

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2024 ORDINARY MEETING OF THE  
DRIGG & CARLETON PARISH COUNCIL  
Held in Drigg Village Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> February 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

**Parishioners:** 6 members of the public attended

**1) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

- a) Resolution to approve the minutes of the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 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 of the Parish Council account is £4,223.25
- ii) **HMRC Fine:** HMRC have accepted the appeal against the £200 fine from October 2023
- iii) **Expenditure limit 2024-25:** the new s.137 LGA 1972 limit is £10.81

**b) Consideration of payments**

- i) **HMRC Tax:** Clerk owed £449.07 gross in back tax (correcting an administrative error where 20% tax was deducted when tax code indicated much less tax was due); payment approved by AP, seconded by SB, with all in favour
- ii) **PAYE Basic Tools:** professional advice on correcting tax admin errors at a cost of £40 approved by KM, seconded by SC, with all in favour
- iii) **PAYE Training:** Clerk to attend a CALC training seminar on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7 pm via Teams, costing £20; payment approved by AP, seconded by SB, with all in favour
- iv) **Voluntary Action Cumbria:** £505 to be remitted to Village Hall account to pay the costs of the Warm Hub; payment approved by KM, seconded by SC, with all in favour

**5) Actions and matters arising**

- a) **Action 11/4:** quote received from an alternate builder – action closed
- b) **Action 11/5:** Stewart Kenyon has quoted for the mowing and hedging tender – action closed
- c) **Action 11/6:** AP arranged for LLWR to supply a block – action closed
- d) **Action 1/1:** CG showed video of electric loft ladder – action closed
- e) **Action 1/2:** Clerk to produce Newsletter Issue 1, Spring 2024 by early Feb – action closed

Chair's initials.....

- f) **Action 1/3:** JJ to search for the original Charity application for the Information Boards – action completed
- g) **Action 1/4:** Clerk to contact Highways to recommend reducing the speed limit through Stubble Green to 30 mph – action completed
- h) **Action 1/5:** Clerk to draft a response to the NDA Social Impact consultation for the February meeting; draft approved – action completed
- i) **Action 1/6:** Clerk to respond to the NFLA – action completed

## 6) Cumberland Council

### a) Highways

- i) **Dropped kerb:** requested by residents, to be installed on Old Shore Road shortly
  - ii) **Resurfacing:** Highways confirm that the road from Holmrook to Stubble Green will be resurfaced in the 2024-25 financial year
  - iii) **Markings:** New white lining; speed bumps to be painted to highlight their position
  - iv) **Potholes:** Holmrook Hill potholes have been reported and will be repaired
  - v) **Street lights:** those lights which are not working have been logged
  - vi) **Pavements:** teams coming to strip back vegetation encroaching on pavements at Saltcoats, near the garage
    - (1) Drigg to Stubble Green has similar pavement problem; AP to report to Highways
  - vii) **Corney Fell:** unsafe bridge to be removed shortly and new bridge installed this summer
  - viii) **Traffic survey:** no results data provided as yet; AP to chase Highways
- b) **Gun club:** notice to quit by April 2024 extended to April 2025; possibility of leasing an NDA owned building at New Mill
- c) **Funding:** an extra £1,000 of funding supplied for the Warm Hub by Cumberland Council

## 7) Public Participation

- a) Four members of the public attended in total
- b) Three members of the public came forward to discuss planning matters
  - i) One raised the possibility of extending the 40mph limit from Stubble Green to Seascale
  - ii) Holmrook Hill is a traffic hazard when so many parked cars reduce visibility on the bend
- c) One other member of the public attended as an observer expressing interest in the current PC vacancy

**Action 2/1:** Clerk to ask Highways to extend the 40 mph speed limit from Stubble Green to Seascale

**Action 2/2:** Clerk to send materials to a parishioner re eligibility to become a Parish Councillor

## 8) Main Business

### a) Hall Stairs project:

- i) Fully comprehensive quote received from a competent professional builder for £17k
  - (1) Stairs would take up space in the hall
  - (2) The stairs are designed to facilitate carrying tables downstairs and comply with the required width in the building regulations
- ii) Other potential options to access the Village Hall loft also to be explored
  - (1) CG showed a video of an electric loft ladder with bannisters
  - (2) [www.theelectricloftladdercompany.com](http://www.theelectricloftladdercompany.com)
  - (3) Benefit of ladder taking up space in the loft, not the hall
  - (4) Eaglesfield Village Hall has a bespoke loft ladder; CG to review quality and cost
  - (5) Ladder would need survey: CG to send contractors dimensions / structure of hall

Chair's initials.....

- (6) Estimated cost around £9k + VAT + installation
- (7) CG to enquire re maintenance costs
- b) **Jubilee Oak tree:** NWS can provide a block of granite for the oak. AP to liaise with them to install it
- c) **Parish Natural Assets:** software on free app iNaturalist can store information on the parish
  - i) Map with highlighted items, eg listed buildings, building data, flora and fauna
- d) **Drigg Information Board:** possible forthcoming application by parishioner to the Charity as a funded project
- e) **Newsletter:** all in favour of continuing with the Newsletter
  - i) **Summer issue:** due 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024, before the Annual Parish meeting (due 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024)
  - ii) **Copy deadline:** articles to be submitted by 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024 for inclusion
- f) **Greengarth:** plans for hotel not yet submitted; no update from the LDNP. AP to follow up with LDNP to establish whether and when plans are likely to progress
- g) **Benches**
  - i) **Shore Road:** Stewart Kenyon to add flagstones around the bench on Shore Road to improve accessibility for those with mobility problems
  - ii) **Beach:** bench is a hazard with rotten boards and poor foundations
  - iii) Needs to be removed but it is not a PC bench; report to Cumberland Council?
  - iv) NDA have the lease on the land; AP to ask them to remove and/or replace it
- h) **Warm Hub**
  - i) AgeUK attending on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 10 am to 12 noon to give advice on benefits, etc
  - ii) Social Prescribing to attend at the end of March to give advice
- i) **Interpretation Board:** info submitted by Charlotte Rankin of Cumbria Wildlife Trust. CG submitted wording from DCPC with all in favour. SC to pass on to Wildlife Trust
- j) **Road to Low Moor:** resident complained about the poor state of the road
  - i) Road is unadopted; onus falls on residents to repair and maintain it
  - ii) Parish boundary runs down the centre of the road

**Action 2/3:** CG to establish if the Eaglesfield loft ladder example might meet our requirements and then liaise with the contractors re physical requirements at Drigg with a view to obtaining a quote

**Action 2/4:** AP to follow up with LDNP to establish whether and when plans for Greengarth are likely to progress

**Action 2/5:** AP to liaise with NDA about removing and /or replacing beach bench

## 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) Including: [The economic contribution of the NDA to the West Cumbria economy – Oxford Economics \(April 2022\)](#)
  - iii) Drafted response approved

Chair's initials.....

**10) Planning Applications**

- a) Scheme of Delegation:** approval of document
  - i) Clerk to consult the nearest Councillor to the Planning Application site as local residents are most likely to contact their nearest Councillor
  - ii) Better to share Planning responsibilities among different Councillors
  - iii) Approval proposed by KM, seconded by SC, with all in favour; Chair to sign document
- b) Lake District National Park Authority**
  - i) **7/2023/4108: Saltcoats Caravan Site, Saltcoats, Holmrook, CA19 1YY.** Secondary and emergency access
  - ii) **Secondary access:** suggests it will be used all the time
    - (1) Constant usage would be unacceptable as it would cause a legal nuisance to local houses: light pollution, more traffic along narrow roads, noise
  - iii) **Emergency access:** suggests it will be used only when the extreme high tides prevent cars from using the main entrance and exit, with barrier to stop routine use
    - (1) Emergency access would be acceptable as this should be rarely used
  - iv) Access can be either secondary or emergency access, not both
  - v) Plan fails to show the full extent of the caravan park (more caravans approved to use it)
  - vi) The house opposite the junction is slightly offset from it but vehicles turning left would cause a light pollution nuisance when their headlights swept around and across the property
  - vii) Resolution that the access should be strictly emergency access only – approved by AP, seconded by SB, with all in favour
- c) Cumberland Council**
  - i) **4/24/2008/0F1: New House Farm, Drigg.** Demolish house, cattle shed, Dutch barn, piggery, stone barn, outbuilding - no details regarding a replacement
    - (1) Application has already been considered
    - (2) DCPC remains opposed to the demolition
    - (3) DCPC wishes to have the stone retained and used to reface a replacement building
  - ii) **4/24/2020/0F1: Shepherd's Views Holidays, Drigg.** Siting of a static caravan for use of Wardens on site
    - (1) AP declared an interest as he had discussed this matter with the Planning Dept
    - (2) Not a permanent but seasonal residence, not visible from the road
    - (3) Not a greenfield site but outside the permitted development area
    - (4) Mainly to ensure the safety of guests and security of the site
    - (5) DCPC in support of this application with 1 abstention
  - iii) **4/24/2027/0F1: Hawkrigg, Holmrook.** Replacement dwelling
    - (1) Dwelling situated behind the Riverside Motor repair garage on a rising plot
    - (2) Rebuild of a house on the same plot as previous house
    - (3) Garage integrated into the new building - lack of space due to being a narrow plot
    - (4) Small windows on the east side to prevent overlooking other properties
    - (5) Drainage system is in place
    - (6) Overall improvement to the property: DCPC in support, with all in favour
  - iv) **4/24/2029/0F1: Hill Farm, Holmrook.** Prior notification application for hay and feed storage associated with farm
    - (1) Situated at the bottom of a bank, not visible from the road
    - (2) Intended for hay/feed storage
    - (3) Specifically not for housing livestock (too close to residents' housing)
    - (4) DCPC has no objection if the store is not used for livestock, as agreed
      - (a) Occupier has till end of February to apply for retrospective planning permission for buildings to house livestock to amend a previous planning application

Chair's initials.....

- v) **4/23/2365/0F1: Erection of roof over existing midden area, Hill Green, Holmrook**
  - (1) Previously discussed application has been updated – arrived too late for this agenda
  - (2) No material difference to the application
  - (3) Document on Surface Water drainage arrangements added to the application
  - (4) No change to the DCPC resolution of January 2024: no objection

#### 11) Cumbria Association of Local Councils

- a) **Training:** Charitable Trusts and Parish Councils, two webinars on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7 pm to 8.30 pm via Teams, cost £30 per person
  - i) AP to request slides for reference
- b) **No new matters:** next meeting 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024

#### 12) Reports from Representatives

- a) **GDF Mid Copeland Community Partnership**
  - i) **Mid Copeland Rep:** DCPC gave permission for the Clerk to continue representing it on the Mid Copeland Community Partnership
  - ii) **Withdrawal sub-group:** a sub-committee reviewing the exit strategy applied to the Allerdale Community Partnership exit and how it might be improved, to:
    - (1) Develop an exit strategy which leaves a lasting legacy
    - (2) Recognise the special status of Mid Copeland as the current site of the nuclear waste, regardless of whether the GDF is finally sited here
  - iii) **Next meeting:** to take place on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at Calderbridge Village Hall at 7 pm
- b) **GDF South Copeland Community Partnership**
  - i) **Withdrawal sub-group:** similar aims to the Mid Copeland sub-group
  - ii) **Meetings:** reduced to 5 x pa, with Workshops, sub-groups in between
  - iii) **New Head of Operations sub-group:** John Sutton (Rep for Sustainable Duddon)
    - (1) **Governance:** Operations sub-group make plans for governance
    - (2) CG a member of the Operations sub-group
  - iv) **Engagement:** changing format, more Community Forums planned
  - v) **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) **Rebranding:** LLWR will officially rebrand as Nuclear Waste Services on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024
    - (1) NWS governs the GDF project as well as the LLWR site
    - (2) Proposal to refresh the angled information board outside the Village Hall with new NWS branding and an update of the local information
  - ii) **Minutes:** January 2024 draft minutes to be circulated to attendees; to be approved at the next liaison meeting
  - iii) **November meeting minutes:** available on the Drigg community website
  - iv) **Next NWS / DCPC Liaison meeting:** to take place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

#### 13) Agenda for next meeting

- a) **Annual Parish Meeting:** date agreed 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024
  - i) Potential speaker: ideas invited
- b) **AGAR:** prepare for the end of the financial year
- c) **Co-option of New Councillor**

Chair's initials.....

**14) Date of next meeting**

- a) **Close:** meeting closed 8.30 pm
- b) **Next meeting:** to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at Drigg Village Hall at 6.30 pm
- c) **Apologies:** CG will not be able to attend this meeting and sends apologies

Karen Warmoth

Parish Clerk

Drigg & Carleton Parish Council

19<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Summary of New Actions**

**Action 2/1:** Clerk to ask Highways to extend the 40 mph speed limit from Stubble Green to Seascale

**Action 2/2:** Clerk to send materials to a parishioner re eligibility to become a Parish Councillor

**Action 2/3:** CG to establish if the Eaglesfield loft ladder example might meet our requirements and then liaise with the contractors re physical requirements at Drigg with a view to obtaining a quote

**Action 2/4:** AP to follow up with LDNP to establish whether and when plans for Greengarth are likely to progress

**Action 2/5:** AP to liaise with NDA about removing and /or replacing beach bench

Chair's initials.....