

**MINUTES OF OUGHTERSIDE AND ALLERBY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 13TH SEPT' 2016 AT 7PM IN PROSPECT VILLAGE HALL**

Present

O&A Parish Councillors

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

Parish Clerk

Mr M Milner

Allerdale Borough Councillor

Mr J Lister ABC

Apologises

Mr M Gannon
Mr J Cowan.

Members of the Public

3 members of the public present

Meeting Opened:

The chairman declared the meeting open at 7pm.

056.00 Apologises

Duly noted as above

057.00 Declaration of interests

None were declared.

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

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

059.00 Public Participation Session. 15 minutes allowed.

059.01 The clerk confirmed that from the previous meeting he had dealt with as per minute 044.02 the replacement of the mini suspension bridge in the play area opposite the school. Work completed 12th August. With reference to minute 044.03 the details of ownership of the grass verge outside Skiddaw View was established as CCC Highways Dep't, but the PC had had the grass cut. Unfortunately, there was now a car parking on the edge again. Minute 044.04 the clerk had not yet resolved that problem with the signpost direction arm. Minute 044.05, the poisoned trees in the play area, so much time had elapsed since the weed killer was applied that trying to apportion the blame would take more time and effort than common-sense would allow. Matter was closed.

059.02 The point was made that OPARA would be doing a Christmas newsletter for November distribution and would the PC like there to be a list of councillors' names printed in it. A parish council newsletter is being considered so no decision taken on that offer.

059.03 A member of the public read out a statement about a recent planning application and how it was interpreted by the council or a councillor. Chairman advised the topic would be dealt with under Application for Development. No other public matters so session closed.

060.00 Police Matters.

060.01, no police representative in attendance, but a police report had been received and the 4 items were read out to the PC. No councillor had any points that needed referring back to the police.

061.00 Applications for Development

061.01 The clerk had received one development application, Old Hall, Oughterside ref 2/2016/0512. Relevant documents circulated to all councillors on 4th August as no August meeting. Responses were collated and a response to Allerdale sent stating no objections but with reservations about items to be stored.

061.02 Clerk received 2 emails from planning applicant, which clerk advised applicant O&A PC had ZERO tolerance to bad language, bullying or intimidation of any sort. So emails not circulated as requested.

061.03 Clerk did email Allerdale planning department and amend the initial reservation statement, removing the words objected to and substituting with planning department's recommendation. Planning applicant has emailed clerk and apologised for email content. Matter closed.

062.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors

062.01 Allerdale District Councillor Jim Lister reported not much happening in O&A's area, closest problem likely to be road resurfacing between Aspatria and Fletchertown.

062.02 Cllr J.L passed to clerk details and handouts from a Code of Conduct meeting held that afternoon at Allerdale Borough Council.

062.03 Cllr P.M advised Cllr J.L that it looked as if a property that had changed hands recently, may have reinstated a drain through its boundary bank. This was something that had happened before and been stopped. Cllr J.L to investigate.

062.04 A discussion about keeping local road gutters and the local plan, plus emergency plan followed. Cumbria Highways employee who deals with such matters has advised the clerk and Cllr M.G that although he is responsible for O&A; in the greater scheme compared with other areas of Cumbria, flooding risk is a low priority in O&A. O&A to create their own resilience plan.

At the end of this session Cllr J.L was invited to stay for the rest of the meeting but he left at 7.28pm.

063.00 Grant Application from OPARA.

063.01 The clerk had circulated by email prior to the meeting all the documents appertaining to the grant request for £240.

063.02 Clerk went through the grant form and pointed out that he had already discussed with the chair a proposal to restart the parish council quarterly newsletter and he produced examples of ones distributed at his other PC. A5 size and 12 pages, with colour front and back. The PC were in the process of launching their own website so providing a grant to another local organisation for use in a similar fashion would maybe not the best use of public funds. He confirmed he had sought advice from a Calc representative and he read out their response which advised that as the funding was of a general nature rather than specific project the grant application should be rejected.

063.03 Cllr L.M fully endorsed the view that the funding was not specific enough, but if OPARA came back at a later date with a more detailed project they wished to seek funding for then the council would perhaps consider that.

063.04 Cllr L.M proposed that the council having discussed the clerk's objections should reject the grant application from OPARA. This was seconded by Cllr L.P-M and unanimously approved.

064.00 Councillor Training.

064.01 Further to the report received from Nalc which highlighted a lack of council management during the period Oct 2013 to Dec 2015 and that 5 of the current parish councillors were new to their position, the clerk has arranged for the Calc trainer to provide the council en-bloc with a training session on being a Good Councillor at Prospect Village Hall.

064.02 The councillors present thought it was appropriate and agreed on a date of Wednesday 26th October at 6.30pm. Clerk to arrange and with Calc and also arrange the availability of the hall. It was also agreed that the chair, Cllr P.M would attend a New Chair training course on 13th October and clerk to arrange that. Venue Fire and Rescue Service HQ, Penrith.

065.00 Progress Report, Clerk.

065.01 Minute 050.00 the further bench on Allerby Green play area requested by the play group at Allerby, that request has been withdrawn. However, they have raised the issue of the old planter by the bench, which had been put in place by the now disbanded O&A Gardening Club. The council agreed that the play group could remove the old planter box and replace it with 2 suitable planter boxes, provided they were "child" friendly. Terracotta pots could possibly be shattered by footballs hitting them. Clerk to advise play group of the council decision.

065.02 Minute 051.03, the lengthsman Bob Scott has been employed, approx. 10 hours in the summer months and 6 hours in the winter months.

065.03 Defibrillator installation in the red phone box on Allerby Green. After more than two months the clerk eventually received a quotation for making the electrical connection from the existing live supply in the box, to a suitable connection to power and run a proposed defibrillator, of £1408.67 inc VAT. He had contacted Jacqueline Mounsey who advised her group will install the machine at the garden centre in the village. Far cheaper installation option. Clerk to close the file.

065.04 Metal stay by the electric pole on Allerby Green, it met ENW's safety criteria for being in a place that the public frequented so no further action necessary about padding it out.

065.05 The goal posts on the village green were in need of refurbishment and that had been requested. The phone box was also in need of repainting so clerk to make those task for the lengthsman.

065.06 Prospect Village Hall. Clerk has established where the original transfer and trustee documents are, in safe storage, and he produced delicate paper copy. He read various sections out and stated that while considering the OPARA request for a grant he noticed that the Village Hall Committee had donated £75 to OPARA, but then requested over £500 from the PC towards insurance. He requested that the PC as trustees formally request him to obtain copies of the village hall accounts, so the PC as trustees can see the income and expenditure and the clerk was able to better consider the possible funding requirements for 2017/18 and make appropriate allowance for it in the precept.

065.07 Cllr P.M proposed that the clerk request copies of the village hall accounts so the PC as trustees could see the financial position and the clerk was able to assess possible requirements for next year's budget. Cllr L.M seconded and unanimously approved.

066.00 Councillors Reports.

066.01 Cllr L.P-M raised concerns about the school children waiting for and getting on and off buses at the Allerby Road End bus stop. One side of the road has a shelter and bus stop pole and flag but the nearest side to the village on A596 has nothing but a small tarmac strip.

066.02 member of the public requested permission to speak and advised all present that she can remember when her father was the O&A clerk, that tarmac strip had been put down specifically for a one-legged man, who used the bus stop, to stop him and his stump sinking into the grass. (Much laughter)

066.03 Clerk to contact initially the Cumbria Safe to Schools team.

066.04 Cllr L.M raised the issue of how much was in the parish bank account and how was it to be spent? The clerk advised that at the next meeting he would provide 6 months' accounts figures, a full budget now he was aware of all the potential out goings and an idea for a precept for the next year. Plus, a bank reconciliation. He stated that last year parish councils were not capped, unlike all other councils, so if the position remained the same the parish council could be seen to be pro-active not reactive as in the past. Cllr L.M pointed out that in the village hall itself there was a need for a new central heating system.

066.05 Cllr P.M requested the for the next parish council meeting councillors' considered potential projects for the funding that County Councillor Alan Clark had offered at the July meeting.

067.00 Correspondence

067.01 Clerk had circulated a legal report from Nalc, which discussed council's documentation and accountancy records for the period October 2013 to December 2015. The report had been read by all current councillors. The report concluded that based on lack of credible standing orders during the period and arguably that serving councillors themselves during that time did not provide appropriate supervision which allowed inadvertent errors to be perpetuated, it was time after further discussions with Calc and the chair that the clerk proposed a line be drawn under the matter. The intent to move on was displayed by the council's decision to take proper training and make that the first major step to becoming a better and more professional public body.

067.02 Cllr P.M proposed that the current O&A parish council with regard to the actions and the workings of the council between October 2013 and December 2015 consider the matter closed with no further investigation or action. This was seconded by Cllr L.M and unanimously approved by all councillors' present.

067.03 Clerk had received a grant application from the Prospect and District OAPs Club which he is still clarifying with Linda Snowdon.

067.04 Email received about Emergency Plans for Parishes, circulated to all councillors' which Cllrs J.C and M.G will deal with.

068.00 Cheque Payments for approval.

Cheque No 000262 M. Milner to cover Playdale mini bridge, £695.76

Cheque No 000263 ISS Services, grass cutting contract £782.02

Cheque No 000264 M Milner 2 months' salary & Exp' August to September £269.22

Cheque No 000260 PAYE Post Office August and September £46.00

All approved.

**069.00 Date and time of next meeting, Tuesday 11th October 2016 at 7pm
in Prospect Village Hall**

Meeting closed 8.25pm

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