

## MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2024 ORDINARY MEETING OF THE DRIGG & CARLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Held in Drigg Village Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 6.30 pm

**Attended:**

John Jennings	JJ	(Chair)
Andy Pratt	AP	(Vice-Chair)
Sadie Clarke	SC	
Chris Gigg	CG	
Suey Browne	SB	
Keith Murray	KM	
Karen Warmoth		(Clerk / RFO)

**Apologies:** Jimmy Naylor JN

### 1) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023

- a) Resolution to approve the minutes of the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 as a true and accurate record proposed by KM and seconded by AP with all in favour; minutes signed by the Chair

### 2) Apologies for absence: JN

### 3) Declarations of interest relating to this agenda: none

### 4) Financial matters

#### a) Finance report

- i) **Balance:** the balance on the Parish Council account is £4,427.89
- ii) **Proposed budget 2024-25:** presented to the PC and precept of £3,250 approved
- iii) **NALC E01-23 Local Government Services Pay Agreement:** NALC annual update of pay grades for Local Government employees adopted by the PC with reference to the Clerk's pay; resolution to be bound by this annual revision going forward (including back dating the pay rise to April) proposed by AP and seconded by KM, with all in favour
- iv) **Funds received:** Voluntary Action Cumbria awarded £505 to fund the Warm Hub; AP to submit Village Hall heating costs and food costs to the PC for payment in due course

#### b) Consideration of payments

- i) **Clerk's invoice Oct – Dec 2023:** total of £505.41 (including back pay and acting as Charity Secretary / Treasurer) invoiced by the Clerk – payment proposed by AP and seconded by SC, with all in favour
- ii) **Parish Maintenance:** invoice for preparation of wildflower area and rotavation referred to the Drigg Charity under the Village Maintenance budget head
- iii) **DCPC Invoice sent:** Charity billed £300.77 for the services of the Clerk Oct – Dec 2023

### 5) Actions and matters arising

- a) **Action 10/1:** MW has agreed to send a Memorandum of Understanding to confirm the legally binding Government commitment to compensate the Parish via the Drigg Charity while Vault 9 is operational – action closed
- b) **Action 11/1:** proposed budget 2024-25 submitted; precept of £3,250 agreed – action closed

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- c) **Action 11/2:** JJ to download website domain name invoice from 123.reg – action completed
- d) **Action 11/4:** JJ to seek a quote for the Hall Stairs from Ian Atkinson. Meeting was arranged but had to be postponed. Alternative suggestion of electric loft ladder – AP to seek quote
- e) **Action 11/5:** Clerk established Stuart Kenyon's three year contract has ended and he is willing to tender for the work in 2024. Clerk to chase SK – action ongoing
- f) **Action 11/6:** AP to ask NWS to supply a block of granite for the Jubilee Oak plaque; NWS hope to provide one by the next Liaison meeting – action ongoing
- g) **Action 11/7:** Clerk to produce a pilot DCPC newsletter – action closed
- h) **Action 11/8:** Clerk's contract printed and signed by the Chair – action closed
- i) **Action 11/9:** Clerk to reply to the Ponsonby Clerk re NDA / agricultural properties – meeting arranged and then rescheduled – action closed

## 6) Cumberland Council

- a) **South Cumberland Community Panel: Meet the Panel** – Meeting Place, Egremont on Weds 10<sup>th</sup> January at 5.30 pm. An opportunity for the public to meet Panel members before the formal Panel meeting at 6 pm (public may attend the meeting but not speak)
- b) **Traffic survey:** to take place on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 for one week recording the times of peak traffic flows and the number of vehicles
- c) **Dropped kerb:** to be installed on Old Shore Road during the first two weeks of Feb 2024
- d) **Street light in Holmrook:** a light has been fitted such that it shines into the eyes of oncoming drivers rather than the beam being directed downwards; reported as a priority over other street light replacements due to the danger presented to traffic in Holmrook
- e) **Speed bumps in Drigg:** due to be painted shortly as part of the Highways' scheme of work
- f) **Drains in Drigg:** pipe damaged by contractors working for Highways caused collapsed drain; the pipe under the road is now swamped. Highways coming to mend the drain (request that they should inform all local householders, not just one)

## 7) Public Participation

- a) No members of the public came forward

## 8) Main Business

- a) **DCPC Safeguarding policy:** reviewed and updated. To be added to the Drigg Community website with contact details of the Safeguarding Lead displayed in the Village Hall
- b) **Hall Stairs project:** one additional quote pending from Ian Atkinson; other potential options to access the Village Hall loft also to be explored
  - i. AP / CG to research price / suitability of commercial loft ladders
  - ii. [www.theelectricloftladdercompany.com](http://www.theelectricloftladdercompany.com)
- c) **Jubilee Oak tree:** AP to ask NWS to supply a block of granite for the oak. SC confirmed the size of the slate plaque as 46 cm x 20 cm by 12 mm. NWS hope to be able to supply this by the next Liaison meeting
- d) **Parish Natural Assets:** update from SC / AP. Proposal to set up software programme showing Parish Natural Assets on a map in layers identifying all types of searchable assets eg flora and fauna, listed buildings, etc
- e) **Newsletter:** business model for restarting Tethera is not viable. Clerk to produce a short booklet Newsletter (4 x A5 pages) in February / May / September featuring articles and events specific to Drigg (eg DYF, DLHG, Gala, Cine North, etc). Estimated cost of £135 for 300 copies, to be funded by Drigg Charity under Publications and Communications. Clerk to produce Issue 1, Spring 2024 by early February. Distribution to be considered in February

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- f) **Clerk's contract:** final draft submitted to the Chair and duly signed. Contract to be reviewed annually at the AGM. Clerk's annual appraisal to be completed by and reported at the AGM
- g) **Drigg Information Board:** email from a parishioner about the poor state of repair of the original information board on the dunes. JJ to check for the original Charity application which set up the information boards for further information about what they contained, the source of the information, which sponsors contributed to payment for it, etc.
- h) **Road humps:** difficult to see in poor light and reported; Highways have agreed to add the road humps to their painting schedule of work to make them clearer
- i) **Speed limit:** currently the speed limit through Stubble Green is 40 mph but this is routinely ignored by drivers. Would enforcement of existing speed limit be enough? Need to survey speeds on that stretch of road. Clerk to contact Matthew Reeves at Highways to recommend reducing the speed limit through Stubble Green

**Action 1/1:** AP / CG to research price / suitability of commercial loft ladders

**Action 1/2:** Clerk to produce DC Newsletter Issue 1, Spring 2024 by early February

**Action 1/3:** JJ to search for the original Charity application for the Information Boards

**Action 1/4:** Clerk to contact Highways to recommend reducing the speed limit through Stubble Green to 30 mph

## 9) Received communications

- a) **NDA consultation:** NDA Social Impact and Communities Strategy Draft for Consultation, published November 2023; closes on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024
  - i) <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/nda-social-impact-and-communities-strategy-consultation-nov-2023/nda-social-impact-and-communities-strategy-draft-for-consultation-november-2023>
  - ii) Document is bland and vague with no detail, no opportunity to hold the NDA to account
  - iii) Sellafeld and LLWR are merged together on one page as if one site; as the only Low Level Waste site in the country LLWR should have its own identity and its own section
  - iv) All other sites mentioned are currently in clean up aiming to be greenfield sites; all waste is being transferred to Sellafeld
  - v) LLWR relationship with the community has soured of late
  - vi) Socio-economic benefit of hosting LLWR in the Parish at risk of being lost
  - vii) Clerk to draft a response and submit it to the PC at the February meeting
- b) **CALC:** information from [www.chargemystreet.co.uk](http://www.chargemystreet.co.uk) about Electric Charging points in rural areas. Cumberland is currently reviewing this scheme. AP has put forward Drigg Village Hall as a potential site
- c) **Nuclear Free Local Authorities:** letter received recommending conducting a survey of parishioners views on hosting a GDF in South Copeland
  - i) A survey would be expensive for a small parish with a very small precept
  - ii) DCPC is not the Relevant Principal Local Authority (RPLA) and does not have the power to withdraw from the Community Partnership
  - iii) Reps shall ask the developer via the Community Partnership for more sampling of public opinion; some residents consider the Yonder survey isn't a representative sample
  - iv) No decision taken yet regarding the GDF site so difficult to canvass opinion on it
  - v) No indication yet as to whether the geology in the Solway is appropriate (data so far suggests it is progressible)
  - vi) Development Consent Order for bore holes would take 2-3 years so decision on headworks at least 5 years away
  - vii) **Join the Experts:** South Copeland Community Partnership event advertised on Drigg community website for parishioners to gather further information

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- viii) The public will have a chance to vote in the Test of Public Support (TOPS) when the proposal is made as to where to site the GDF (dependent on suitable geology)
- ix) Query whether neighbouring areas should have the right to vote on the siting of the GDF? Problem that far afield places in Cumberland Council's area would be able to vote and override the local area which is finally proposed for the site
- d) **Cumberland Council:** letter in response to NFLA letter received from Cllr Mark Fryer, Leader of Cumberland Council
  - i) Relevant Principal Local Authority is Cumberland Council with two key powers:
    - (1) Power to withdraw a community from the GDF siting process
    - (2) Power to decide whether and when to launch a determinative Test of Public Support
  - ii) Currently in the early stages of the GDF siting process
  - iii) Decision to launch a TOPS will be taken when a firm proposal is brought forward to construct a GDF in a specific location in Cumberland
  - iv) Mid Copeland and South Copeland Community Partnerships both publish the results of public opinion monitoring on their respective websites
  - v) Both Community Partnerships engage with the public about the siting process to ensure the public have the information they need to make an informed decision
- e) **Nuclear Free Local Authorities:** letter in response to the Cumberland Council reply reiterating the suggestion to conduct a survey of public opinion
  - i) Clerk to respond to the NFLA to explain that DCPC do not propose to conduct a survey
- f) **Cumberland Council:** budget consultation (ends 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024)
  - i) [consult.cumberland.gov.uk/communications-and-marketing/budget-consultation/](https://consult.cumberland.gov.uk/communications-and-marketing/budget-consultation/)
  - ii) No formal DCPC response; individuals are free to respond as they see fit
- g) **Speed Limit Review:** proposal by Cumberland Traffic Management Team to extend the 30 mph speed limit over the level crossing on Shore Road. All in favour of this proposal
- h) **Planning:** email from parishioner re Planning applications for Hill Farm.
  - i) SC spoke to parishioner and suggested she should object to the proposals with material planning considerations (eg noise, smell, traffic congestion; views and house values are not material planning considerations)
  - ii) The farmer is in breach of current planning regulations by housing cattle in a shed built for storage; the relevant authorities are aware of the situation
  - iii) The farmer may
    - (1) apply for retrospective planning permission
    - (2) remove the roof and be allowed to keep animals there
    - (3) add a polythene roof, for which no planning permission is required
  - iv) No proof the farm is causing pollution and therefore no cause to take action

**Action 1/5:** Clerk to draft a response to the NDA Social Impact consultation for the February meeting

**Action 1/6:** Clerk to respond to the NFLA

## 10) Planning Applications

- a) **Lake District National Park Authority:** planning application arrived too late for this meeting
  - i) Clerk to request an extension; to be considered at the next meeting
  - ii) **Scheme of Delegation:** proposal for a Scheme of Delegation to deal with planning applications received on those occasions where a planning response is required before an Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is due. To be considered at the next meeting
- b) **Cumberland Council**
  - i) **4/23/2363/0F1: Erection of roof over existing silage pit, Hill Green, Holmrook**
    - (1) Roof at the same elevation as the other roofs, too far from houses to impede light
    - (2) Surface water management is important: do the drains run towards the river?

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- (3) Last planning application required an extra pipe being installed to the river
- (4) No objection if the surface water is managed properly
- ii) **4/23/2364/0F1: Erection of roof over existing yard area, Hill Green, Holmrook**
  - (1) No objection if the surface water is managed properly
- iii) **4/23/2365/0F1: Erection of roof over existing midden area, Hill Green, Holmrook**
  - (1) No objection if the surface water is managed properly

#### 11) Cumbria Association of Local Councils

- a) No new matters to report at this time

#### 12) Reports from Representatives

##### a) GDF Mid Copeland Community Partnership

- i) **Briefing notes:** last meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at the Bailey Ground Hotel in Seascale available on the website
  - (1) <https://midcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Mid-Copeland-GDF-Community-Partnership-Briefing-11-December-2023.pdf>
- ii) **Next meeting:** to take place on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at Calderbridge Village Hall at 5 pm

##### b) GDF South Copeland Community Partnership

- i) **Draft minutes:** November meeting at Kirksanton available on the website
  - (1) <https://southcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Draft-Minutes-of-the-08.11.23-CP-meeting-2.pdf>
- ii) **Meetings:** resolution to hold fewer public meetings and more sub-committees
  - (1) DCPC Rep drafted onto the Operations Cttee
- iii) **Join the Experts Event:** to be held in Drigg Village Hall on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 at 6-8 pm. Learn about the geology in Copeland and how this will inform the design and safety of a potential GDF – see Drigg Community website
- iv) **Next South Copeland meeting:** to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 at Drigg Village Hall at 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm. The public are welcome to ask questions – see Drigg website

##### c) NWS / DCPC Liaison

- i) **Minutes:** bland and heavily edited; objections raised are not being minuted
  - (1) Minutes should not be approved till both sides review them at the next meeting
  - (2) Inaccurate and redacted minutes are not useful
  - (3) Meetings may be recorded to ensure they are properly minuted
  - (4) DCPC may provide their own Clerk at NWS' expense
- ii) **November meeting minutes:** available on the Drigg community website
- iii) **Next NWS / DCPC Liaison meeting:** to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 at 4.30 pm at Pelham house

#### 13) Agenda for next meeting

- a) **Newsletter:** how to organise distribution of the Newsletter (refer to Charity?)
- b) **Scheme of Delegation:** for dealing with Planning matters which fall between ordinary meetings

#### 14) Date of next meeting

- a) **Close:** meeting closed 8.40 pm
- b) **Next meeting:** to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Drigg Village Hall at 6.30 pm

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- c) New running order to be continued:
  - i) 6.30 pm DCPC
  - ii) 8.30 pm Drigg Charity
  - iii) 9.30 pm Drigg Village Hall Management Cttee (unless time permits earlier)

**Karen Warmoth**  
**Parish Clerk**  
**Drigg and Carleton Parish Council**  
**14<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

### **Summary of New Actions**

**Action 1/1:** AP / CG to research price / suitability of commercial loft ladders

**Action 1/2:** Clerk to produce DC Newsletter Issue 1, Spring 2024 by early February

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### **Actions Ongoing**

**Action 11/5:** Clerk established Stuart Kenyon's three year contract has ended and he is willing to tender for the work in 2024. Clerk to chase SK – action ongoing

**Action 11/6:** AP to ask NWS to supply a block of granite for the Jubilee Oak plaque; NWS hope to provide one by the next Liaison meeting – action ongoing

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