

Blindcrake Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on November 17th 2008

- 1) **Apologies for absence were received from:** H. Brough, M. Soppitt, and T. Johnstone.
Good wishes were sent to H. Brough for a speedy recovery.
- 2) **Minutes**
The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on September 15th and July 19th as true records of those meetings.
- 3) **Members to declare any interests they may have in any item on the agenda.** None
- 4) **Adjournment of meeting: The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow parishioners an opportunity to ask questions and raise matters of interest.**
 - a) Back lanning. Gulleys needed to be cleaned and the road to be swept regularly. The verges also need to be cut back to allow the sweeper to get into the edge of the road.
 - b) It was also noted that the gully emptier had not be doing his job every time.
- 5) **Maintenance and Matters of Report**
 - a) **Signposts – capping** This was to be done on the first fine day. JT
 - b) **Website** – Keith Snell had volunteered to create it with help from M. Dawson and G. Forrester Drafts of the front page were circulated. The setting up cost and hosting for two years would be £56.38. The payment of this amount (to K. Snell) was authorised by the meeting.
 - c) **Drainage on the green:** the pipe had been put in and seemed to be working. The gully had been reset to stop leaves getting in. The green will take some time to dry out. There was sawdust in the system from the sump in the pound. It was intended to rod this pipe. JT
 - d) **Acquisition of the seating area at the top of the hill,**
The transfer document had now been signed. A formal resolution to buy the area for £1 was agreed. Proposed D. Roberts; seconded L. Waite. The Clerk would write to D. Tyson to thank him and also to A. Prickett for doing the plans. There would be solicitor's fees of £175 plus VAT to pay. Joe Marrs would be authorised to do the work to repair to the wall and construction of a seat
The Resolution:
 - i) Reference was made to the negotiations with Derek Tyson concerning the gift of a small piece of land to the north of Blindcrake
 - ii) There was produced to the Meeting a Transfer between Derek Tyson and the Council (the Transfer) relating to the gift of land.
 - iii) it was noted that a Quorum was available.
 - iv) Accordingly after considering the financial position of the Council and its future requirements, it was resolved:-
 - a) That it was for the benefit of the Council and for the purposes of and ancillary to its aims that it should enter into the Transfer with Derek Tyson, and
 - b) That the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council be and they are hereby authorised on behalf of the Council to sign or execute all agreements, deeds and documentation to further the resolution.
 - e) **Flooding near the Old Almshouses**
The Highway Steward had cleared the drain and things were now much better.
There was a section further down the road where water from the field was coming into the road. It was felt that the matter could have been resolved fully when the Amey JCB was on site. DR
 - f) **Low Farm (Progress?)**
Allerdale BC were considering taking enforcement action for an unsafe building. GF
 - g) **Highway Stewards:** it was felt that the West Park road (C2035) was in a very poor state with potholes etc. Did the Forestry Commission contribute to the roads restoration? GF

- h) **Distribution of the Parish Newsletter:** It would now be possible to post the Newsletter to anyone who did not have it delivered.
- i) **Risk Assessment:** This related to our finances and insurance cover. We had to access this annually. It was agreed to add the two new signs , one extra notice board, three seats and the finger post sign to the insurance. GF
- j) **Flooding at Irton Cottage,** - source of water? No further information
- k) **Parish Plan:** R. Gerrard to pass the VAC documents to the Clerk. RG
- l) **Adoption of the Model Publication Scheme** under the Freedom of Information Act, Relevant documents would go on the website. It was formally agreed that the council would adopt the Model Publication Scheme and that all relevant documents would go on the parish website. Prop. D. Roberts, Sec. R. Gerrard and passed unanimously
- m) **Appointment of an internal auditor for 2008/09**
Members would ask for a possible candidate.

6) Correspondence

A list of correspondence received by the clerk since the last meeting is attached for information. The large consultation from the LDNPA seems to have stopped in mid circulation. Has any member got it? It was agreed to invite the Allerdale BC Housing Needs Officer address the next meeting.

7) Planning Matters

- a) Holly Bank – it would appear that the pans are being adhered to,
- b) Area to the south of the green is designated as open countryside by the NPA and thus unsuitable for development.

8) Financial Matters

- a) Clerk's report on the Audit Training Day – it was reported that the private company who were now doing the auditors for parish councils were applying the same standards as they do for towns and cities and this involved much more work for Clerks.
- b) Response to the External Auditors report; This was agreed at the relevant points had been dealt with.
- c) Payment for grass cutting - it was agreed to pay £432.50 to K. Hilland
- d) Payment for drainage channel on the green – it was agreed to pay £141.00 to A. Bowe
- e) Payment of external auditors fees - it was agreed to pay £111.63 to DO Stoy Hayward LLP
- f) Approval of the financial forecast for 2009-2010. This was circulated, discussed and approved by the meeting. The new precept for the coming financial year would be £4,837.50. it was suggested that as the council's project for 2009-10 we could put up village signs for Sunderland and a further one at the ghyll end of Blindcrake. DR to check with Miss Burkett re land for this sign.
- g) Review of the Clerk's salary in line with NALC rates. This was agreed. The new rate would be £8.238 per hour
- h) Review of the budget for the year 2008-2009. The current balance sheets were circulated and approved. This would now be a standard agenda item.

9) Future agenda items and date of next meeting

Allerdale BC Housing Needs Officer would address the meeting.

Dates of meetings in 2009

January 19 th	March 16 th	May 18 th (AGM)	July 20 th
September 21 st	November 16 th		

Signed _____ Date: _____