

**MINUTES OF OUGHTERSIDE AND ALLERBY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 14TH JUNE 2016 AT 7PM IN PROSPECT VILLAGE HALL**

Present

O&A Parish Councillors

Mr P Milton (Chairman)
Mrs L Preston-Miller (Vice Chairman)
Mr M Gannon
Mrs L Milton
Mrs E Berkeley
Mrs P Lukeman

Parish Clerk

Mr M Milner

Allerdale Borough Councillor

Mr J Lister ABC

Cumbria County Councillor

None present

Apologises

Mr J Cowan. O&A PC

Members of the Public

6 members of the public present

Meeting Opened:

The chairman declared the meeting open at 7pm. Then promptly suspended for clerk to fetch his glasses from his car, meeting resumed 7.02pm.

026.00 Apologises

Duly noted as above

027.00. Declaration of interests

None were declared. (See minute 032.01)

**028.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last meeting held on
Tuesday 10th May, as a true record.**

028.01. The minutes were proposed for acceptance by Cllr L.P-M and seconded by Cllr M.G and unanimously accepted by the council. Chairman signed as a true record.

Before proceeding with the meeting Cllr P.M(chairman) advised the council and members of the public present that agenda item 9 contained information that would be prejudicial to public interest and therefore proposed "to exclude the press and public during item 9." His proposal was seconded by Cllr L.P-M and agreed by the council.

However, as it was in his power to change the agenda order, to save members of the public leaving the room and then coming back he advised that item 9 would be dealt with after item 14.

029.00 Public Participation Session. 15 minutes allowed.

029.01 The owner of the property, Skiddaw View, Oughterside, advised the PC that although in the past she had managed to cut the grass in front of her property it was now a problem and the grassed area has a village pump and a seat on it. The area was becoming an eyesore as it is over grown. When it had been last cut local residents used it as a car park. The request was could the PC cut the grass and also stop the vehicles parking on it. There was also a question of insurance raised by the owner. The clerk advised that his recent investigations confirmed that the area was not parish land, but it would be dealt with more fully in the residents' association agenda item.

030.00 Oughterside, Prospect, Allerby, Residents Association invite to address Parish Council.

030.01 The residents' association had written to the chairman, who had forwarded the letters to the clerk, who in turn had started to action some of the points raised. A major concern had been grass cutting within the parish. The chairman was able to confirm that he and the clerk had visited all the areas currently cut and from parish legal documents going back to 1969, plus the knowledge of the manager of the contractor currently cutting the village grassed areas, factually documentation and historical knowledge, confirmed that the parish was cutting the areas it was legally obliged to. The area outside Skiddaw View, and the area down at Beech Hill are not parish land and the contractors, who had dealt with the cutting under Allerdale Borough Councils time of responsibility, also confirmed that detail.

030.02 Entrances to the villages were over grown and need of cutting, whose responsibility and with what frequency should they be cut. Clerk to investigate.

030.03 Could the clerk investigate pavement cleaning.

030.04 The hump back bridge over the River Ellen on the road to Gilcruix had sections that were in need of serious remedial pointing and could Gilcruix and Oughterside parishes get together to facilitate the work? The clerk pointed out that the bridge would be a Cumbria Highways department responsibility and he would contact them and report back.

030.05 Trees in the Parish Field, or play area as the residents' association know it, had been poisoned by overzealous use of weed killer, did not the parish insurance cover that problem and their replacement? The clerk to investigate who did the weed control and approach them on the topic.

030.06 The residents' association and the village hall representatives were concerned why the clerk had raised the question of insurance for groups using the village hall. According to the village hall treasurer, who was present, the hall's insurance covered all those who used it. The clerk advised that he had raised the insurance question as OPARA were holding a Fun Day and he had concerns, as not knowing the association, about them having sufficient or adequate public liability insurance. OPARA advised that they paid an annual premium of £237.87 to which the clerk agreed they apparently had appropriate insurance. Clerk was to be given a copy of the village hall policy because the PC were trustees of the hall. That position was now resolved.

030.07 A member of the public had raised, with the former clerk, about a year ago a query concerning the play area bridge, but no apparent action had been taken. The details were again restated and the clerk to be passed all the details to investigate who was responsible for playground equipment safety inspections, their frequency and what could be done to reinstate the missing bridge.

030.08 problems with the street lighting on Meadow Bank, one light reported as not working, was now on 24/7, the clerk to investigate.

030.09, a bus stop flag was missing and had not been replaced, making the bus stop not so conspicuous.

030.10 Fly tipping problems, required investigation. Clerk to enquire about the problem in the parish, with Allerdale.

The chairman thanked OPARA and other residents present for their input and that all matters would receive attention and a response in due course. It was agreed that Cllr P.L would attend OPARA meetings as a PC representative.

031.00 Police Matters.

031.01, the clerk read out a report from PCSO 5322 Emma Light, confirming no incidents in the parish since last month and that although she and a colleague had done several speed laser checks at Prospect, no speeding motorists caught, which she thought was probably due to their high visibility yellow jackets, indicating their presence.

031.02 She had been and located the Allerby footpath, but not been bothered by dogs, so asked that anyone who was affected should phone 101 at the time of the incident and report it immediately.

031.03 The police report had contained details of the Cumbria Community Messaging project and the clerk would put the details in the noticeboards when he put up the PC minutes.

032.00 Applications for Development

032.01 The clerk had received documents concerning planning application, Ref 2/2016/0199 submitted by Mr & Mrs Evans, Fell View, Allerby. Cllr P.L realised that she had a personal interest in the application and immediately left the room prior to any discussions.

032.02 The PC looked at the documents circulated by the clerk and also noted the comments of the Bat and Barn Owl reports also submitted.

7.25pm Cllr Jim Lister, ABC, joins the meeting and apologises thinking it was a 7.30pm start.

032.03. Cllr M.G asked if the development would fit the local environment and was reassured by those councillors knowing the area and property that it would be fine.

Cllr M.G proposed the applications acceptance and Cllr L.P-M and seconded it.

Application approved unanimously.

Cllr P.L was invited back into the room.

033.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors

033.01 Cllr J.L, ADC, reported he had nothing special to report, but enquired if the PC had points to raise.

033.02 Following the various points raised in the public participation and OPARA agenda items, Cllr J.L will pursue again his enquiries about the Skiddaw View grassed area ownership, he would also enquire about who at Allerdale was responsible for the grass cutting of roads other than trunk roads in the area and the frequency.

033.03 The blocked culvert that he and Cllr M.G had investigated he would enquire what subsequent actions had occurred.

033.04 Clerk advised he had received a communication about a Solway survey of old farm buildings being undertaken, and asked Cllr J.L, as a farmer, if he could suggest a good central contact point for the local farming community. The suggestion was Aspatria Farmers Co-op or even the local Young Farmers Association. The clerk to forward the details to the survey group.

AS there were no other questions for District and County Councillors the chairman thanked Cllr J.L for his attendance, inviting him to continue at the meeting, but he had other appointments so left the meeting 7.38pm.

The chairman moved from item 8 to item 10 as agreed.

034.00 Website and Parish Mapping.

034.01 The clerk reported that he was underway with the website development, but obviously due to circumstances at home and other O&A PC matters it would be July before he had it up and running.

034.02 Cllr M.G in the absence of Cllr J.C gave a quick update on the work that had been undertaken on the village mapping project and what uses it could be put too. Highlighting local known or potential flooding area and liaison with OPARA members on that point would be beneficial.

034.03 To move the project on and make it more easily understood and available on the O&A website Cllr J.C wanted authorisation to pay the annual subscription, approx. £20, so Cllr M.G proposed that be done, and Cllr L.P-M seconded the proposal and council approved.

035.00 Progress Report, Clerk.

035.01 Minute 015.03, the village hall insurance. Clerk received a copy invoice for 2015/16 village hall insurance, also the current year 2016/17 which comes to £1066.61 and he had requested and received a Prospect Village Hall invoice for £533.30, which he would be asking for a cheque for later in the evening.

035.02, clerk had dealt with the dog problem in 016.02 in this meetings police report.

035.03, as promised he had circulated all councillors with Section 137 Grants detailed links, as minute 019.03 promised.

035.04, minute 019.07 he had written to the bank for copies of all 2015/16 cheques written and they had been supplied, in 3 weeks not the promised 2.

035.05 Further to minute 022.01 an asset register that was correct at March 2012 had been located and a copy forwarded to Cllr E.B; it would be updated when accounts completed.

035.06 following minute 022.03 clerk had been in contact with the lengthsman and now the grass cutting contract has been resolved, a contract of employment and works schedule could be drawn up.

035.07 at minute 023.02 clerk advised that PC had an insurance renewal of £1129.68p, which he felt was excessive. PC had given him authority to investigate alternative options and he had received a quotation from Lincs Community Services for £620.66p. A saving of £509.02. After discussions with Cllrs P.M and L.P-M and with their agreement he placed the policy with the new insurers, which is underwritten by Zurich, and paid as agreed.

035.08. Clerk had undertaken a study of all recent past invoices and their VAT content. It confirmed no VAT reclaim made since Dec 2010, so he has done one from May 2013 to June 2015, which totalled £3754.50p. Enquiries are ongoing if he can go back further, but normal time limit is 3 years.

035.09 Minute 020.04 refers, clerk had advised that there was funding under the Transparency Requirement guise to cover computer equipment, scanners, software and website development costs. He had made that grant application and had received a cheque for £810.00 which he had banked in O&A's account. So the outlay on laptop/scanner, printer and Office software made last month was fully reimbursed.

036.00 Councillors Reports.

036.01 Cllr E.B will be attending the next village hall meeting on 28th June and the OPARA meeting is straight after that meeting and Cllr P.L will attend that.

036.02, Cllr M.G has been attending other combined PC group meetings investigating how they are co-ordinating their respective flooding issues and ways of resolving them. He produced leaflets about Flood Recovery.

036.03 Cllr P.M asked if there had been any report back about the fence over the beck. Clerk to investigate, but he reported it was on Highways to do list.

037.00 Correspondence

037.01 The clerk reported receipt of a letter from the Allerby Play Park Group, which asked 4 questions. The first one concerned the use of the red phone box at Allerby by the village green for a defibrillator. He confirmed emailing the writer back saying he had contacted ENW quoting the relevant certificate number requesting if the power supply to the box was still available. No reply yet but he would chase it.

037.02 A request in the same letter for a bench in the Allerby play park area. Clerk to put the topic on the next agenda as a specific item.

037.03 Cladding around the metal stay beside the electric pole on the Allerby green required cladding. Clerk has been supplied with the pole number and he will contact ENW about the problem as it is their pole.

037.04 Could the play park goal post be refurbished or replaced? Refurbishment to be investigated with the lengthsman.

037.05 Following the clerk's investigation into 2015/16 accounts he had received correspondence from ISS Contractors about outstanding invoices for unpaid grass cutting July/August/September 2015. All now resolved and request for payment later at this meeting.

037.06 Email from Cumbria Highways re River Ellen erosion on Arkleby Rd near Ellen Villa, confirming area, "inspected, prioritised & programmed"

038.00 Cheque Payments for approval.

Cheque No 000254 Prospect Village Hall. Hall hire by PC, Invoice 380 £50.00

Cheque No 000255 Prospect Village Hall. 50% hall insurance cost. Inv' 383 £533.30

Cheque No 000256 ISS Facility Services July/August/Sept 2015 £1077.69

All approved.

At this point 8.20pm the chairman asked the members of the public to leave so the parish council could discuss the agenda item to follow in camera.

039.00 Parish Council Accounts for 2015/16.

039.01 This item is minuted separately and attached to signed TRUE COPY but not displayed, see separate attached minute and attachments.

040.00 Date and time of next meeting, Tuesday 14th July 2016 at 7pm in Prospect Village Hall

Meeting closed 8.52pm