

**12 June 2017**

**CROSBY RAVENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL – WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY**

[www.crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk](http://www.crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk)

Clerk to the Council: Christian Barnes, West House, Tenter Row, Crosby Ravensworth, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 3HY. t. 07584 251 448, e. [clerk@crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk).

**Ordinary Meeting**

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Present Councillors: Cllr D Graham (Chairman), Cllr D Hewitt, Cllr V Holroyd, Cllr A Beatham, Cllr A Robinson, Mr C Barnes (Clerk).  
3 members of the public were present.

Apols. None

006/17 The Chairman was authorised to sign the **minutes** of the ordinary meeting held on the 22 May as a true record. The minutes of the other meetings would remain in draft until next year.

007/17 **Public Participation.** Your Dales Your Views tomorrow night at Orton Village Hall. YDNP Consultation on the Yorkshire Dales Community Plan closes on the 12 July. DG will go. Councillors requested to feedback on priorities Housing, employment education services etc. to the Chairman directly and he will pull councillors responses together. It was important to make a positive impression on the park authority.

008/17 **Crosby Ravensworth Primary School.** Headmaster Mr D Priestley gave a presentation outlining the schools recent successes since 2014 and the dramatic improvement in its results Ofstead and [Siac] results. This unfortunately was in the context of a declining roll from 40 pupils to 26. The impact for next year is a £12k shortfall in income. An additional three to four pupils would resolve the financial issue otherwise the shortfall would need to be covered from fundraising, or reductions in teaching staff. If numbers continue to fall, the future viability of the school will be affected. The School's handout is given as Appendix 1.

Councillors discussed the presentation: Observations were made regarding the key issues of housing, employment etc. The housing policy of the LCT was discussed as was the role and performance of the school's trustees in providing housing in the villages to young families. The idea of examining an allocations policy for rented housing within the parish across private and charitable providers that helped sustain the school was discussed. Questions were asked about the school's approach to marketing. It was disclosed that certain areas of the catchment e.g. Kings Meaburn sent pupils to other schools E.g. Morland and that internet property searches did not always show the catchment school first as these were based on distance only.

It was resolved to consider the presentation at the next meeting after

considering the issues raised.

- 009/17 **Footpaths.** VH had been to see Steve Hastie and had prepared a map of various footpaths and bridleways which could be upgraded and improved. Improvements and upgrades had been prioritised and were itemised on VHs list. Steve Hastie had supplied information on the park's Sustainable Development Fund and it was noted that Eden Community Fund may also contribute to schemes of improvement and signage perhaps situated on the village shelters. There was scope for volunteer engagement working with the ranger service. A table itemising the routes discussed and the priority attached to them including an accessible route from Crosby Ravensworth to Maulds Meaburn would be prepared for discussion.
- 010/17 **Emergency Planning.** It was resolved to progress with an 'Emergency Plan' DG would lead. The clerk was authorised to apply to ACT for the necessary funding.
- 011/17 **Letting of Greens.** Arrangements had been made in principle to let both greens of a five year basis. However a legal query had been received as to the risk of creating an agricultural tenancy by doing so. The Clerk had brought the matter back to the council. It was resolved that the clerk would let the greens on a one year less a day basis for the time being and take advice from Minehan McCalister as to whether a longer term would be possible for implementation next year.
- 012/17 **Stepping Stones and Clearing of Maud Syke.** The clerk was authorised to obtain a single costing for approval at the next meeting of the Maulds Meaburn Recreation Ground Trust.
- 013/17 **Banking.** It was resolved to appoint Barclays bank as the council's bankers in the place of Natwest whose response to the council's complaint had neither been timely or satisfactory. Clerk to prepare the necessary paperwork for signature. Authorised signatories would be DG, VH, DH, AB.
- 014/17 **Clerk's Report** 1. The council's insurance had been renewed under the current three year arrangement. The cover had not been extended to include the Police House and the Archive because flood risk was not available from Zurich. The clerk would continue to price test insurances as renewals came up. Approved. 2. Public Participation at the Annual meeting had included an item on free roaming Dogs. It was resolved to add a notice to the noticeboards, website and in the link regarding dogs and if no improvement in owner behaviour was observed to call upon the district council to take enforcement action. 3. Treeworks opposite Wier House were scheduled to be carried out on the 14<sup>th</sup> June. 4. The Emergency Phone had been installed at MMVI. The Chairman was pursuing the issue of a hotline connection with their supplier. Trustees were happy with the location of the phone and wiring. 5. National Parks Parish Forum would be held on the 11 September in Sedbergh. Papers to follow in due course. 6. The Council had been registered with

NEST as a pension provider in line with its obligations to the Pensions regulator.

015/17 **Exclusion of the Press and Public.** It was resolved to exclude the press and public by a resolution of the council on the grounds that publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business in respect of the following agenda item.

016/17 **Ghyll Cottage Bridleway** (Confidential Minute).

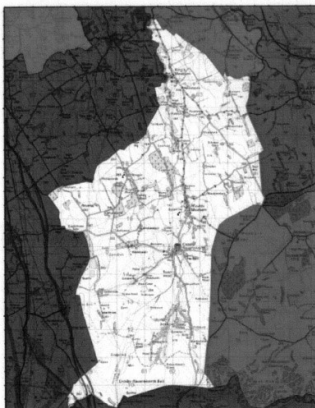
<ends 9:30pm>

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Appendix 1.

Presentation from Crosby Ravensworth School. 12 June 2016.

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Crosby Ravensworth CE  
Primary School

Presentation to Parish Council

12<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**Summary**

Falling roll: despite very high levels of parent satisfaction, our roll has fallen from 39 (July 2014) to 26 at present. Intake for future years suggests a further small, steady decline.

Extremely positive OFSTED and SiAMS (church) reports. Our Year 6 SATS this year are expected to be amongst the best in the county.

Not every eligible child in our catchment attends this school. This occurs most notably in Kings Meaburn. This, despite the free school bus and the recent successful launch of wrap-around care in school.

**Financial Impact**

Reduction in budget – shortfall of £12,000 annually on current numbers.

**Options**

- 1 Staff redundancy, meaning reduction in teaching time (ie whole school taught 3 afternoons per week by the head-teacher next year). Around 90% of costs are staff wages (common feature of school budgets)
- 2 Seek parent donations
- 3 Undertake more fundraising & pour into school budget

Parents were consulted at a special meeting earlier this year and unanimously moved to meet the shortfall through fundraising.

**What does the school need?**

- 1) The school needs more pupils. Hence, I suggest the village needs more affordable housing, ideally ring-fenced for young families.
- 2) The school budget is under enormous immediate pressure. Hence, the school needs regular drip of money to balance the books until it has a greater number of pupils on roll.