

2 October 2017

CROSBY RAVENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL – WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY

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.

Ordinary Meeting

Present Councillors: Cllr D Graham (Chairman) Cllr D Hewitt, Cllr M Archer, Cllr A Robinson, Cllr J Raine, Cllr V Holroyd, Mr C Barnes (Clerk).

Cllr N Hughes (CCC) – Part, Cllr V Kendall (EDC/YDNP).

Attending: 17 members of the public. Carl Lis (Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority) & Sonia Hutchinson (Cumbria Association of Local Councils)

Apols. Cllr A Beatham (Unwell)

043/17 **Welcome and Introductions.**

The Chairman welcomed and Introduced Carl Lis (Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority) & Sonia Hutchinson (Cumbria Association of Local Councils). In view of the increased public participation Councillors introduced themselves.

044/17 **Public Participation.**

A member of the public raised the issue of the phone line adjacent to the defibrillator at MMVI. Why did it remain locked? Cllr Robinson responded that the issues with the phone line were on the verge of being resolved. It was noted that as of today a dial tone was available on both handsets. After further testing the cabinet would be unlocked and available for public use.

A member of the public raised concerns about Grey Squirrels. Sightings should be reported to Jerry Moss (Red Squirrel Ranger) 07736 779965 It was resolved that a notice would be published in the Link to that effect.

A member of the public raised concerns over flash flooding during recent rainstorms on the newly resurfaced Brackenslack Lane.

A member of the public raised concerns about the condition of the bark on the important Cherry Tree on private land near Greyber and called upon the National Park Authority to take an interest in its well-being.

A member of the public called for the improvement of signposts in the parish both road and footpath signs some of which had heritage value. Carl Lis suggested that this might be a suitable matter for the Western Dales Hidden Treasures project being promoted by the Friends of the Lake District in partnership with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority which was currently in a feasibility stage.

A member of the public remarked on the sharp edges on the new footbridge handrails and it was agreed to ask for them to be chamfered.

A member of the public remarked on the surface condition of back lane Maulds Meaburn. It was noted that this was likely to be dug up to connect an electricity supply to the new development at Bay Horse and that repairs would be best carried out after this. Surface water draining from an adjacent field was noted to be a problem in this area.

045/17

Devolution of Services.

Sonia Hutchinson (Cumbria Association of Local Councils) gave a verbal presentation on the Devolution of two Public Services from Eden District Council; play areas and streetlighting. These were non-statutory areas of provision and the district council wished to divest itself of them. To which end it was offering tapered funding over a four-year term to parishes who wished to take these services up.

Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council was being asked if it wished to adopt 4 street lights and the play area in Crosby Ravensworth. The maintenance of the closed graveyard surrounding the church was not being considered at this time. It would receive £914 in year 2018 tapering to zero in 2022. The special expenses part of the council tax currently charged by the district would be transferred to the parish.

It was resolved that Sonia would submit written detail ahead of the next meeting in order to facilitate the budget setting process in November.

App 1.

Lights would be converted to low wattage hinged LEDs ahead of the transfer.

The other street lights including those attached to properties would be removed.

A member of the public proposed that the probation service could assist with the cleaning/upkeep of the play area and was encouraged to provide more information.

A question was raised as to whether the adoption of devolved services would impact on the council's section 137 expenditure cap. SH to clarify.

The cost and method of service delivery would be a matter for the parish council. It was intended to put the matter back on the agenda when it was decision ready.

046/17

Yorkshire Dales National Park Matters | YDNPA Parish Forum report/update.

CLlr Holroyd had attended the Yorkshire Dales Parish Forum on the 11 September in Sedbergh.

An impression had emerged of a very varied park. The event had been well attended and there were a lot of ideas. Presentations had been given on Dark Skies, upland farming and green lanes management. A consultation draft was ready for circulation in respect of this last item. Park Management Plan Priorities identified in consultation included Access,

Housing, Services, Jobs, Biodiversity and Birds.

The persecution of raptors was discussed as a big problem. There were no Hen Harriers in the park.

The National Park Chairman made observations as follows: There had been a significant improvement in the response to the YDNP consultation with 673 responses received from members of the public out of a population of 25,000. The next forum would be held in Ingleton where he was a parish councillor. The raptor persecution issue would undergo a change as new legislation meant that landowners would have vicarious liability and liability would not rest exclusively with their employees as it does now. The condition and accessibility of footpaths was known to be poor in the extension areas relative to the rest of the park and survey work was proceeding to identify/rectify problems. Parishes were encouraged to note that an objection to planning applications meant that applications would not be determined under delegated powers and lastly that the parish was encouraged to engage with the Western Dales Heritage Lottery fund project under development now. It was anticipated that the second delivery phase would benefit the Western dales to the tune of £3,500,000 of heritage spending. He suggested the parish should consider the refurbishment of signage as a heritage asset in itself and also as an interpretive tool as a proposition. Lastly, he mentioned the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust as a source of funding for local heritage assets.

047/17 **Yorkshire Dales National Park Matters | Footpaths survey and signage update.**

Cllr Holroyd reported on progress with the footpaths project (information boards and footpath leaflets). The project would be presented to the next meeting. The work had involved a small representative group of four with two members drawn from Maulds Meaburn, two from Crosby Ravensworth. Betsy Bell/Lyvennet art group would act as artists for the group. Good feedback had been given by National Park Ranger Steve Hastie and six key paths had been identified.

It was resolved that in principle Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council would act as accountable body for any application for funds arising from this work.

048/17 **Yorkshire Dales National Park Matters | Footpaths survey and signage update.**

Correspondence had been received from Steve Hastie (YDNPA) regarding not sighting fingerposts opposite the church. It was resolved that the council would not object to these being omitted as the course of the footpath over the stream was indicated by the bridge and the fingerposts would detract from the setting.

049/17 **Yorkshire Dales National Park Matters | Hardendale Quarry Planning update**

An update was given on the application to drain and resume limestone

extraction at Hardendale Quarry. The application had been at pre-determination stage for nine years now. The application had originally been made before the Westmorland Dales extension area had been established and at that time the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority had refused to take an interest in the application and the impacts it was anticipated to have on the hydrology of the Lyvennet Valley. The edge of the quarry now formed the boundary of the YDNP and the effects of dewatering and the further impact of renewed quarrying were believed to have an effect on a significant area of land within the Western Dales Area.

The clerk was asked by the Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales National Park to forward the council's original response to the application to Richard Graham at the authority. The parish council's concerns were noted.

050/17 **Dredging of Maud Slack Syke and the reinstatement of the Stepping Stones damaged in Storm Desmond on Maulds Meaburn Village Green**

Although a permit had been received (7.9.2017) work could not proceed on Maud Slack Syke because of wet ground conditions and work was postponed (until until next year).

A crayfish rescue was required before the stepping stones could be reinstated and so this work too was now postponed until this could be funded/arranged.

051/17 **Crosby Ravensworth Road Bridge (adj. Weston House) Update.**

Cumbria County Council Highways department advised that they proposed widening the bridge to 6.3 metres. The bridge would be single span and the limestone faced appearance of the bridge would not be changed. The council would be kept apprised of developments and fully consulted in the planning process.

052/17 **Continuation Vote**

A vote was held to continue the meeting. There was a short break during which all observers, guests and a members of the public (bar one) left.

053/17 **Administration of Parish Council.**

The Parish Website had been hacked the clerk was authorised to act on the advice of CALC and make security arrangements that would cost £40 over the course of the year. The Clerk would advise when progress was made and the website was safe to use again.

It was drawn to the Parish Council's attention that it was obliged to register with the Information Commissioner as a data controller. The Clerk had made arrangements to put this in hand at a cost £35 which was authorised.

It was resolved that the council would hold more meetings in different venues to attract and engage with the public.

054/17 **Administration of the Parish Council (Minutes)**

Councillor Raine introduced this item with an apology to the clerk. After extended discussion it was agreed that in future minutes would

record the names of councillors introducing items but would not attribute individual comments. Councillors would also be named if they were responsible for an action arising from the minutes.

Cllr Raine had spoken to CALC about this and training was available to councillors if they wished to take it up.

Draft minutes, highlighted as such, would continue to be published on the website, noticeboards and in the Lyvennet Link as this was a legal requirement.

055/17

Minutes of the previous meeting.

The Chairman was authorised to sign the **minutes** of the ordinary meeting held on the 4th September as a true record subject to the application of the above to 040/17 removing references to individual speakers. Cllr Holroyd had been present at the meeting and this omission would be corrected.

056/17

Grazing Licences.

Advice had been received from Sam McCallister that provided a licence did not grant exclusive occupation of the land over a five-year term it would not create an agricultural tenancy. It was not thought necessary to incur legal costs over the drafting of the licence which would be a standard document based on previous year issue. Cllr Hewitt would comment on the draft before it was issued next year. This year's grazing had been permitted by letter to the same terms as previous years while advice had been sought.

057/17

Correspondence.

The council had received a 'Notice of Conclusion of Audit' and the auditor's report contained no matters that required drawing to the councillor's attention. This notice would be published as soon as possible.

Two letters of complaint had been received from Mr A. J. Tombs and Mr A. Haggard in connection with a reference to the bridleway adjacent to Ghyll Cottage in the minutes (029/17) of the meeting held on the 7th August. The Chairman had drafted replies which together with the correspondence itself were circulated before the meeting and which were unanimously approved.

Planning application Branthwaite House (withdrawn).

058/17

Call for Items for the next agenda.

1. Emergency Plan
2. Bonfire at MMVG

059/17

Date of Next Meeting. November 6.

<ends 10:40pm>

Appendix 1.

Notes from Sonia Hutchinson CALC regarding devolution of Services (4 October 2017).

Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council (CPRC) Meeting 2nd October 2017 @7.30pm

Agenda item Devolution of services from Eden District Council (EDC)

Sonia Hutchinson (SH) CALC explained EDC's proposal to transfer the following assets to CRPC, Footway lights and the maintenance of the play area as part of phase 1 of the devolution of services and assets from EDC. The explanation included the following: -

1. The role of CALC to be supportive and independent.
2. Decreasing funding over a 4 year period from 100% in financial year 2018/2019, 75% in financial year 2019/2020, 50% in 2020/2021 and 25% in 2021/2022 for all parish and town councils taking on assets.
3. The monies available in the capital budget this year for conversion of lights to LED and the offer from EDC to covert lights to LED with hinged poles for councils prepared to agree to the transfer from 2018/2019.
4. The monies available for transfer each year for both assets and services. Total budget to be transferred in April 2018/2019 if the council agrees to take on the assets this financial year will be £914. (SH to provide full costings to CRPC).
5. The offer from EDC to undertake work for the council on a contract basis once assets have been transferred for example the maintenance of lights and other options available to the council for such maintenance.
6. Confirmation that non approved lights will not be replaced or repaired by EDC and will be removed in 2022 or sooner if they fail.
7. Confirmation that if assets and services are not taken on by the parish council they will be removed or will cease in 2022.
8. Confirmation that CRPC could include the special expenses monies of £186 in their precept from April 2018.

There was a general discussion with members of the public identifying ways that the play area could be maintained or which lights should be kept. The Chairman pointed out that the purpose of the agenda item was not to determine at the meeting which services to keep or how to maintain them, the main reason for asking CALC to attend the meeting was to gain a better understanding of what services / assets EDC want to transfer to CRPC and what are CPRC's options.

CPRC identified the following areas that it wanted clarification on: -

Footway Lights

1. Can EDC please confirm which are the approved and non-approved lights?

According to a member of the public there is only 1 light in Maulds Meaburn not 2. One of the councillors also explained that when they asked the parishioners which lights they wanted to keep they only voted to keep 3 lights in Crosby Ravensworth so a list identifying where both the approved and non-approved lights are located would be appreciated.

2. Can EDC confirm that if CRPC do not take on the lights or only take some lights that EDC will fully remove the lights by the end of 2022 or sooner if a light fails?

District Councillors who were present have heard that EDC do not have the budget to remove the lights by 2022.

3. CPRC asked for confirmation that the devolution of the lights also affected Parish Meetings. SH confirmed that that Parish Meetings are also on the list for the transfer of assets can EDC please confirm this to be the case?

4. CPRC would like to know what the cost is to change a light to LED with a new hinged pole in case they decide to take the lights on at a later stage and miss the opportunity of EDC undertaking the conversion?

5. The Chairman asked if it is possible to take on the services at different times i.e. the lights first and the play area at a later date. SH confirmed that the services can be transferred at different times.

Play Area

1. A member of the public pointed out that the play area although in reasonable condition does need cleaned. Are EDC able to arrange for the play area to be cleaned? It was also noted at the meeting that the lease on the play area will shortly need to be renewed and CRPC acknowledged that it will need to take this forward.

The Statutory Power to manage the lights

The Clerk asked SH if the council will have to use 137 monies to maintain and run and the lights. SH confirmed that she would get back to the Clerk on this matter.

Response from CALC – CRPC will not have to use 137 monies to maintain the lights as they have a power under the Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3 and the Highways Act 1980, s301 to “light roads and public places”.

The Chairman asked if anyone had any further questions and no one had. SH confirmed that if CRPC wanted to discuss the matter further then she would be happy to return to a further meeting together with Neil Buck from EDC. The agenda item was closed and SH left the meeting at 8.30pm.