

BURTON-IN-KENDAL PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 19th November 2020 held Via Zoom

PRESENT: Cllrs. A. Wren, G Isherwood, M Taylor (part), F. Mason-Hornby, J. Hague, J. Hopwood, L. Bailey, P Rogers, C Nolan (Part)

Also present: Parish Clerk C Davidson

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: 2 members of the public were present on behalf of press.

This meeting suffered technical issues part way through however remained quorate and all items were discussed and voted on.

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION:

None

3) MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD

The previous minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4) RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CHAIRMAN

There is a Zoom/Webinar being held on the 25/11/20 Local Government Reform joining instructions have been circulated.

The Clerk has received the Conclusion of Audit from the External Auditors and this will be published on the website.

5) OPEN FORUM

Correspondence was received from a resident voicing concern that the 'Parking' was not on the Agenda as read in Burton News, the fact the bin is not in the Square and finally the Agenda item 7 'Agree cost and purchase of benches for The Square.

Parish Council responded to these concerns –

- Parking will be on the agenda when more research has been done and then can be discussed properly.
- SLDC have said they will install the bin when scaffolding has been removed
- Item 7 is for agreeing the cost and purchase of benches only and any planting or other street furniture designs will be published for comments as soon as these are available

Cllr Isherwood raised concern regarding communication and transparency within the Council. This was discussed and the Clerk will confirm the guidelines set out for all Parish Councils to follow.

6) RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Bingham was unable to attend the meeting and therefore sent his report which is below:

Truth it is said, is the first casualty of war. Hence, during our current 'war' against Covid, I was told by several people that residents of Burton and Holme who had crossed the frontier

into Lancashire to shop at Carnforth's Aldi had been turned away by the police. But, the story was declared to be untrue by Aldi, and the Cumbria and Lancashire police. Now we all have a watered down lock. But, schools remain open and the roads are not much quieter. Inevitably, with poor weather our much appreciated volunteers and professional supporters will find it harder visiting housebound people. Fortunately Cumbria's eligible children were provided with meals in the October holiday and will receive vouchers at Christmas. For assisting older people please Contact Age UK in Kendal 01539 728118 which, also, has information about, possible, £250 extra heating grants.

Regarding flooding at the south end of Main Street, I am having difficulty getting the gravity of the situation across to the County Council. I remain wary about drainage in The Square and Neddy Hill. I've also contacted the Environmental Agency about harm caused to the environment and farms by endless flooding on the Mosses.

Council business via Zoom/Teams meetings etc remains if anything higher than in pre-pandemic times.

Recent debates have largely concerned Local Government Reform involving replacing District Councils and the County Council with Unitary Authorities.

Few people want to retain the District Councils whose functions have been eroded by the contracting out of many services like Housing and Leisure.

The majority ruling group on SLDC favours a Morecambe Bay Authority consisting of Barrow, South Lakeland and Lancaster. But this is contrary to a government ordinance that County boundaries should not be crossed. Also there are significant demographic differences between South Lakeland and both Barrow and Lancaster which have higher rates for crime and deprivation than does South Lakeland. Yet, these authorities share the Morecambe Bay Hospital Trust. But as I experienced during my illness, many of us receive treatment out of this region at Blackburn, Blackpool, Preston, and Manchester.

The County Council favours a single authority but if this meant everything being ruled from Carlisle it would hardly be 'local' government. Others schemes include splitting Cumbria into two parts. But each part would have a population of less than 300,000 which is below the government guide lines.

7) TO AGREE THE COST AND PURCHASE OF BENCHES FOR THE SQUARE

Cllr Hopwood had circulated various options and prices for benches to Councillors prior to the meeting. Each one was discussed with regard to costs. It was agreed that the better one is the Blackburn Steel one as it will last and weather better. Discussion then took place regarding siting of the benches.

It was agreed that further discussion is needed due to scaffolding being in place etc. Cllr Mason-Hornby offered to store the benches until they can be put in place.

The benches would be funded from the CIL money

Cllr Rogers proposed that 2 x Blackburn benches be purchased at £549 each and stored with Cllr Mason-Hornby. This was agreed by a majority vote.

8) TO CONSIDER QUOTATION FROM ASHLEA LANDSCAPING FOR GRASS CUTTING 2021/22 SEASON

The quotation from Ashlea Landscaping for grass cutting has increased by £55 which is 3%. The price hasn't been increased for 2 years. The price is £1903 for the village grass verges. The quotation was accepted and Clerk to request the price be held for the next 2 years.

9) FINANCE

Consider the bank balances and the Income and Expenditure Account, noting the receipt of CIL Money totalling £517.99 and agree two Councillors to authorise online payments through Unity Trust Bank. The donation to Royal British Legion will be increased using the Chairman's allowance. A further payment of £25 will be made.

Councillors Wren & Hopwood

Authorise payment of the following accounts:

a) Lengthsman's hours and expenses	£61.00
b) Clerk's Salary & Expenses	£307.80
d) SLDC Playground rent	£85.00
e) SLDC PsiCA Contribution	£5000.00
f) Astarte web hosting	£125.00
f) PKF Littlejohn	£240.00

Discussion took place again regarding the payment to SLDC for the PsiCA contribution of £5000. A vote took place regarding payment 2 Cllrs voted for, 3 abstained, 4 voted against. The payment will be withheld again this month.

10. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

No	Item	Reported by	Action	Status
1	B4RN	FMH		Ongoing
2	PSiCA	JH/CN		Drainage works still ongoing.
3	Slope Lane			£1000 still ringfenced for Slope Lane
4	Church Bank Gardens Issues	JH		Ongoing – Tom Harvey dealing
5	Community Group Update	LB/CD		Calls have increased slightly, mainly prescriptions.
6	Chargepoints	JHague		Slow progress, Cllr Hague will update next month - ongoing
7	Rubbish Bin – Square	Clerk		Will be replaced when scaffold has gone.
8	Boon Town Playground/South Lakes Housing	AW/JH		No update

11) LENGTHSMAN'S LOG, REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS AND REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS AND CLERK.

- a) Cllr Mason-Hornby reported ongoing litter problems at Plain Quarry.
- b) Cllr Nolan attended the Memorial Hall AGM
- c) Cllr Rogers has worked with Lengthsman clearing gullies around the village

- d) Cllr Hopwood will be logging into the webinar regarding the Local Government re organisation.
With regard to Kevin Preston – re planting of any new planters he would offer the labour free of charge.

12) TO RECEIVE AND ACTION COMMUNICATION RECEIVED.

13) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Thursday 17th December at 7.30pm**
Venue to be confirmed

Schedule of communications received from

**Schedule of Communications
Significant communications received:**

By email forwarded to Councillors

CALC roundup
NALC updates
Local Government Reorganisation
Conclusion of Audit PKF Littlejohn

GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

CALC	Cumbria Association of Local Councils
CCC	Cumbria County Council
LAP	Local Area Partnership
LDF	Local Development Framework
NALC	National Association of Local Councils
SLDC	South Lakeland District Council