programme. He had recently found a free of charge source of protective fences to prevent newly planted trees being browsed.

Date of next meeting Monday 15th September 2014

Signed _____ Chairman

Date 15th September 2014