

## RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of a Meeting Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009 held in Ravenstonedale Public Room

**Present** Councillor Caroline Morris (Chairman) Cllrs John Bull, James Richardson, Hilary Law and Ernest Leach.  
Clerk, Chris Elphick  
UECP Project Officer, Libby Bateman  
Cumbria Rural Housing Trust Housing Needs Officer, Jayne Potts.

**Apologies for absence** had been received from Cllrs. Alison Morriss, Paul Capstick and County Councillor, Peter Thornton

#### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest in any item on the agenda.

**Minutes of the Meeting** held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009 had been circulated and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **Cumbria Rural Housing Trust**

Jayne Potts explained that the CHRT had been commissioned by Eden District Council to carry out an in depth assessment of probable housing needs in Eden during the coming five years. There was some discussion on the definition of "housing need" and it was established that there are several types of need from the elderly wishing to downsize to young people needing to establish their own home and many others. A survey will shortly be carried out within the parish. Survey forms will be posted to all addresses. Additional forms will be available for those where more than one person in a household will have an individual requirement.

#### **Scandal Beck Green**

The official "Grand Opening" of Scandal Beck Green took place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June. The opening was carried out by Dr Helga Frankland.

The day was proclaimed a successful and enjoyable occasion to which many people had freely contributed. Although the opening had not been intended as a fundraising event, donations amounting to £150.00 were received.

An even more generous donation of £2,000.00 was received from Caroline Morris towards the future development of the site.

The Clerk has organised a RoSPA Safety Inspection and Report on the Newbiggin-on-Lune and Ravenstonedale play areas, to be carried out during August..

#### **Millennium Field**

Notice had been received of proposed remedial works to be carried out by Cumbria Highways to reduce the danger of flooding at the King's Head. The proposal was for a bitmac bund to be constructed across the gateway to prevent ingress of water from the highway. Cllr Law pointed out that there was also a spring which surfaced just below the entrance ramp. Clerk to inform Highways.

#### **Upper Eden Community Plan**

A very successful, well attended conference "Working Together for a Sustainable Community" took place at the Kings Arms, Kirkby Stephen on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The event was organised on behalf of UECP by Libby Bateman. Keynote speaker was John Dunning, CBE, well known locally as founder of Westmorland Motorway Services and Rheged Visitor Centre – and a former long term resident of Kirkby Stephen. Cllrs Hilary Law, Alison Morriss and Clerk, Chris Elphick had attended.

Libby Bateman had asked the Parish Council to sign a note of future commitment to the Upper Eden Community Plan Group. The Clerk advised that this was not feasible because, although the group had worked very successfully together to produce the Upper Eden Community Plan, the group had no constitution other than that of an informal gathering. The Group has been studying ways of consolidating but has not yet reached a decision. It was resolved that any formal expression of support be deferred until the Group has a formal constitution. It was suggested that the Clerk, being probably the only one in the group with a qualification in Local Council Administration, could collaborate with Alex Birtles to produce a draft constitution. Clerk to contact Alex.

### Planning Applications

No. 09/0298	CONSTRUCTION OF DOMESTIC STORAGE BUILDING
Type	Full Application
Location	Intake, Newbiggin-on-Lune
Applicant	Mr P Ellison
Parish Council	No objections <span style="float: right;">GRANTED</span>
No.08/0867	Landscaping works in connection with Planning Approval No. 07/0030
Location	The Chantry, Ravenstonedale
Applicant	Mr & Mrs J Houston
	This application was refused by EDC Planning Committee contrary to EDC Planning Officer recommendation. NOTICE OF APPEAL
Parish Council	No additional comment.
No. 09/0288	RESTORATION AND RE-OCCUPATION OF FORMER DWELLING TOGETHER WITH EXTENSION INTO ADJOINING BARN, TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED SEPTIC TANK
Type	Full Application
Location	Gracette Moor, Newbiggin-on-Lune
Applicant	Mr N Wilson
Parish Council	This application accords with the stated policy of the Parish Council that planning policy should permit the restoration and re-occupation of former houses.

### Finance

<u>Sum Received</u>	
Scandal Beck Green – endowment	£2,000.00
Opening Event donations	£ 150.00
<u>Accounts for Payment</u>	
SLCC Publications new CA-B, The Councillor	£ 69.55
C J Elphick (Admin). Expenses)	£116.85

### Appleby Fair 2009

It was reported that the organisation of the facilities and the presence of police in the Ravenstonedale area was substantially more effective than in recent years. Letters of thanks to be sent to the police (Chief Superintendent Johnson) and EDC Kevin Douglas and Elaine Lomas). EDC to be asked to collect Black refuse sacks left by Travellers at fair time as well as the official Blue bags.

### Ravenstonedale High Chapel

A letter had been received from the North West Synod of the United Reformed Church asking for a progress report on the proposals to acquire the former High Chapel as a Community Centre. Since the start of negotiations almost two years ago there have been a number of changes not least of which has been the international financial climate which has resulted in a severe reduction in grant aid available. A structural report on the building showed that considerable work would be needed to maintain the structure in the short, medium and long term.

A feasibility study indicates that, with the installation of toilet facilities, replacement heating system and replacement roof plus many minor alterations, the overall cost would be between £100,000 and £150,000. It was considered that a lease of twenty-five years would not provide an adequate payback time. Consultation with ACT Village Halls Advisor, Carl Glynn, did however indicate that the finance would be feasible for a longer term project.

It was **resolved** that the following proposition be put to the URC Synod :

1. Period of lease 100 years
2. Rent to be nominal (peppercorn) in view of capital spending proposed
3. Graveyard be closed to further burials.

### **Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit - Workshop**

Councillor Morris and the clerk were due to attend a workshop on "Landscape Character Recognition organised by Cumbria CC at Penrith on 7<sup>th</sup> July. In the event neither was available on that date. A toolkit from the workshop has been requested and Ravenstonedale's interest registered.

### **Public Participation**

Libby Bateman is seeking volunteers to form a First Responders Group in the UECP area.

Following recent fatalities and serious injuries on footpaths in fields containing cows, Libby noted that warning signs were available to farmers from Tony Burn the local Rights of Way Ranger.

### **Correspondence received**

Local Council Review  
Clerks & Councils Direct  
Cumbria Community Foundation News  
NALC Report June 2009  
Letter of Thanks from Tim Stoddard  
Climate Change Workshop – Staveley 14<sup>th</sup> July 9.00 – 12.30  
The foregoing items were noted or circulated as appropriate.

CCC - Eden Local Area Committees - Agenda for meeting 15th July. Clerk and Chairman will attend (Langwathby Village Hall).

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

Date 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009