

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2024 ORDINARY MEETING OF THE DRIGG & CARLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Held in Drigg Village Hall on 12th March 2024 at 6.30 pm

Attended:

John Jennings	JJ	(Chair)
Andy Pratt	AP	(Vice-Chair)
Sadie Clarke	SC	
Jimmy Naylor	JN	
Suey Browne	SB	
Keith Murray	KM	
Martin Clayton	MC	
Karen Warmoth		(Clerk / RFO)

Apologies: Chris Gigg CG

1) Co-option of a new Parish Councillor

- a) Martin Clayton was elected and co-opted onto the Parish Council and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office witnessed by the Clerk

2) Resignation

- a) Cllr Suey Browne tendered her resignation with three months' notice. Her last meeting as a councillor will be May 2024, after which the resulting casual vacancy will be advertised

3) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th February 2024

- a) Resolution to approve the minutes of the meeting on 13th February 2024 as a true and accurate record proposed by KM and seconded by SC with all in favour; minutes signed by the Chair

4) Apologies for absence: Chris Gigg

5) Declarations of interest relating to this agenda: none

6) Financial matters

a) Finance report

- i) **Balance:** the balance of the Parish Council account is £3,229.18
(1) HMRC are owed £128.80 in tax, as yet unclaimed
(2) HMRC owe DCPC £200 after a successful appeal against a fine

b) Consideration of payments

- i) **McAfee Anti-Virus software:** subscription renewed by SB at a cost of £129.99; payment approved by AP and seconded by KM with all in favour
(1) Subscription due for renewal on 25th March 2025
- ii) **Battery for Defibrillator at Saltcoats:** payment to Barney's Support Services Ltd for £225 + VAT total £270, invoice SI-182, approved by SB and seconded by SC, with all in favour

7) Actions and matters arising

- a) **Action 2/1:** Clerk to ask Highways to extend the 40 mph speed limit from Stubble Green to Seascale – Highways agreed to implement a traffic survey – action completed

Chair's initials.....

- b) **Action 2/2:** Clerk to send materials to a parishioner re eligibility to become a Parish Councillor – action completed
- c) **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 completed
- d) **Action 2/4:** AP to follow up with LDNP to establish whether and when plans for Greengarth are likely to progress – no submission to LDNP yet – action closed
 - i) AP to follow up on the unsightly rusting metal sign at Greengarth being removed
- e) **Action 2/5:** AP to liaise with NDA about removing and /or replacing beach benches – covered in the NWS-DCPC Liaison meeting – action closed

8) Cumberland Council

- a) **Report**
 - i) **Rise in Council Tax:** 4.99%, of which 2.99% for Social Care and 2% for Council services
- b) **Highways**
 - i) **Speed bumps:** white lines painted round the speed bumps to make them stand out
 - ii) **Resurfacing:** Highways confirm that the road from Holmrook to Stubble Green will be resurfaced in the 2024-25 financial year
 - iii) **Resurfacing:** Whicham Valley to Holmrook to be resurfaced, work being done at night
 - (1) Not proposing full closure
 - (2) Likely to be light and noise disturbance in Holmrook overnight
 - iv) **Corney Fell:** unsafe bridge to be removed in March and new bridge installed in summer
 - v) **Calderbridge:** large sign on the corner to be removed and placed at Boonwood
 - vi) **Drains:** AP logged problem with blocked drain at Stubble Green
 - vii) **Street lights:** AP reported streetlights which are out of order
 - viii) **Muncaster Bridge:** closed overnight for the next two weekends – signposted at Holmrook
 - ix) **Road closures:** two road closures at Saltcoats. Clerk to add details to the website

9) Public Participation

- a) No members of the public came forward with questions
- b) Two parishioners attended the meeting but left early

10) Main Business

- a) **Hall Loft project:**
 - i) **Loft Ladder:** CG sent his report on the loft ladder at Eaglesfield Village Hall
 - (1) Two models shown on video; Fontwell non-folding ladder preferred
 - (2) Estimated cost of £16,500 for non-folding ladder including installation
 - (3) Possible need for a structural engineer to oversee installation
 - (4) JJ to search for drawings of the Village Hall
 - (5) JJ to confirm no underfloor / ceiling pipes or cables would be affected
 - (6) JJ and CG to review whether feasible to engage structural engineer
- b) **Newsletter:**
 - i) **Summer issue:** due 1st May 2024, before the Annual Parish meeting (due 16th May 2024)
 - ii) **Copy deadline:** articles to be submitted by 7th April 2024 for inclusion
- c) **Beach benches**
 - i) **Beach benches:** both benches are a hazard with rotten boards and poor foundations
 - ii) Benches are on NDA land and are not a Parish asset

Chair's initials.....

- iii) NDA boarded up the WWII gun emplacements after a risk assessment deemed them unsafe; the benches are even more unsafe and should be removed and ideally replaced
- iv) Both issues raised in the DCPC-NWS Liaison meeting
- v) NWS to raise both matters with the NDA
- d) **Traffic Survey:** Old Shore Road traffic begins with a vehicle speeding at 4 am; cars arriving between 5 am and 6 am (site opening time is given as 7 am)
 - i) **Traffic Sub-cttee:** to be set up to review the raw data produced by the traffic survey, covering speed, time of day, type of vehicle, etc to analyse patterns. Any Cllr may join
 - ii) **Log:** NWS no longer give a detailed breakdown of how many and what type of vehicles access the site any more
 - iii) NWS have changed working hours by default, claiming Rural Development Work allows 30 people to enter the site at 6 am
 - (1) DCPC need a copy of the Planning Consent to verify this claim
 - iv) **Pelham House:** office space lease due to expire in 2026
 - (1) Gun Club being evicted to move people off the NWS site
 - (2) Why then move office workers from Pelham House to Drigg, increasing traffic in the village and travelling time for all?
 - (3) Why not use half empty Herdus House? Reduce traffic in Drigg
- e) **Warm Hub**
 - i) Social Prescribing to attend on 22nd March 2024 to give advice, help and support
 - ii) Poster to be added to the website
- f) **D-DAY80:** special flag for D-Day80 is available, cost £24 (to be flown from 9 am on 6th June 2024 for one week)
 - i) **Remembrance Day flag:** Clerk to research availability and cost of Remembrance Day flags which could be used every year
- g) **Wheelchair access to Drigg Village Hall:** request from parishioners to add cross-hatch markings to the car park to mark a clear path for those using wheelchairs, mobility scooters, prams etc to be able to access the ramp easily; all in favour
 - i) SC to research the type of paint needed and the cost
 - ii) AP to ask Drigg Young farmers to help with the painting
- h) **Annual Parish meeting:** date set for 16th May 2024
 - i) **Speaker:** CG's suggestion of David Simpson giving a presentation on Mary Fair's photos in the Drigg & Carleton area accepted; CG to book speaker for 7 pm
- i) **Portrait of King Charles III:** free portrait of HM King Charles III offered by the Government to all Parish Councils; to be sent to the Village Hall in April
- j) **Any other Parish matters**
 - i) **Saltcoats defibrillator:** the battery has expired; proposed by SB and seconded by SC that this should be replaced as soon as possible. Clerk to request Barney's Support Services to order and install a new battery

Action 3/1: JJ and CG to review whether feasible to engage a structural engineer

Action 3/2: JJ to check if original drawings of the Village Hall are still available

Action 3/3: AP to report back from NWS about beach benches after next Liaison meeting

Action 3/4: Traffic sub-cttee meeting to be arranged by AP

Action 3/5: Clerk to review the cost and availability of appropriate flags

Action 3/6: SC to research type / cost of paint needed for marking the Village Hall car park

Action 3/7: AP to ask Drigg Young Farmers to do the painting

Action 3/8: CG to book the speaker for the Annual Parish meeting 2024

Action 3/9: Clerk to arrange for new Defibrillator battery to be installed

Chair's initials.....

11) Received communications

- a) **Letter from Ponsonby Clerk:** summary of the meeting held with representatives of five local parishes, including Drigg & Carleton, regarding the NDA buying properties for demolition
 - i) No response from NDA as yet to the letter
 - ii) **New House Farm:** NDA claim they plan to rebuild but no concrete details given
- b) **Copeland Borough Council Local Plan 2021-2038 Main Modifications Consultation:**
 - i) <https://www.copeland.gov.uk/content/main-modifications-consultation>
 - ii) Runs until 5 pm on Thursday 28th March 2024
 - iii) Email LocalPlanConsultation@cumberland.gov.uk for further details

12) Planning Applications

- a) **Lake District National Park Authority**
 - i) **7/2024/4008: 2 Carleton Cottages, Holmrook.** Remove existing single storey extension and erect two storeys. Reply by 26th March 2024. No objection to this development
- b) **Cumberland Council**
 - i) **4/24/2076/0F1: Hill Farm, Holmrook.** Change of use of existing general purpose agricultural building to house cattle (retrospective)
 - (1) **Feedback from residents:** concern about the strong smell, about the size and density of the operation and about animal welfare
 - (2) Environmental Health Dept have reviewed the smell and considered the welfare of the cattle
 - (3) Housing the cattle under a roof is liable to add to the smell
 - (4) Removing the roof would be compliant but might compromise animal welfare
 - (5) Cumberland Council failed to take action to enforce the previous planning permission; by inviting a retrospective application, they are likely to pass it (unless a very strong and sustainable objection is made)
 - (6) DCPC is unable to support the application due to the negative impact on local residents but can find no legal or material objection, therefore neutral response
 - (7) Residents may and are encouraged to pass on their concerns to the Planning Dept

13) Cumbria Association of Local Councils

- a) Next meeting at the end of March
- b) **Vacancy:** only one applicant applied for the Treasurer vacancy, Ged McGrath
- c) **Sub-group:** set up to examine the benefits of joining CALC, what CALC can offer PCs

14) Reports from Representatives

- a) **GDF Mid Copeland Community Partnership**
 - i) **Briefing notes:** the briefing notes of the March meeting are available on the Mid Copeland CP website: <https://midcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk/resources/>
 - ii) **South Holderness:** a new Community Partnership was formed but rapidly withdrawn
 - iii) **Mid Copeland Rep:** the Mid Copeland Community Partnership Chair has written to the DCPC Chair to confirm that the Drigg & Carleton Rep on the Community Partnership shall be allowed to continue as a non-voting member to provide continuity with the parish; to be reviewed in one year, on or around 1st April 2025
 - iv) **Withdrawal sub-group**
 - (1) A policy document has been written on how a decision to withdraw might be taken and implemented (the Mid Copeland Community Partnership has no power to withdraw; only the developer, NWS, and the Relevant Principal Local Authority, Cumberland Council, have this power)

Chair's initials.....

v) **Next meeting:** to take place on 22nd April 2024 at Beckermet Reading Rooms at 3 pm

b) GDF South Copeland Community Partnership

- i) **Yonder survey:** three surveys to be carried out in 2024
 - (1) Identical questions will be used to try to identify trends over time
 - (2) Some demographics are deemed Seldom Heard, eg working age women
- ii) **Chairs:** meeting of all Chairs on 11th April 2024
- iii) **Funding:** possibility of members sitting in on Funding meetings to appreciate the process
- iv) **Small awards:** funding team looking at easier ways to award very small grants
- v) **Community Impact Report:** discussion of commissioning research on how the GDF will impact the local community. Original deadline of early 2024 now missed
- vi) **Minutes:** <https://southcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Draft-Minutes-of-the-22.02.24-CP-meeting.pdf>
- vii) **Next South Copeland meeting:** to take place on 17th April 2024 at the Lighthouse Centre, Haverigg at 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm

c) NWS / DCPC Liaison

- i) **Memorandum of Understanding:** NWS provided a MoU relating to the payments to Drigg and Seascale for the siting of the Low Level Waste Repository
 - (1) Socio-Impact Strategy focus is now wider than just Drigg and Seascale
- ii) **Traffic:** survey to be done by NWS
 - (1) Cars seem to be single occupancy
 - (2) Green travel to work plan including cycling, walking etc is unrealistic
 - (3) Trains to be used for stockpiling aggregates, 2 per week, early mornings, 11 months per annum (will reduce HGVs through the village)
- iii) **Site visit:** AP to book MC onto the next LLWR site tour
- iv) **Next NWS / DCPC Liaison meeting:** to take place on Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 4.30 pm at Pelham House

15) Agenda for next meeting

- a) **AGM:** review all documents
- b) **APM:** traffic surveys, Community Led Plan
- c) **AGAR:** prepare for the end of the financial year

16) Date of next meeting

- a) **Close:** meeting closed 8.25 pm
- b) **Next meeting:** to be held on 9th April 2024 at Drigg Village Hall at 6.30 pm

Karen Warmoth

Parish Clerk

Drigg & Carleton Parish Council

19th March 2024

Chair's initials.....

Summary of Actions

Action 3/1: JJ and CG to review whether feasible to engage a structural engineer for the loft ladder

Action 3/2: JJ to check if original drawings of the Village Hall are still available

Action 3/3: AP to report back from NWS about beach benches after the next Liaison meeting

Action 3/4: Traffic sub-cttee meeting to be arranged by AP to review survey data

Action 3/5: Clerk to review the cost and availability of appropriate flags

Action 3/6: SC to research type / cost of paint needed for marking the Village Hall car park

Action 3/7: AP to request Drigg Young Farmers to do the painting

Action 3/8: CG to book the speaker for the Annual Parish meeting 2024

Action 3/9: Clerk to arrange for new Defibrillator battery to be installed

Previous Actions

Action 2/4: AP to follow up on the unsightly rusting metal sign at Greengarth being removed

Chair's initials.....