

**Draft, 2 March 2020 - Ordinary Meeting**  
**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,  
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At Crosby Ravensworth Village Hall at 7:00pm

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Present Councillors: Cllr D Graham, Cllr. J Raine, Cllr R McIvor, Cllr V Holroyd, Cllr A Beatham, Cllr D Hewitt, Cllr J. Taylor & Mr C Barnes (Clerk).

Cllr Neil Hughes CCC.

Four members of the public were present.

Apols. None

153/19 Cllr Hewitt declared a **Pecuniary Interest** in Agenda Items 3 & 4.

154/19 It was agreed that the Clerk would authorise a **dispensation** for Cllr. Hewitt for the term of this Council to participate in discussion regarding the Commoners' proposals for Parish Land. (Agenda Items 3 & 4) on the basis of his expertise and knowledge of the issues as a commoner/grazier.

155/19 Dan Hunt of **Bowfell Consulting** made a verbal presentation on the Commoners' proposals to Natural England. He spoke on behalf of the commoners. He stated that the PC was being consulted through his presence at this meeting under section 38 of the Common Land Act of 1935 as a statutory consultee. The Commoners' Association was looking to enter into a 10-year agreement with Natural England, the third such agreement it had made regarding the management of the common. The commoners who had rights to graze specific numbers of stock on the fell were proposing a scheme that reduced grazing and increased tree cover. A map showing the specific areas covered was displayed. The public had a right of access to the common and the agreement aimed to balance the needs and rights of all concerned with the establishment of areas of planting. It is proposed that sheep would be taken off the common in the winter to allow the flora and fauna to recover. Cattle would increase from 115 to 200 and 12% of the area would be wood pasture/scrub planted. Areas that were used for winter shelter by animals would be fenced for a term of 15 years and wooded. In respect of tree planting a landscape and visual impact assessment had been carried out. 27 people had attended the consultation held on the 27<sup>th</sup> February in Crosby Ravensworth. Natural England would withdraw funds if, after five years, fewer than 90% of the tree planting had failed, meaning that maintenance would be a key issue. The commoners were seeking a letter of support from

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the Parish Council.

156/19

**Bowfell Consulting Councillors Feedback**

Q: A Councillor asked if there was a budget for tree maintenance.

A: The Commoners association would hold and manage the budget for this.

Q: A Councillor queried that there was a discrepancy in timescale regarding fencing to protect new wooded areas being in place for a term of 15 years but the proposed agreement only lasting 10 years.

A: The discrepancy was noted. It was said that the 10-year term for the agreement was the best that could be achieved, the agreement was being made in the context of farmers having European farm subsidies withdrawn and would offer some security to the commoners involved.

Q: Who would insure the liabilities arising from these activities grazing of stock management etc. on the common?

A: These liabilities would be insured by individual farmers.

Q: A Councillor asked if the scheme was designed to restore the landscape to a specific time/point. 'Was there a restore point?'

A: The scheme was 'forward looking', dealing with how things will be rather than how they have been. For example, in wood pasture Witch Elm/Aspen would be substituted for Ash. Scrub planting would include Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Juniper.

Q: The Chairman asked what the process leading to the establishment of the scheme was.

A: 1. An agreement between Natural England/Commoners Association as to the scheme design (May 2020) 2. Following that, an agreement with the Parish Council as part Landowner.

There was discussion of the Parish Council's interest and whether a charge in favour of the Council should be raised in this second agreement. Councillors agreed that signature of the agreement should not be contingent on a payment to the Council. Councillors were concerned that the scheme may fail in respect of tree planting owing to maintenance issues; a failure of this type owing to negligent maintenance had been noted at Orton. It was thought that vole population would increase and have an impact. It was said that the Commoners would manage maintenance through contractors and its finance committee. A possible PR role for the tree group was discussed.

Councillors were asked for their views:

The scheme was said to 'tick all the boxes' in the context of climate change.

Despite liking the scheme and the way in which it proposed to manage the co-existence of livestock and trees a Councillor was concerned that the Commoners themselves should be happy with the proposals.

Overall, the PC was supportive of the scheme.

157/19

The Chairman was authorised to sign the **minutes** of the meeting held on the 10 February 2020 as a true record.

158/19

**Public Participation** None

- 159/19 **Lyvennet Plantation Consultation**  
Councillors **supported** the proposed scheme as advised by the agent. The clerk would respond to the agent Edwin Thompson.
- 160/19 **Transparency Training 19 February 2020.** Training organised by CALC had been attended by Cllr's Graham, Raine and by the Clerk. The Chairman was satisfied that the Council was compliant with the transparency code subject to some minor tweaking. Councillors considered the merit of applying for the Local Council Award Scheme foundation level. It was RESOLVED not to apply. Councillors were not persuaded that the Council required external validation.
- 161/19 **Towards a Zero Carbon Eden – Key Partners Summit Wednesday 18th March, 12 – 3.30pm** Councillors Taylor, Mc Ivor and Raine planned to attend. Councillors were reminded to complete their own Eventbrite forms.
- 162/19 **Monks Church Bridge.** The Chairman had attended the planning committee where the planning consent had been approved for repairs to the bridge parapet. The occasion had provided the opportunity to raise the issue of the earlier rejection of the carefully prepared Cumbria County Council Scheme to widen the bridge. Yorkshire Dales National Park Members had also been made aware that the Council's correspondence on this matter had not been answered. YDNPA members were aware of the unsuitability of many of the park's historic bridges for modern and large vehicles. The upshot was that a meeting had been proposed by the YDNPA with Historic England, Cumbria County Council and one member only of the Parish Council to look at the issue on the site again.
- 163/19 **Correspondence.** Cllr McIvor had examined the issues raised by a resident regarding Hawthorns on Maulds Meaburn Green and it was agreed that these would be trimmed in line with the residents' request. Litter picking equipment had been offered to by Eden District Council and received with thanks. The equipment could be stored at Crosby Ravensworth Village Hall.
- 164/19 **Annual Inspection of Trees.** Charges of £350 from North West Arb. were approved for the annual inspection of trees on Maulds Meaburn Village Green. No quote had been forthcoming from Eden Treescapes and it was agreed to reprice the annual works in 6/9 months' time. It was resolved that the report must make clear that each tree had been inspected.
- 165/19 **Annual Inspection of Parish Swings** This had been undertaken by the Clerk and a member of the community on the 23 February 2020. Proactive replacement of bolts would be undertaken on the swings at Reagill swings would be rubbed down and painted by the community member when the weather had improved. All swings were noted to be in good structural condition. The bushes on the left-hand Crosby Ravensworth swing would require replacement within the next two years. Clerk to arrange. The gates

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and fencing at Reagill had been observed to be in good order.

- 166/19 **Finance.** It was RESOLVED not to recharge the costs of legal and tree works in 2019/20 (£1,980) to the Maulds Meaburn Recreation Ground Trust. Fees had been paid on behalf of the Trust by the Council while the bank account was being changed. It was agreed that the trusts funds needed to be built up and all these expenses could just as well have been incurred by the PC. It was RESOLVED to make donations totalling (£50) to members of the community who maintained the public areas in Crosby Ravensworth (Mowing and Strimming).  
It was RESOLVED to transfer £7,000 to the general reserve account and £3,000 to the restricted Police Reserve accounts where interest would be paid. The Council had received a windfall surplus of income from rent over the amount budgeted and significant refund of VAT (£2,558.97) largely arising from the Police House refurbishment. The reserves had been depleted to fund refurbishment at the Police House.

- 167/19 **Date of Next Meeting** 6 April 2020

**Corona Virus**

After the meeting had closed there was discussion of the possible impact of Corona Virus. It was AGREED to examine the provisions of the emergency plan for their relevance and to re-circulate/distribute advice published by Public Health England / NHS sources. If thought appropriate this information would be disseminated in the Lyvennet Link.