

13 May 2019 - Annual Parish Meeting (Electors' Meeting)
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,
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At Crosby Ravensworth Village Hall at 7:30pm

- Present Councillors: Cllr D Graham, Cllr. J Raine, Cllr D Hewitt, Cllr V Holroyd, Cllr A Beatham, Mr C Barnes (Clerk). 15 members of the public.
- Apols. Cllr Hughes.
- 018/19 **Welcome and Apologies.** The Chairman welcomed Parishioners to the meeting and remembered the events of the previous year's meeting. Councillors thoughts and good wishes were with the family of those involved.
- 019/19 The **Minutes** of the previous meeting held on the 21st May 2018 were agreed as a true record. It was further resolved that in future the minutes of Annual Parish/Electors meetings would be approved at the next meeting of the parish council and not held over for the year.
- 020/19 **Chairman's report.** The Chairman presented a written report of the last years activities given as Appendix 1.
- 021/19 **Tree Project.** Andrew Woodward gave a presentation on the newly formed Crosby Ravensworth Parish Tree Group which can be downloaded on the website under 'Minutes'. Members of the public present commented as follows: #1 Impact of Ash Die back needed to be considered, #2 the benefits of tree planting to the relief of flooding needed to be considered, #3 was their an opportunity to 'sponsor' a tree, #4 The project needed to be about the social and mental effect, the project should not just be about trees but should be about the community coming together, #5 What were the next steps? A Facebook group had been established and it was proposed there would be meetings in the Butchers arms to which all were welcome.
- 022/19 **Public Participation.**
A member of the public raised the issue of public footpaths and specifically the path at Haberwain for which the National Park Authority have recently inserted a gate near the road. It was noted that the path was very rough underfoot and residents were encouraged to use it to establish it better after trees have been planted across it and then recently felled by Lowther Estates.
- A member of the public spoke regarding the strimming of verges, residents were asked to delay strimming and mowing verges in order that wildlife could benefit from the establishment of hedgerows and leaved plants.

The proliferation of wild rhubarb adjacent to Weston House was regretted by a member of the public.

The condition of the road at Winter Tarn and the damage done to its foundations and verges by farming vehicles (compaction) was noted. The condition of the road had been reported and the Highways Authority council had agreed to spray/patch it.

Councillors wished to Thank the Chairman in respect of his successful efforts to refurbish and let the Police House.

<meeting closed 8:45>

Appendix 1

Chairman's report, 2019. 13 May.

The Parish Council held 12 meetings over the 2018/19 year including this the last in the year, all of which were scheduled in advance and mostly held on the first Monday of the month. In all 23 members of the public have attended during the year.

Planning

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications in the Parish. Twelve planning applications have been considered over the year. Of the 12 applications; 10 were from Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and 2 from Eden District Council. The Council has supported all of the full planning applications, supported 2 variations and objected to 2 variations to planning.

Generally, the PC's focus on new housing has been to promote local occupancy / affordable housing and this has also been heavily promoted with the Park Authority.

Finances

The Council had £19,888 of income against a budget of £21,246. Expenditure in the year was £27,720 up 9,487 on budget. The overspend against budget is a result of the £10,937 spent in the latter part of the year on refurbishment of the Old Police Station. This work was funded from reserves accrued over the last few years specifically for the property. Taking this expenditure out of the finances the budget was underspent by £1,451

Following banking issues, the Council had yet again moved its banking facilities this time from Barclays to the Cumberland Building Society. The level of customer service provided by both NatWest and Barclays has been exceptionally poor.

The Parish Council Precept for 2019/20 (Band D property) had been set at £54.04 per chargeable household as compared to the previous year at £40.30. This equates to an increase of £13.74 or 34% and provides the Parish Council with £12,440 of income. In reality this equates to a weekly increase of 27p. The Council has in past years maintained a lower precept through utilisation of the majority of the Old Police Station rental income. Additional works are required to this property during 2019/20 to both maintain the property and income stream.

As a taster, some of the key issues discussed and actioned over the last 12 months include;

Emergency Planning – With the County and District Council cutting back on service provision and the emergency services coming under increasing pressure during severe weather events the Council felt it important to make our community more self-reliant and prepared. The Council completed its Emergency Plan which is now held by the emergency services and has published numerous articles in the Lyvennet Link reminding our community of the need for resilience planning.

Devolution of Services – With Eden District Council working to devolve footway lighting and the playground to our Council substantial time had again been spent considering the costs and liabilities as well as attempting to reach agreement with EDC on transfer conditions. By July the Parish Council was frustrated by the incompetence of Eden District Council and their inability to provide fundamental due diligence information required to enable adoption. The Parish Council subsequently agreed to abandon adoption of the lighting and move towards dark skies.

There has been no movement with the playground and until Eden District Council give formal notice of devolution the Parish Council is not considering taking any pre-emptive action.

Old Police Station - After 13 years of continuous occupation the tenant in the Old Police Station vacated the property in October 2018. A thorough review of the property clearly showed a need for major refurbishment including substantial works to bring the property up to standard to meet current rental legislation.

In January the Council opened the doors of the property to the community with over 120 people taking the opportunity to visit, look around, visit the cells and read about the building's history.

The council approved a budget of £17,120 for electrical works, smoke detection system, new kitchen, painting throughout, repairs to rainwater goods and rendering, new flooring, bathroom components and works to improve the energy efficiency to achieve the requisite Energy Performance Certification required to enable the property to be re-let.

The property was re-let on 23 April to Christopher and Samantha and their family.

Further work is required mostly to the exterior and it is intended that this will be programmed for the Summer / Autumn of this year.

Footpaths - Considerable work has been undertaken by Councillor Holroyd working with YDNPA to prioritise footpaths and bridleways in the Parish in need of improvement.

Interpretative signage / maps have been erected at the bus shelters in both Crosby Ravensworth and

Maulds Meaburn. Associated footpath leaflets have been produced and are widely available. The works were funded through a grant from the YNNPA Sustainable Development Fund.

Work to provide a wheelchair accessible ramp, and change the gate to allow access to the sign and into the Maulds Meaburn shelter, is due for completion in May / June this year.

The Council would again like to thank the group involved Jill Winder, Gail Gravett, Mark Fallon, Annie Kindleysides, Betsy Bell, Steve Holroyd, Gordon Bowness and Councillor Holroyd along with all the volunteers who tested the walks.

Registration of Parish Land

The Parish Council has over the last 9 months been reviewing its land ownership starting with Maulds Meaburn Village Green which is it's largest asset. This process commenced as the result of an adjoining landowner registering part of the Green incorrectly with the Land Registry. The Green is not registered with the Land Registry, nor does it legally need to be, but was listed in 1979 in The Register of Towns and Village Greens (Reference VG45) under the Commons Act 1965 with the Parish Council as owner.

The Parish has now submitted a first registration application to the Land Registry which includes 15 separate Deeds of Easement which are currently in place with properties adjoining the Village Green. This is the first of a number of applications that will be submitted as part of an ongoing project.

The Parish Council was also asked to consider the construction of an emergency egress causeway from one of the properties on the Green. This has led to considerable research into the legislation around Village Greens as well as restrictions on their use.

The Commons Act 1965 was enacted to provide for the registration of common land or town and village greens albeit the primary legislation comes from the 1857 Enclosure Act and 1876 Commons Act. Information from HM Planning Inspectorate (Common land guidance sheet 2b) Works on Town

and Village Greens clearly states that the only allowable works to a village green must be with a view to its better enjoyment. The legislation suggests that no form of construction, hardening or setting aside appears to be allowed.

With this increased knowledge the Parish Council will in future take a much firmer approach with activities and agreements relating to the Village Green.

Tree Survey and Planting

During the year the Council considered instigating a programme of tree planting on Parish Land. The loss of a number of trees highlighted the key issue of tree ages in our Parish and the desperate need for increased planting. Andrew Woodward along with a group of community volunteers picked up this project and are driving forward a much larger "1,000" trees agenda.

Administration - The financial administration of the Council was streamlined with the introduction a series of integrated spreadsheets allowing performance to be monitored accurately in real time. Population of the website has continued and improved security introduced following a previous hacking.