

**The Minutes of the Meeting of the Blindcrake Parish Council  
held at 7.30 on November 22nd 2010 in Blindcrake Village Hall**

**Present:** 9 councillors, J. Milburn (ABC), A. Holmes (Age UK) & 2 parishioners

1. **To receive apologies for absence:** None
- 2) **Minutes**  
The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on September 27th 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 adjourned the meeting to allow parishioners an opportunity to ask questions and raise matters of interest.**  
Presentation by Adele Holme of Age UK; who talked about recruiting new blood from the “Third Age” to help with community groups.
- 5) **Maintenance and Matters of Report**
  - a) Police Matters: It was reported that we would lose our community officer in the forthcoming cuts. The Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Constable to express our concern.
  - b) Low Farm Updates: The LDNPA had insisted that repairs and action were taken to stop further deterioration of the building. The LDNPA were meeting Roland Hill on a monthly basis to discuss progress.
  - c) Highway Stewards: The Council expressed their thanks that the Park Wood road had been completely resurfaced. There were a number of ditches in Sunderland needing clearing.
  - d) Drainage on the village green – field drains?: A meeting would be held shortly. JT/RG
  - e) Broadband in the Parish: Survey: John Thompson had had 32 replies. Speed in the Parish was very poor as the lines were some 50 years old. BT felt it was too costly to replace the lines. Poor Broadband also affected the value of houses. Joe Milburn suggested using LEP and the locality working group to keep up the pressure. JT
  - f) Pound working group: Rachel Gerrard will contact the planners to seek their views and also discuss it with the Conservation officer at the meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>. RG
  - g) Village green (conservation kerbing). This will take place when the weather permits. There was concern about wagons going on the grass when rounding the corner. JT
  - h) Village signs for Sunderland: These would cost £1100 plus VAT and £350 per “wall”. Views have been asked for and two residents had said it was a good idea. James Gate and Terry Johnstone were asked to find suitable sites. JT/JG/TJ
  - i) Large wooden building at Thorneycroft: This had been put up very quickly. It would appear to be contrary to Section E of the Planning Regulations. A planning officer from the NPA was going to inspect it shortly.
  - j) Conservation survey consultation for Blindcrake (December 14th). Everyone was urged to attend and make their views known.
  - k) Webmaster’s Report: Keith Snell reported on the website in its first two years. He was keen to develop it and get more local organisations to use it. (Report attached)
  - l) Cockermouth Locality working group meeting Nov 17<sup>th</sup> 17.30, Town Hall: John Thompson & Graeme Forrester reported on this meeting which they felt was too focused on Cockermouth town rather than the parishes. There was a need for parishes to attend meetings and push our interests.
  - m) Drainage issues in the village: A report was circulated and Rachel Gerrard gave the “official” view from the Environment Agency. Most of the flooding was due to water coming from the road which had not been able to flow down the beck and ditches. The upper level of the Ghyll Beck needed dredging. Further down the ditches and walls were in a poor condition and needed action from the landowner.

- n) Recent road works: There had been some worthwhile repairs on the Ghyll road and on the Park Wood road. There were still a couple of areas in the village awaiting attention. It was hoped that the normal tar spraying would take place to preserve the new surfaces.
- p) Grit Boxes: Despite being ordered from Cumbria C.C. in March these were still awaited.
- q) School buses: A reply had been received from Messengers as to the daily schedule. It was felt that this was more to do with fitting in with getting to and from Messengers base than the best interests of the children of Sunderland. Parents were asked to contact Messengers direct.

**6) Correspondence;**

- a) LDNPA Draft Core Strategy
- b) Electoral Review of Cumbria
- c) Better Highways – 2 man teams
- d) Community Exchange Project
- e) CALC Annual Report
- f) FOTLD Green Spaces Guide

**7) Planning Matters:**

The Clerk's responses to the following applications were approved.

- Long Barn, Redmain (in favour 9:0)
- Highside. Blindcrake, (in favour 7 with 2 abs)
- Richmond House, Sunderland, (in favour 9:0)

Planning Permission Granted by the NPA:

- Moota Motel;
- Redmain Gill
- Herdwick Croft
- Wesleyan Cottage, Sunderland

Appeal re the Tallentire Wind Farm (From Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>)

**8) Financial Matters:**

- a) Payment for grass cutting on the green of £480 was approved
- b) Payment for the website hosting of £56.38 was approved.
- c) Payment of the external audit of £120 was approved
- d) Current financial report was approved
- e) Precept for 2011-12. It was agreed that this would remain the same at £5080.
- f) Auditors Report; The Clerk reported on this. We had to agree not to have Fidelity insurance every year and also to review the effectiveness of our internal auditor once a year.
- g) The cost of advertising the grassing cutting contract was raised and the Clerk was asked to contact CALC to enquire as to what constituted an advert.

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

Nomination of a member for the Parish Charity

**Dates of meetings in 2011:**

January 17<sup>th</sup>                      March 21<sup>st</sup>                      May 16<sup>th</sup> (AGM)                      July 18<sup>th</sup>                      Sept 19<sup>th</sup>                      Nov 21<sup>st</sup>

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_