

**The Minutes of the Meeting of the Blindcrake Parish Council**  
**Held on July 19<sup>th</sup> 2010 in Blindcrake Village Hall**

1. **Apologies for absence received from:** L. Waite, J. Gate & M. Soppitt  
**Present: 6 councillors,** ABC Councillor J. Milburn and CCC Councillor E. Nicholson and two parishioners.
  
- 2) **Minutes**  
The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on May 24th as a true record of that meeting.
  
- 3) **Members to declare any interests they may have in any item on the agenda.** None
  
- 4) **Adjournment of meeting: The Chairman will adjourn the meeting to allow parishioners an opportunity to ask questions and raise matters of interest.**  
The junction markings at the T junction at Isel Old Park had been erased and this had caused some incidents. The Clerk was to contact CCC Highways Dept. GF
  
- 5) **Maintenance and Matters of Report**
  - a) **Police Matters:** No report
  
  - b) **Low Farm Updates:** The Chair of the LDNPA had been invited to the meeting but we had not had a reply. It was our right to have the matter referred to the Secretary of State. It was now six months since an NPA officer had attended the January meeting and agreed to write a report. It was agreed to leave it until August and then contact the press and MP
  
  - c) **Highway Steward:** The Clerk had reported the area of potholes by the village green to Peter Marr. The Park Wood road had received some small patching but this would soon be undone by a frost. E. Nicholson was to chase this. There was a blocked culvert at Bank Head. GF
  
  - d) **Village sign on the ghyll road.** Work had been completed. Thanks were expressed to J. Thompson.
  
  - e) **Grit boxes:** The Clerk reported that we would get nine boxes in the autumn.
  
  - f) **Grass cutting:** This was being done well. The contractor had expressed concern about people being on the green while it was being cut. A letter had been sent to everyone who lived near the green asking for their co-operation.
  
  - g) **Drainage on the village green – field drains?** R. Gerrard & J. Thompson were to meet and report to the next meeting. RG & JT
  
  - h) **Lights in the village:** There was still one not repaired. Concern was expressed that the replacement lights gave out a white light rather than the previous orange and residents near the lights found this intrusive. ABC Councillor J. Milburn said that white lights were being used as they used less power. A meeting was to be arranged with the ABC engineer. GF
  
  - i) **Broadband in the Parish:** Many people in the Parish received a signal of less than 0.5 mgbps while the best was 1.6 mgbps which was still slow. The Clerk had written to BT.
  
  - j) **Erection of notice boards:** These were being put up. They were locked and keys would be issued thus: Master key held by the Clerk; Isel board keys by D. Roberts and J. Thompson; Sunderland board keys by James Gate & Terry Johnstone. Redmain board key by Les Waite. This would help keep the boards tidy and free from inappropriate “flyers”.
  
  - k) **Conservation area survey:** We had been asked for our response to the draft version. There were concerns at what the precise purpose of the document was, given that it mentioned virtually every property in the village and their “good and bad” points. It was felt there were some inaccuracies and repetition in the text. The NPA will be holding a meeting in the village in September to show the final version to the residents.

- l) **Trees on the green/electric cables:** The Clerk had met with a United Utilities officer and they had discovered that some limbs of the tree had recently been removed. The UU officer was to investigate. GF
- m) **Pound working group:** R. Gerrard reported the desire to leave one of the wild trees and separate the recycling area from the rest of the pound, making a hole in the wall to allow access from the green. It was noted that we would need permission to remove the trees. Rachel was to produce a plan for the next meeting. RG
- n) **Ivy on the bus shelter:** R. Gerrard reported that she had cut some of the ivy and the rest would be removed for burning or disposal shortly. RG
- o) **Village green (conservation kerbing):** CCC Highways are unable to help. It was suggested that we fill the hole with concrete with rocks embedded. J. Thompson to arrange. Volunteers welcome. JT
- p) **Village signs for Sunderland:** This had been suggested. Three new signs would cost up to £3k but some funding may be available although not from the quarry as it was too far away. This would be mentioned in the Parish Newsletter. GF
- q) **Locality plan for the Cockermouth area:** J. Thompson and G. Forrester had attended a meeting of the parishes in the National Park around Cockermouth. It was a good meeting and many of the issues were common to all the parishes. The question was would anything result from the plan? ABC councillor J. Milburn said the overall plan for locality working was going before the ABC scrutiny panel. The Government were very keen to devolve power and spending.

6) **Correspondence:** We had received details of the CC Landscape Character and Guidance Toolkit via CD. A hard version would be requested.

#### 7) **Planning Matters**

Applications approved by the NPA:

Highside

Derwent Bank

Redmain Hall

The Cottage Sunderland

#### 8) **Financial Matters:**

- i. Internal audit assessment: Proposed D. Roberts, seconded M. Stocks. Approved.
- ii. Fidelity Insurance: it was agreed that we did not require this. Proposed J. Thompson; seconded H. Brough. Approved.
- iii. Review of our financial regulations & risk assessment: These were adopted: Proposed: D. Roberts, Seconded: J. Thompson. Approved.

#### 9) **Future agenda items and date of next meeting**

Flood damaged church bench.

#### **Dates of meetings in 2010**

Sept 27<sup>th</sup>

Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>