

# Caton with Littledale Parish Council

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## Minutes of the parish council meeting held at the Victoria Institute on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.15pm.

### **Present:**

Cllr Beckett, Cllr Elvis, Cllr Gibbons, Cllr Kynch, Cllr Paine (vice – chairman), Cllr Thompson and Cllr Walmsley.

G Mason - clerk to the parish council.

Lee Burrows - Manager of the Coop.

***Cllr Kynch is acting chairman for this meeting.***

**18/29 Apologies for absence** Cllr Hill, Cllr Huddleston, Cllr Nesbitt, Cllr Skeldon.

### **18/30 To consider and approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018.**

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by Cllr Kynch after the following addition (playpark inspections, repairs and maintenance)Cllr Kynch had measured the depth of the cushion fall in various places ***and reported that it was 2cm below the recommended 30cm depth*** and that it did need raking and levelling.

Proposed by Cllr Walmsley.

Seconded by Cllr Gibbons.

### **18/31 Declarations of interest and dispensations.**

Cllr Kynch declared an interest in the agenda item: playpark sponsorship - as she is an officer of the playpark action group.

### **18/32 Open forum.**

The manager from the Coop explained to the parish council that the contractor was no longer available to paint the white lines in the car park. The Coop will contribute £250.00 to the parish council to complete the work instead.

### **18/33 Planning applications.**

18/00002/FUL Proposal : Erection of 9 dwelling houses with associated access, engineering works to provide sustainable drainage pond, construction of internal roads and footways and the provision of a package treatment plant For : Mr & Mrs John & Anne Collis Site Address : Land At Mill Lane, Low Mill, Mill Lane, Caton, Lancashire

***The parish council object to the application on the following grounds:***

**Flooding and water management** Our parish has been subjected to severe flooding twice in the last 3 years. The new houses could be at risk from flooding . Run-off from the development could exacerbate the flooding experienced at Low Mill on both occasions. The Flood Risk Assessment document makes no mention of the flooding in the area on 22/23 November 2017, even though the report is dated 9 January 2018. The developers propose installing a packaged treatment plant to deal with sewage, with the final effluent discharged as surface water to local watercourses. Surface water is to be stored on site using soakaways, tanks and an attenuation pond, and then released to the Mill Race. A residents' management company is proposed to maintain the treatment plant and common areas such as roads. The parish council is worried about the effect of these extra water flows on homes nearby. We are also concerned about the long-term effectiveness of these arrangements.

**Design and visual impact** Any development in an AONB requires a higher standard of design, in character with the vernacular buildings and landscape. The designs of the houses on this site draw on the Arts and Craft movement for inspiration. So they do not complement properties within the Parish or indeed the wider Lune Valley. For instance, there is very little use of natural stone.

The development will be clearly visible from the Millennium Way and footpaths which run on both sides of the River Lune. Screening by trees and hedges is not sufficient at present. The view from the Halton bank towards Caton- with- Littledale is an iconic one. This new block of housing will dominate this picture by virtue of its position, the height and colour the buildings and the proximity to Low Mill.

**Mix of houses and affordable housing** This development is for 9 houses of which two have only two bedrooms and are expected to sell for a lot less than the other houses in the development (£190,000). The developers are offering around £133,000 as an off-site affordable housing contribution, as a maximum and subject to a viability assessment. This will be put into Lancaster City Council funds. Such a contribution – if eventually made – will not actually provide an affordable home in our parish. If the development goes ahead, we ask Lancaster City Council to oblige the developers to make one or two houses available to an organisation such as Lune Valley Rural Housing.

**Road safety** Mill Lane will have increased use by vehicles. There is no footway at present, and so the safety of pedestrians may be compromised.

It was resolved that the above responses be submitted to Lancaster City Council Development Control.

Proposed by Cllr Walmsley.

Seconded by Cllr Elvis.

### **18/34 Accounts and finance.**

#### ***Payments***

#### ***Standing orders***

Victoria Institute, administration grant (S/O)	£1000.00
Bridgitte Theunissen-Hughes zipwire lockup (S/O)	£40.00
B Postlethwaite public toilet lockup (S/O)	£40.00

#### ***Cheques***

Victoria Institute room hire	£47.75
Victoria Institute room hire (NP)	£18.00
Printing sundries	£28.70
Gill Mason, clerk's wages £559.95 and expenses £44.74	£604.69
Lancaster City Council mowing contract (cheque re – issue)	£1134.00
Football Club small grant	£500.00
Fishing rights cheque (transfer to poor's land account)	£800.00

It was resolved that the above payments be made.

Proposed by Cllr Gibbons.

Seconded by Cllr Elvis.

#### ***Receipts***

Fishing rights cheque	£800.00
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### **18/35 Parish management and maintenance.**

#### ***Play park inspections, repairs and maintenance.***

Cllr Huddleston forwarded a report to the clerk regarding the repairs and maintenance of the playground. The cushion - fall is still too low in places, the park benches need maintenance and the zipwire tension needs tightening. Thank you to Cllr Elvis and Cllr Gibbons for tightening and improving the tension on the climbing frame.

Cllr Kynch asked if the community payback team could return and rake the playpark again to level the cushion - fall. Cllr Walmsley will ask volunteers at the spring clean if they could also rake the area.

***Village contractor update.***

No update.

***Noticeboard maintenance.***

The doors on the noticeboard have swollen with the rain and are difficult to open . Cllr Elvis will remove the doors of the noticeboard and sand the edges so the doors can open and shut properly.

***Repair of the fishstones.***

No update.

***Copy Lane tree.***

Cllr Elvis reported that there is a dead bow on the oak tree on Copy Lane. The clerk will check with the TPO officer to see if there is a tree preservation order on the oak tree. The parish council will review the issue once the leaves have grown on the tree.

***Flagpole.***

The flagpole thread is snagging and needs re - cording, as it isn't able to lower the flag properly . Cllr Elvis and Cllr Gibbons will take a look at the problem and report back to the next parish council meeting.

***8/36 Parish spring clean.***

Cllr Walmsley has organised a village spring clean for the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> March and the afternoon of the 8<sup>th</sup> April. The Victoria Institute is to be used as the base for the volunteers and the Coop is providing refreshments. Lancaster City Council will be providing gloves, litter pickers and hi – vis clothing.

***18/37 Sponsorship signage on Fell View update, list of playpark contributors and noticeboard installation.***

The clerk was asked to obtain quotes for a large sign to display the playpark contributors logos, individual A4 sponsorship signs and a small aluminium noticeboard for the parish council to approve.

***18/38 Mirror on Artlebeck bridge update.***

The clerk has contacted LCC Highways but has had no response.

***18/39 Audit arrangements.***

It was resolved that Mr Bob Griffiths will complete the audit for the financial year 2017/2018.

Proposed by Cllr Elvis.

Seconded by Cllr Paine.

***18/40 Annual parish meeting and annual parish council meeting arrangements.***

It was resolved that the APM be arranged for Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.00pm at the Victoria Institute. The topic for the meeting will be 'flooding' and Cllr Walmsley will ask Mark Bartlett to attend. Cllr Kynch will organise a display for the Forest of Bowland – AONB.

The APCM be on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 7.15pm and Cllr Paine will write a report as vice - chairman.

**18/41 Reports and correspondence.**

Eon credit on account letter – noted.

Wray Parish Council meeting regarding the Forest of Bowland AONB– Cllr Kynch to circulate details.

Residents concern regarding burglaries on Sycamore – article in the Link.

Flooding forum report - United Utilities, Environment Agency and Lancaster City Council attended the forum and talked to the residents about their particular problems . 60-70 residents attended.

**18/42 To note the date of the next parish council meeting.**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.15pm.

Agenda items to be submitted to the clerk by Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 5pm.

APM - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7pm.

***The meeting closed at 8.36pm***

**Signed .....**

**Date.....**