

**Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Caton with Littledale
Parish Council held at the Victoria Institute
on Monday 11th April 2016.**

Present:

Councillors : G Beckett, H Diggle, R Elvis, R Gibbons, K Hill, C Kynch, R Paine,
M Skeldon, S Thompson & J Walmsley (chairman)
S Brown, clerk to the parish council.
2 members of the public.

16/181 To receive apologies for absence. Cllr Nesbitt.

**16/182 To approve the minutes of the parish council meeting held on the 8th
March 2016 and sign them as a true record.**

Proposed by Cllr Gibbons.

Seconded Cllr Thompson. All in favour.

Cllr Walmsley signed the minutes.

16/183 To receive declarations of interest & authorise dispensations.

None.

16/184 Open forum.

Rachel and Raymond Bateson reported to the parish council that there are children on the Fell View playground at 2/3am in the morning, which is becoming a regular nuisance and they have also been causing damage as there is smashed paving.

The parish council urged the residents to call the police if there is a repeat incident. Considerations for action are: potential by – laws, lighting, signage and a report in the 'Link'.

Dog fouling on and near the playground area is also a problem, Rachel Bateson explained that she has to clean it up frequently.

Action: Residents asked to gather photographic evidence. Parish Council to distribute dog poo posters. Parish Clerk to ask dog warden to call more frequently.

16/185 To consider and approve Policing and Community Together (PACT) matters.

Written police report had been circulated.

Action: items in *The Link* and *Lancaster Guardian* re dogs worrying sheep and need to ensure sheds etc kept secure as a number of reports of thefts of tools and equipment.

16/186 To receive and approve county & district councillor's reports.

None.

16/187 To receive updates from Lancaster bus users group, LALC ; to consider plans for any future action.

There have been no further changes. The 80/81 timetable is much reduced, particularly beyond Hornby, and there are no services in the evening or on Sundays. Councillors expressed concern for residents who need to use the bus, especially the elderly.

It could be worth working with other parish councils in the Lune Valley to consider funding/running additional services. LALC had been asked to obtain information on usage statistics and costs from Lancashire County Council and Stagecoach, and to consider holding a meeting for affected parish councils to consider options.

16/188 To receive a report from the working party on using a lengthsman & decide on future action.

Noted that Pilling has a lengthsman – G Benson. Hornby has a lengthsman who works about 288 hours per year. Cllrs Elvis and Skeldon agreed to work together to identify a person willing to do work for the parish and to report back to May meeting. Noted that financial support from Forest of Bowland AONB may be available for lengthsman work done within the AONB.

16/189 To consider planning applications received and note decisions.

No plans received.

16/190 To consider establishing a new working group on the neighbourhood plan.

It was agreed that discussion on the Neighbourhood Plan and how it is to be administered should be carried forward to the May meeting

16/191 To consider SPiD : sharing with Gressingham Parish Council :

Agreed.

16/192 To consider location and type of cycle racks to be installed in the village.

Cllr Kynch proposed having bike racks installed close to the Coop and Brookhouse Post Office (Londis). The price of a plain "toast rack" model is around £250 plus £100 for installation. Emma Sutcliffe to approach Co-op management about positioning the rack on their forecourt, possibly removing the planters at the same time. At Brookhouse, the rack would have to go in the parking area, perhaps between existing planters. Parish Clerk to establish whether planning permission/highways approval required.

16/193 To consider highways and footpath matters.

Post boxes ongoing – no firm results.

Adoption of New Street – established the section leading up to the burial ground is not adopted and is owned by St Paul's Church. It was resolved to ask the incoming clerk to get a price for the cost of repairing and resurfacing the unadopted section, initially asking the contractors who resurfaced the Station Road Car Park in order to get a rough idea of likely costs. The PC would then work with the Church to help them raise the necessary money.

Proposed by Cllr Walmsley.

Seconded by Cllr Skeldon.

Holme Lane street sign is now replaced.

Low wall at junction of Ashcroft Close and Lancaster Road in urgent need of repair.

Incoming clerk to establish who is responsible./ Ship Inn low wall needing

Crook O Lune wall alongside road has not been repaired yet. Incoming clerk requested to write formally to Halton Park to ask for action.

Public Rights of Way scheme (PROW) The previous scheme had been abolished but a new scheme had been brought in, including a £250 allowance for parishes which opted in to the scheme. Agreed to opt in (proposed Cllr Paine, seconded Cllr Gibbons)

16/194 To consider continuing with the agreement with Lancaster City Council regarding the public toilet funding.

The Victoria Institute owns the public toilet but cleaning and locking it is the financial responsibility of the parish council. Lancaster City Council has cut the amount given to the PC for the maintenance of the toilet. Councillors discussed options, including saving money by not locking the facility at night. It was agreed to reduce the amount paid to the Victoria Institute and accept that that would mean the toilet was cleaned less frequently.

16/195 To consider and sign the Deed of Grant of Easement :

A witness is required for the signatory. The Chair to arrange and confirm this has been done.

16/196 To consider maintenance of the War Memorial Garden

More quotes for the work are required. So far one received for £1840. Meanwhile councillors will trim grass and deal with weeds as necessary.

16/197 To consider alternative locations for the new parish noticeboard at Brookhouse.

Potential sites are Brookhouse Methodist Church, by the bus shelter or close the Black Bull. Cllr Gibbons was in discussion with the Methodist Church.

16/198 To receive update on action to be taken regarding the drainage of the sports field; the pavilion has an overflowing pipe, affecting local homeowners.

Cllr Gibbons has contacted the pavilion owner today and suggested turning the mains water off.

16/199 To confirm annual parish meeting date Monday 16th May, at Caton St Paul's School at 7.00pm and decide on invitations; effect of Council cuts (including buses) or flooding and emergency planning.

APM will be on the 16th May. Topic for discussion is emergency planning; Mark Bartlett the Lancaster Civic Contingencies Officer has agreed to speak.

16/200 To approve accounts for payment. See below for itemised list; and add new councillors to cheque signatory list at bank.

Replacement of toddler swing £57-60 with £20 delivery. Cllr Kynch to supply paperwork.

Cllr Beckett to attend LALC conference in April; no charge for attendance but PC agreed to pay his travel expenses.

16/201 To consider planting a sapling alongside the Oak Tree at the Fish Stones; update on trees for the War Memorial Garden.

Sapling at Fish Stones – Robin Hill has in hand. Awaiting the delivery of trees for the War Memorial, Cllr Walmsley to chase.

16/202 To confirm an annual inspection of Fell View Play Park equipment, in order to comply with insurance requirements.

An annual inspection by a qualified inspector has been arranged by the Clerk. Lancaster City Council inspections take place quarterly. Our insurers require a weekly inspection. The clerk reported that at the last inspection there were 4 items causing concern. Incoming clerk to confirm that insurance requires a weekly inspection and to organise it if needed.

16/203 To consider action to be taken regarding unruly dogs and dog foul on Fell View.

See 16/184

16/204 To consider action to be taking regarding late night problems with noisy youths on Fell View.

See 16/184.

16/205 To consider damage to flagstones at Fell View Playpark and appropriate action.

See 16/184

16/206 To consider marking the 2015 floodline at Thirlmere Bridge.

Two floodlines are now needed – 1995 and 2015. Cllr Elvis to contact Abel Memorials.

16/207 To confirm S34 Environmental Waste Protection Act is being adhered to in respect of the green bin at the War Memorial.

S34 form signed by Cllr Walmsley.

16/208 To consider reports from outside bodies & working groups; including Twinning, Victoria Institute, Fell View Play Park Action Group, including new play equipment, LALC, Finance Working Group, village website - to report on creation of a Facebook for Caton.

Twining – Very enjoyable weekend in Socx, including participation in rededication of World War I British and Commonwealth cemetery. 10 UK children had taken part in the exchange this time. Thanks to Parish Council for its support.

Victoria Institute ex – treasurer in court 4/4/16. Police have access to the money that needs to be repaid. This matter is now closed.

FVPPAG – swing development ongoing, the new slide has been explained.

Website – a photo gallery to be added. There is now a village Facebook page.

16/209 To note correspondence received.

The Baptist Church is organising a village litter pick for Friday 17th June.

Community Payback is looking for work and it was suggested that tidying up along the Millennium Cycleway would be useful. There is a drainage ditch opposite the Bull Beck car park which needs to be cleaned out.

16/210 To note the date of the next (annual) parish council meeting :

Tuesday 10th May 2016. Agenda closes Tuesday 3rd of May, delivery and notices posted will be Thursday 5th of May. The parish council will need to elect a new chair and vice chair at this meeting. Nominations to the clerk by 4th May.

Signed

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