

**Blindcrake Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on January 19<sup>th</sup> in Blindcrake Village Hall.**

- 1) **Apologies for absence were received from:** J. Thompson & M. Soppitt
- 2) **Minutes**  
The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on November 17th as a true record of that meeting.
- 3) **Declaration of any interests members may have in any item on the agenda:** None
- 4) **Presentation on Housing Needs in Allerdale.** The officer was unable to attend.
- 5) **The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow parishioners an opportunity to ask questions and raise matters of interest.**
  - a) The re-instatement of the ground around the telegraph pole at the Oaks has still to be completed. The Clerk said that he had been in contact and that he had been assured that the work would be done.
- 6) **Maintenance and Matters of Report**
  - a) **Drainage on the green:** A written report was received from John Thompson. He was monitoring the water coming from the tank under the pound. There had been heavy rain over the last few months so it was difficult to assess the success of the new pipe. There was standing water under the trees and the middle of the green was very damp. More soil to raise the level might help. JT
  - b) **Seating area at the top of the hill:** The transfer has been completed. The seat and the wall would be combined and Joe Marrs would revise his estimate. It was hoped the work would be completed by the end of the financial year.
  - c) **Low Farm:** Eddie Dawson of Allerdale BC had held a meeting with C. Hill and a representative of the NPA and had submitted a full report. C. Hill had two other sites in the area in a similar state. Legal proceedings would take place if work was not continued, GF
  - d) **Highway Steward:** Our steward had carried out much useful work in the parish to do with drainage. There were concerns re potholes on the C2035/2034. We had a reply from CCC Highways department regarding the lack of tarring in recent years and the resultant loss of the top surface in many areas. E. Nicholson said that more money had been allocated for this work.
  - e) **Appointment of an internal auditor for 2008/09:** Cynthia Dunbar had agreed to do this.
  - f) **White barn at Skiddaw View Farm, Setmurthy:** This was a notable eyesore across the valley. The clerk had contacted Embleton Parish Council and the NPA. It was agreed to write to the NPA expressing our concerns. GF
  - g) **Grass cutting contract for 2009:** it was agreed that the current contractor had done a good job in difficult circumstances. An advert would be placed for 14 cuts with the first lot of grass cuttings to be removed. GF
  - h) **Police matters:** A document from the Chief Constable explaining neighbourhood policing policy had been circulated. We now had a direct email to the Cockermouth Police Station. Policing would now be an agenda item.
  - i) **The road past Park Wood:** This was in very poor condition. Cumbria Highways have written to say that they will inspect it shortly.
  - j) **The state of the back lanning:** The Highway Steward had made some improvements but some drains needed clearing and Cumbria Highways would be doing this in due course.
  - k) **Website:** Work is in progress and content is being gathered.
  - l) **Gritting of roads in the parish in adverse weather:** There seems to have been a change of policy re grit/salt heaps. E. Nicholson explained that we could request heaps at suitable places. It seemed that Amey were not coping during the recent bad weather. Salt piles would be requested at Springs Brow, on the Ghyll road and on the hill out of the village on the east side. GF

- m) **The passing of Horace Winter** it was noted that Mr Winter, the parish's oldest resident at 97 had died. It was agreed to replace the memorial seat he had given on the green and to re-use the plaques. It was proposed and agreed to replace the seat to a cost of not more than £400. (Prop D. Roberts, Sec. H. Brough) GF

**7) Correspondence**

A list of correspondence received by the clerk since the last meeting had been circulated.

**8) Planning Matters**

- a) Long Barn at Redmain – this included listed building consent to increase living accommodation. There was no objection to this proposal.
- b) Appeal Decision, Land to the west of Blindcrake. The appeal against refusal of planning permission for two large barns had been turned down by the inspector.

**9) Financial Matters**

- a) Review of the budget for the year 2008-2009. This was agreed.
- b) Payment of the Village Hall rent 2008-2009 of £72.00 was agreed (prop. D. Roberts, Sec. M. Stocks)
- c) Payment of £175 to Oglethorpe and Broach re the transfer of land from D. Tyson to the Council. This was agreed. (Prop. D. Roberts, Sec. H. Brough). The meeting thanked our own solicitors for their services.

**10) Future agenda items and date of next meeting:**

- a) Building in a field between Redmain and Blindcrake owned by P. Studholme
- b) Street light beside Holme Farm – no light on it.
- c) Bend signs missing at Longclose.
- d) Construction of the village sign at the top of the Ghyll road.
- e) Flooding in Sunderland.