

Soulby Parish Council

Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21st March 2018 at 7pm at Soulby Village Hall.

PRESENT

Harold Birkbeck (HB) – Chairman

COUNCILLORS

Jonny Dinsdale (JD)

Barry Westgarth (BW)

Georgina Hurcombe (GH)

Mark Bainbridge (MB)

ALSO PRESENT – Caroline Fennell (CF) Clerk, 1 parishioner

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Phil Dew (PD), Cumbria County Council (Appendix 1)
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None
3.	MINUTES – Minutes of the meeting held on the 24 th January were signed by the chairman as a true and correct record.
4.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/OPEN SESSION – The parishioner present asked who cut the grass on parts of the Village Green/verges. Councillors informed him that parishioners cut the grass around their properties in certain areas of the village, through their own choice. The parishioner highlighted that he felt this really contributed to making the village look much nicer and asked if these parishioners could be reimbursed in any way. The council informed him this was not possible but that they were very appreciative of the care that parishioners showed to the village.
5.	APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT – Planning Application 18/0158 – Soulby Bridge – minor works to Soulby bridge – No objections
6.	DEVOLUTION & TRANSFER OF ASSETS CF fed back to councillors further information regarding the devolution and transfer of assets by EDC – in particular regarding footway lighting and the play area within Soulby. It has been confirmed by EDC that the deadline for signing up to the footway lighting agreement has been extended to 1 st April 2019 in light of discussions with NALC/CALC surrounding the legal agreements. Various options were discussed but it was resolved to await further info from CALC before making any final decisions regarding footway

201/17

lighting arrangements (Appendix 2).

The play area was also discussed and information received from Neil Buck, Contracts Manager at EDC. The council resolved that the play area was a necessary amenity for the residents of Soulby and its visitors and therefore agreed to take on the play area subject to certain conditions. CF to contact EDC and arrange a site visit prior to any agreement to highlight any areas needing attention by EDC.

7. ADOPTION OF POLICIES

The council resolved to adopt the Standing Orders, Code of Conduct and Financial Regulations for the current financial year.

8. FINANCIAL RECORDS – The following accounts were authorised for payment

- | | | |
|------|---------|--|
| i. | £225.00 | Caretaker Salary |
| ii. | £325.00 | Clerk Salary |
| iii. | £77.11 | Clerks Expenses |
| iv. | £34.50 | KS Community & Council Centre website fees |
| v. | £458.77 | Zurich Insurance |

The bank reconciliation was noted to be correct.

9. SCHEDULES OF CORRESPONDENCE, NOTICES & PUBLICATIONS –

- I. Correspondence circulated to Councillors
- II. A parishioner had contacted the clerk prior to the meeting to discuss the possibility of the council placing red squirrel signs in the village. Parishioner was going to forward details however nothing further was received.
- III. A request has been received for the council to provide a letter in support of the use of Kirkby Stephen all weather pitch. Council unanimously agree to provide a letter supporting this.
- IV. Notification from EDC of road closure at end of February – works yet to be completed.
- V. Request received from Northern Gas Networks to cross village green to provide gas connection to White House – agreed subject to green being put right following works
- VI. Contract received from EDC regarding siting of the garden waste skip scheme – after discussion it was decided not to have the garden waste skip sited in Soulby. CF to confirm this with EDC.
- VII. New Data Protection Regulations come in to force in May 2018. Comprehensive toolkit provided by NALC to try and aid councils with this. CF to monitor.

202/17

10.

COUNCILLOR MATTERS –

GH brought it to the councils attention that the recent council tax renewal shows a 3.5% increase for Soulby Parish Council despite the parish precept remaining the same. CF to follow this up.

GH raised the issue of a lilac bush from Row End blocking the site of vehicles entering the road. GH to speak with owners in the first instance.

Further to comments made by Phil Dew (Appendix 1), it was raised by JD that the lids on the grit bins are loose resulting in water getting in and any grit solidifying and becoming unusable.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – To be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm

Signed **Chairman**

Date **2018**

203/17

Appendix 1

Report to Soulby Parish Council 21 March, 2018 – Phil Dew

Highways

East Cumbria has experienced two extreme weather events over the past couple of weeks. Please let me have any relevant feedback so that the lessons learned can be incorporated into the Council plan.

Have grit bins been replenished?

Pot holes have sprung up everywhere thanks to wet roads and frosty conditions. I remind councillors that one way to reduce pot holes is to keep water off the road by ensuring that gullies are regularly cleaned. A significant proportion of the Highways revenue budget is spent on the Appleby Horse Fair leaving a much reduced amount for basic road maintenance. In my opinion, ways should be found of either reducing the cost of the Fair or ensuring that those who attend pay more to support it.

I have reported the poor condition of the verges on the Soulby to Appleby road. Hopefully these will be attended to in the new 2018/19 financial year.

Astroturf

The Astroturf at KSGS is on the agenda. The pitch needs replacing at a cost of over £100,000. EDC has promised a significant grant from a pot of £300,000 set aside for capital projects in local communities. I would urge Soulby Parish Council to support the local bid and help save this vital asset.

Cumbria Constabulary

Following the article in the CWH featuring Orton's PC Speedy, Cumbria Constabulary has flagged up the importance of rural policing. Michelle Skeer, the new Chief Constable, has admitted that police officers have spent too much time on administration. She recently stated 'I'd like to increase visibility in the community because we know it's important'. My personal view is that a real live police officer should attend each parish council meeting at least once a year so that the views of the public can be heard.

Data Protection

The new EU General Data Protection Regulation comes into force on 25 May, 2018. Councils have to appoint a Data Protection Officer, approve a Data Protection Policy and register with the Information Commissioner's office.

Appendix 2

Soulby Street Lights

Agreed lights (2)

- Will all be replaced with new unit
- Running costs – basic maintenance £46.32, electricity supply £74.64 = £120.96 per light per annum
- Lifespan approx. 11 years (1,000,000 hours)
- Replacement unit cost £2500 approx (new unit only) plus instillation
- Requires 6 yearly electrical test (all due 2023)
- Replacement head cost £400+VAT plus instillation costs
- Hinged columns to ease electrical servicing – no hoist etc required
- Covered under public liability insurance (to confirm)
- Currently advised by NALC not to sign contract until legal advice has been sought. EDC are aware of this – deadline extended until 01/04/19

Non-agreed lights (9)

- Separate legal agreement
- EDC will run the lights until they are no longer maintainable or until April 2022
- At this point they will be decommissioned and removed by EDC
- Lights will need to be replaced with new LED unit - £2500
- If lights are taken on PC is responsible immediately and would have to cover removal of old unit – approx. £1000
- Electricity supply would need to be reconnected – awaiting response from ENWL
- ENWL will not supply electricity to lights fixed on buildings or shared poles – only to new columns
- solution – let EDC keep non-agreed lights until they fail or 2022. In the meantime look in to replacing with new columns – Will contact Barney Slack regarding this