

3 December 2018 – Ordinary Meeting
CROSBY RAVENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL – WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY

At the Parish Archive Crosby Ravensworth 7:30pm.

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.

Present Councillors: Cllr J Raine (Vice Chairman), Cllr D Hewitt, Cllr V Holroyd, Cllr A Robinson, Cllr A Beatham, Cllr M Archer, Mr C Barnes (Clerk).
2 members of the public were present.

Apols. Cllr D Graham (Holiday), Cllr N Hughes (CCC), Cllr W Pattison (YDNP/EDC).

102/18 The **minutes** of the meeting held on the 12 November 2018 were approved as a true record.

103/18 **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.** Cllr Beatham #7. Maulds Meaburn Village Green (Access to Sheleter) Cllr Hewitt #8. Tree Auction.

104/18 **Public Participation.**

Crosby Ravensworth Poppy Appeal had raised £455

A member of the Public spoke on behalf of the commoners. The commoners/graziers' group scheme was due to finish on Bank Moor/Gaythorne Plain. The Parish Council was asked if as owner/custodian it would approve the creation of a new scheme during the course of next year. The graziers were expected to put a scheme forward and Natural England would respond. It was anticipated that Natural England would seek changes to the current scheme to reduce grazing by sheep/encourage the growth of heather. Councillors considered the matter and felt that there was a need for a future agenda item during the course of next year and that proper information as to what was being proposed was required in order to make a decision. It was suggested that this come to the February meeting.

A parishioner raised an issue over the registration of mineral rights by Charles Henry Bagot in Maulds Meaburn dating back to 2009. The Parish Council was asked if it was aware of the implications of the registration of the green in respect of mineral rights. It was agreed that this would require further research and the parishioner was thanked for raising the issue.

105/18 **Police House Update.**

The Chairman had presented an options appraisal in respect of the Police House. The appraisal was for information only and further progress was required in respect all of the council's ability to sell the

house and manage the monies received. Lewis Surveyors report on the condition of the house and works required to prepare it for re letting was tabled and examined. Councillors felt that there were one or two inaccuracies of fact that needed to be corrected but that the report was helpfully presented under some pressure of time. MA pointed to the survey's limitations in respect of the roof space and offered with the assistance of DH to inspect these spaces.

It was agreed that the options appraisal and surveyor's report presented a good picture of the current situation and it was resolved that expressions of interest from 3 project manager's/builders to pull the project together should be sought at the earliest opportunity. The provision of this information would not prejudice a later decision regarding whether to make a disposal of the house and the council would hopefully be in a position to move forward with either option at the beginning of the year.

106/18

Police House Open Day.

It was resolved to hold an open day advertised locally on the 20th of January before any works were carried out on the Police House. It was agreed that this would be of general interest to parishioners. Gordon Bowness would be invited to prepare a brief history of the Police House for display on that occasion. The house would be open between 11am and 4pm and councillors would agree a rota to be present in the house at the next meeting.

Because the house had cells there was discussion as to whether it should be referred to as the Old Police Station or the Old Police House

107/18

Maulds Meaburn Village Green

It was resolved to approve the instruction of the council's solicitor in the matter of the registration of the green and associated land registry fee of £40 (1st JR 2nd DH).

An update was received on the legal arrangements associated with Maranatha House in a written report from the Chairman. Approval for the costs of a solicitor's instruction at between £300 and £500 was approved (1st JR 2nd MA).

108/18

Maulds Meaburn Village Shelter

AB left the room for discussion of this item having declared a DPI. Quotations for the construction of disabled access to the village shelter in Maulds Meaburn funded by the Yorkshire Dales Sustainability Development Fund were examined and AB was appointed to carry out the work at £400.

109/18

Trees

The council received an update on tree inspections - this was to have been carried out jointly with the PCC and a quotation had been obtained on that basis from Stephen Hodgson the clerk was authorised to appoint Stephen Hodgson subject to clarification of costs now that

the PCC had withdrawn.

MA, DH and VH reported back regarding identified tree planting sites in Crosby Ravensworth, Maulds Meaburn and Reagill. These were examined in the meeting on maps prepared for the purpose it was agreed to organise a site meeting with the Woodland Trust to discuss councillors' ideas further. The proposal at Maulds Meaburn was to establish an area for fruiting trees adjacent to the Mill Race opposite Meadow View the reason being that the trees (being small) would not obscure the view from the lane running in front of Elizabeth Cottages to Brackenslack along the millrace. It would provide a good amenity for residents and particularly young people in the future. Difficulties were identified around the cost of cages and volunteer input to erect tree guards. The Parish Council owned tree guards currently stored at Ravenseat & Meaburn Hill which could be used. JR to approach woodland trust.

109/18

Tree Auction

The council had received 5 bids between £20 and £100 per tree in both Crosby Ravensworth and Maulds Meaburn.

It was agreed that the buyer of the tree in Crosby Ravensworth would be instructed not to saw the wood on site in order to protect the turf from damage and the deposit of sawdust. The highest bid received at the time of the meeting was £100 for each tree it was agreed that the clerk would offer both trees conditional on the sawing restriction and that if the bidder for £100 could not accept the condition then he was authorised to offer it to the next highest bidders.

110/18

Internal Auditor's Report

The internal auditors report was received and considered it was noted records were satisfactory. The internal auditor had raised a query about the operation of the two signature rule using the Cumberland online payment system.

The council had conducted its first online transaction using this system on the 23rd of November. The clerk and the chairman had done the transaction on their computers together at the same time to gain an understanding of how the system worked. It was agreed that this process would be repeated with AR & DH with the internal auditor present so that all councillors were familiar with and confident with the process and the auditor could examine it and check it complied and make any observations she felt were necessary.

111/18

Draft Budget

A budget paper was presented by the clerk outlining a revision to the projected out turn for the year 2018 19 which took account of the council's actual and projected expenditure and loss of income from the Police House

It was anticipated that the council would not receive its budgeted

income of £5,047 from rental of the Police House and the figures were redrawn on the basis that year to date receipts would apply taking this into account. The 2018/19 budget projected a total income of £21,247 the revised budget based on the 6 month figures projected a revised total income of £18,859

These income figures were higher than usual because of the expected drawdown of the Yorkshire Dales Sustainability Fund Grant an amount budgeted to be £6,170 and expected to be closer to £6,000.

The payments budget had also been updated to project a revised out-turn. The budget projected payments of £16,257 against a revised projection of £18,400.

The cost of the refurbishment, repair, legals and disposals in relation to the Old Police Station were not yet determined. It was noted that the council holds dedicated reserves of £16,731 and an overall cash balance and reserve of £27,384.

These funds could be expended in total or in part on the refurbishment and reletting of the Police House if the council decided to proceed.

Taking into account these revisions the council projected a surplus budget of £459 against £4,993.

A rough working of the draft budget for 2019/20 was tabled for discussion and advice only. A conservative approach had been taken to estimating lettings income in respect of the Police House which had been given a whole year budget of £2,524.

The council has budget expenditure estimated to be £11,748 excluding works to be carried out on the Police House account, this meant that the council would need to precept a figure at or in excess of £8,857 to set a balanced budget.

Last year's precept was £9,205 + 95 pounds of Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant. The council could choose to set a similar level of precept if it wished.

The Clerk/RFO offered an opinion as follows:
He recommended that the council sets a surplus budget in 2019/20 as the council's finances will be impacted by its decisions over the Police House.

The RFL recommended that the council set a higher than minimum figure as a precept this year and looks to reduce it's precept in following years after the Police House position has been resolved.

There is no scope in these figures to commit to an increase in reserves as the council has done in previous years because of the loss of lettings income from the Police House. It was agreed that the clerk would

circulate a table illustrating percentage increase in a band D property for consideration by councillors.

112/18 **Emergency Plan**

A member of the public had requested sand and sandbags ahead of any expected flooding this would be taken forward by the emergency committee.

113/18 **Tata Steel Community Fund.**

Suggestions included tree guards and bird hides at the quarry. Clerk to obtain details of fund criteria and report back.

114/18 **Correspondence**

A letter of thanks from Crosby Ravensworth First Responders was read out. It was resolved to make a donation of £150 to the Fellrunner Bus.

115/18 **Representatives Reports.**

AR would attend the AGM of MMVI on Wednesday and report back on any issues.

VH reported that Crosby Ravensworth Village Hall planned to redecorate. It was thought that a contribution from the PC might be a useful match to a larger application to the EDC Community Fund. It was noted that Hall needed more bookings.

JR asked if councillors had completed Eden District Councils Survey Monkey regarding uncontested seats. Two councillors had started but abandoned the process feeling that questions were leading and irrelevant. JR noted that feedback.

116/18 **Date of Next Meeting 14 January 2019**