

BURTON- IN -KENDAL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 20 March 2008 at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall.

PRESENT: Cllrs. P.Rogers(Chairman), J.Alderson, R.Boddy, J.Hopwood, F.Mason-Hornby, G.Isherwood, A.Wren, R.Bingham (District Cllr.), C.Dale (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Six members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs. J.Brown, R.Lawson

- 2. PRESENTATION** by Barry Jackson from SLDC who gave a talk on the planning process and its future development. He explained that central to the talk are the following objectives as set out in a Planning Bill currently passing through Parliament:-
- Reform the planning system
 - Simplify the local planning system
 - Ensure the planning system plays a greater role in sustainable development
 - Ensure the planning system supports viable town centres

3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on 15 March 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This last twelve months has been considerably quieter than the preceding year and as a result this statement will be shorter than is usual. The most important event was the failure of the County Council's bid to become a Unitary Authority. The County Council and South Lakeland District Council have agreed to partake in a much closer working relationship than was previously the case.

Our designated Police Community Support Officer, Margaret Cahill attended meetings and forwarded a report of incidents in the parish. Unfortunately for us, PCSO Cahill was accepted for training as a police constable and left in December. Liaison by the police with the parish council is now in limbo.

Our District and County Councillor is still Roger Bingham. Roger attends many of our meetings and we thank him for his input and support. Things will change at the elections in May when Burton, Holme, Hutton Roof, Lupton and Preston Patrick will form one electoral ward for South Lakeland District Council, represented by two councillors.

As usual we have been asked to consider consultation documents from other authorities. They include -

Cumbria Minerals Waste Development Framework

SLDC Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

SLDC Housing and Employment Study

Cumbria Highways Survey

Kendal Canal Head Action Plan

SLDC Community Strategy

Planning applications have suddenly decreased - the parish council considered 25 compared to 39 the previous year.

The construction of the affordable housing at the top of Boon Town proceeds apace and should be finished by early summer. Impact Housing Association has placed a notice in the Westmorland Gazette advertising the five houses intended for shared ownership.

The Parish Lengthsman, David Holmes has been working every Wednesday in the parish and he has improved the appearance of our three settlements and the connecting roads and footpaths. David has dug out many old grips, soakaways and smoot-holes leading to much reduced winter flooding on the roads despite the torrential rainfall in January. He has removed the longstanding 'deep' litter in the hedges and makes periodic litter sweeps along our roadsides. All signs have been cleaned and up-righted and obscuring vegetation trimmed back. Weeds have been sprayed and moss scraped from the footways. Unfortunately the

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County Council has decided not to continue financing this scheme. As a result the three parish councils who are using the services of Mr Holmes after decided to continue and finance the provision of the lengthsman in entirety.

The cobbles on the East side of the Square have been exposed and the map case opposite the Butchers has been refurbished. The road markings at the junction of Clawthorpe Lane and the A6070 have been repainted and limestone boulders placed on Boon Walks to prevent drivers mounting the verge. The missing crossroads warning sign outside 'The Park' has been replaced. The picnic site at Plain Quarry has been tidied up and hopefully the gravelled access will be regraded soon. Forest Enterprise is rebuilding the dry stone wall between this area and Dalton Woods. Considerable work has been done to improve the appearance of the Recreation Ground and secure its boundaries.

In November the parish council decided to apply to the County Council for funding for the erection of two bus shelters. We await progress on this application.

Other changes in the village – The car park for The King's Arms Hotel has finally been completed. The restoration of Dalton Hall Home Farm for use as a business centre is complete and all the units have been let. Unfortunately, there is no progress on the refurbishment and re-opening of the Royal Hotel.

The balancing good news is that our Post Office has been spared from the cull of these important community hubs in South Lakeland.

I would like to thank all the parish councillors for their commitment during the last year. Individual councillors represent our interests on:-

The Memorial Hall Committee

Burton Recreation Trust

Burton Morewood School Governors

Holme Park Quarry Liaison Committee

Cumbria Association of Local Councils

Parish councillors give of their time to serve the interests of the whole community. Sometimes we think we are making no headway when dealing with the County Council and the District Council, but we are persistent.

I would like to thank Charles Dale, the Parish Clerk for his commitment to the council and to the parish and to the assistance and support given to me as Chairman.

Our Quality Parish Status has resulted in no tangible benefits to the parish so far, which is disappointing. Now that the Parish Charter has finally been signed by the County Council, SLDC and CALC this may change. However, we know from the accreditation process that the council is working to a high standard of corporate governance and thanks to Charles' efforts we have a qualified parish clerk. As the role of Clerk to the Council becomes more involved I know that this will stand the council in good stead.

Finally, I should like to thank those indefatigable ladies of the local press Anne Craig, Joyce Bye and Katherine Smith who keep us on our toes and partake as members of the public.

5. OPEN FORUM

- In response to a query about the position of the lengthsman now the pilot scheme has terminated, District Councillor Bingham pledged financial support from his own Highways Budget of £10,000 for 2008/09 from CCC
- Other members of the public raised concerns over the condition of Boon Town car park, road, curbs and pavements as a result of contractors building works and vehicles. The Chairman suggested residents put their complaints in writing and hand them into the contractor's site office. At the same time the Clerk was instructed to write to the contractor, Thomas Armstrong (Construction) Ltd., with a copy to Impact Housing Ltd., requesting that works be carried out with more consideration for the local residents and that the whole area be reinstated to its original condition before they leave.
- In response to another query the Chairman announced the remaining potholes on Dalton Lane should be attended to within the next two to three weeks.

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