

STANWIX RURAL PARISH COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of a Meeting Held on Wednesday 14th December 2022
at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, Houghton

PRESENT

The Chairman Cllr C Nicholson, Cllr's A Coles, H Phillips (arrived 20.10), A Robinson, C Savory and N Watson.

IN ATTENDANCE

Five members of the public. The Clerk, S Kyle.

SR 247/12/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs E Leitch and D Milburn. County Cllr J Mallinson and City Cllrs E Mallinson, F Robson and P Nedved also sent apologies.

SR 248/12/22 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2022

Resolved to authorise the Chairman to sign, as a true and accurate record, the minutes of the last meeting of the Council.

SR 249/12/22 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A previously granted dispensation for Cllr Robinson remains current, with regards to planning application 22/0297. Cllr's Robinson also declared an interest (non-pecuniary) in planning application 22/0034TPO, noted at the point of the item, due to living on the same housing estate.

SR 250/12/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

250.1 Members of the Public

Four members of the public were in attendance to continue discussions regarding the ongoing drainage issue on Houghton Village Green, adjacent to properties 1 – 3 The Green.

Resident A requested corrections to the agreed minutes, noting that the statement "*A letter concerning the drainage issue from the Council sent in 2017 was passed by a member of the public to Councillor Robinson. Councillor Robinson made no comment or statement and the letter was not circulated to the full Council or considered by it*" was incorrect and a more factual representation was that she had read out a letter from 2015 which Cllr Robinson had asked for sight of. Following this Cllr Robinson had asked for a private word with the Chairman, and City Cllr E Mallinson had suggested the meeting be adjourned with members of the public removed (both suggestions were deemed by the Chairman to be inappropriate under the circumstances). The above request was noted and supported by Cllr Robinson as being reflective of proceedings. Resident A also voiced disappointment with Cllr's for being willing to approve the minutes.

An update was given following a joint meeting held, involving the residents present, Cumbria County Council and United Utilities, along with the Parish Council, followed by a site meeting. It was noted that written comments with a suggested scheme of works was anticipated from

Cumbria County Council but had not yet been received. Resident B requested that a camera survey be organised as soon as possible.

Resident A requested clarification over minute extracts from 1927 and 1928. It was noted that the original minutes are to be obtained from the Archive Office to establish an accurate record and will be considered further once these have been obtained.

Resident C was in attendance to raise continuing complaints over the boulders that have been placed on Houghton Village Green. He asked questions regarding the role of the Council and their position in representing residents, the number of complaints received regarding damage to the Village Green, consultations made regarding the boulders and alternative preventative measures considered. Cllrs responded accordingly, with statements including that all matters, where a decision is taken, are considered at a Parish Council public meeting, and noted on the corresponding agenda and in the minutes, which are publicly available. Further it was noted that the Council re-claims VAT on eligible purchases. With regards to the boulders, their effectiveness is still being measured and will be considered once environmental schemes have been planted in 2023. It was however acknowledged that they may be too far from the path to be fully effective in preventing damage by vehicles and may need to be moved closer to the edge.

A petition was presented to the Council however it was returned to Resident C due to only featuring signatures, with no names, postal addresses or statement and aims being stated. Guidance is to be sent to the resident as to how a simple petition should properly be constructed so that it can be re-presented correctly at a future meeting.

Resident A suggested that all matters should be consulted on with members of the public and further suggested a better system of logging complaints was necessary.

All residents were informed that elections were taking place in May 2023 should they wish to stand.

250.2 Ward Members

No ward members were present.

SR 251/12/22 VILLAGE MATTERS

251. Houghton Village Green Drainage (1 – 8 The Green)

The matter was discussed during public participation.

Resolved to organise and pay for a camera survey of the affected pipes, to be actioned with no acceptance of liability or responsibility of any form for the drain or its associated problems.

251.2 Houghton Village Green Boulders

The matter was also discussed during public participation.

Resolved to investigate alternative options including boulders, trees and ditches, depending on legal constraints. The matter to be further considered when a properly formatted petition is re-presented at a future meeting.

251.3 Houghton Village Green Signage

It was noted that the resident who was in attendance to discuss the boulders had placed a sign on Houghton Village Green. Consideration was given to the regulations in place preventing such unauthorised signage.

Resolved to request the sign be removed immediately. Also resolved to investigate costings for the installation of a Highways approved sign, in a location closer to the road, with suitable wording and following the obtaining of any consents that may be required.

251.4 Brunstock Pond

Noted that the liner had been ordered and work was hoped to commence before Christmas but may be delayed until the ground softens, following the recent prolonged heavy frosts.

251.5 Linstock Trees

Resolved to obtain quotations for further works to trees in Linstock, following concerns that the trees were overhanging service cables and are at risk of damaging property.

SR 252/12/22 PLANNING MATTERS

252.1 Resolved to consider new applications:

22/0051/S211 Land adj. to Avalon, Rickerby, Carlisle, CA3 9AA - Remove & Replant Roadside Hedge & Removal Of 1no. Willow Tree

Noted that the application fails to explain the intentions of the applicant regarding the hedge.

Resolved to object to the hedge removal until the intentions are clarified.

22/0877 69 Millcroft, Carlisle, CA3 0HT - Demolition of Existing Single Storey Side Extension; Erection of Two Storey Side Extension to Provide Garage, Utility & Bathroom on Ground Floor With 1no. En Suite Bedroom with Juliet Balcony to Rear Above; Single Storey Rear Extension to Provide Sunroom

Noted that the application form does not show a Juliet balcony, rather sliding doors leading to a proposed balcony area.

Resolved to object to the proposal on the grounds of overlooking of neighbouring dwellings. This could however be overcome should conditioning restrict the balcony to a Juliet type, and prohibit the use of the adjacent flat roof for any leisure or recreational purpose.

22/0887 Houghton House Farm, Houghton, Carlisle, CA6 4DX - Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Documents) Of Previously Approved Permission 22/0222 (Refurbishment of Existing Farmhouse, Bothy & Cart Shed to Non-Residential; Demolition of Woodstore,

Barn & Shed; Erection Of 1no. Dwelling, New Garaging, Landscaping & Rerouted Public Footpath) To Amend Position Of Garage & Access To Site

Resolved to recommend that the application be determined in accordance with local and national planning and conservation policy and guidance.

22/0034/TPO (Plots 6 & 8) Land at Lansdowne Close, Carlisle, CA3 9HN - Felling Of 1no. Ash Tree, Crown Raising By 10% Canopy Volume To 1no. Oak & 1no. Ash Tree

It was stated that residents adjacent to the trees have not been consulted. Concerns regarding bats and other wildlife species nesting in the trees were also raised.

Resolved to seek neighbour consultation, after which it is recommended that the application be determined in accordance with local and national planning and conservation policy and guidance. The response to also note concerns over reports of nesting wildlife.

252.2 Resolved to note permission notices received:

22/0034 Land adjacent 5 Primrose Bank, Crosby on Eden, Carlisle, CA6 4QT - Change Of Use from Agricultural Land to Garden Area (Retrospective)

252.3 Resolved to Consider Updates with Ongoing Planning Applications:

19/0452 - L/A Croft House Brunstock

Noted that litigation remains ongoing with no further update.

22/0297 Land to the east of Lansdowne Close/Lansdowne Court, Carlisle - Erection Of 101no. Dwellings with Associated Parking, Landscaping, Drainage and Surface Water Attenuation, Public Open Space and Access

No update was provided although an application for an amended layout is anticipated.

SR 253/12/22 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk verbally reported that the new swings had been successfully installed at Linstock play area, with security fencing expected to be removed from the site by 20 December. It was noted that there was no update with the consent to install the Speed Indication Device (SID) in Houghton.

SR 254/12/22 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

254.1 Jackson Road

Ongoing concerns from residents, regarding congestion and parking, were noted with historical attempts to resolve the issue outlined.

Resolved to contact Highways to discuss with them the likelihood of a one-way system or alternative traffic calming measures, being implemented. Consultation with residents would be carried out, should any scheme be a possibility.

254.2 The Knells, Houghton

Resident concerns regarding speeding at The Knells, were noted.

Resolved to contact Highways to enquire if a mobile SID or traffic detection until could be deployed, should a suitable location be available, to ascertain if there was a problem.

SR 255/12/22 FINANCE MATTERS

255.1 Payments

Resolved that the following payments be approved:

Sarah Kyle	December salary & reimbursements	£1391.65
HMRC	December PAYE	£227.95
NEST	December Pension	£105.30
Houghton Guides	Grant	£832.77
Houghton In Bloom	Grant	£175.57
Houghton Village Hall	Rental	£33.00
Orchard Tree Surgery	Tree maintenance	£2016.00
ICO	Data Protection	£35.00
Lakeland Landscapes	Brunstock Pond	£5,000
	TOTAL	£9,817.24

It was also noted that the invoice for the play equipment for Linstock was to be paid, and the grant for it would be claimed for.

255.2 Bank Reconciliation

Balances at bank as of 30th November 2022:

Cash Account	£31,022.10
Unity Bank (current a/c)	£1,172.86
Unity Bank (savings a/c)	£47,660.26
Income to 30/11/22	£49,530.76
Expenditure to 30/11/22	£30,940.77

SR 256/11/22 COUNCILLOR MATTERS

Cllr Coles requested an update regarding the waste bins outside the Lounge on The Green; City Cllr E Mallinson to be contacted.

It was noted that the Clerk would be taking annual leave from 21st December, with the Parish Council office re-opening on Wednesday 4th January.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs for their work over the year and the members of the public for attending and stated that although public participation might allow the expression of views that may differ from the Council's, the Council always welcomed such contributions.

SR 257/12/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 11th January 2022 in the Parish Hall, Crosby-on-Eden at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.41pm.