

RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting Thursday 11th March 2010 held in Ravenstonedale Public Room

Present Councillor Caroline Morris (Chairman) Cllrs, Alison Morriss, James Richardson, Helen Shields, Paul Capstick and Ernest Leach.
Clerk, Chris Elphick
30+ members of the public

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Hilary Law, District Councillor George Boustead, County Councillor Peter Thornton, PCSO Janet Allinson and UECF Project Officer Libby Bateman.

Declarations of Interest

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 11th February 2010 had been circulated to all members and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Public Participation

Representations from a number of members of the public related to the proposed designation of Ravenstonedale as part of a National Park and that the council had recorded its intention not to respond, as a body, to the current consultation by Natural England. The reason for this decision being that councillors were divided on whether inclusion in a National Park would be in the best interests of residents. There were speakers both for and against designation.

Proposed Designation of Ravenstonedale as part of a National Park

Following the representations from the public the Chairman read the following statement:

We know there is a lot of interest in this National Park Designation - and we are aware there are many people on both sides of the argument - including Councillors. To that end we have prepared the following response to Natural England's consultation. (I should add we are only concerned with the Orton Fells and Yorkshire Dales Northern Extension, we have not addressed the other areas).

Proposed Designation of Ravenstonedale as National Park

Ravenstonedale Parish Council has completed the consultation process, which has involved public meetings and Council debate. Evidence from these suggests that a significant number of residents strongly support inclusion into a National Park although Parish Council Members and also other parishioners are divided.

Although no vote has been taken as to which Park, discussions seem to indicate that the Yorkshire Dales National Park is favoured. There would however need to be further discussion on a name for the area, which historically is Westmorland. This is an important heritage issue.

Boundaries

There has been much discussion in relation to boundaries. The overwhelming response is that the existing Parish Boundaries should be maintained. National Parks must observe the historic traditions of the area.

Ravenstonedale Parish Council has appreciated Natural England's consultation process. If we can provide further information please contact the Clerk.

It was **resolved** that the foregoing statement be forwarded to the Natural England consultation team.

Ravenstonedale High Chapel

It was again reported that, despite repeated prompting, no transfer documents had yet been received from the NW Synod.

It would not be prudent for the parish council to resume coffee mornings until public health and insurance requirements had been complied with as previously instructed by the landlords.

Finance

Accounts for Payment

C J Elphick (Admin Expenses to 31/03/10)	£ 85.20
C J Elphick (Key cutting - Chapel)	£ 47.00

The foregoing two items were approved for payment.

The effectiveness of the system of internal audit was reviewed in accordance with the Accounts & Audit Regulations. It was agreed that the regular production of updated accounts, cheque signatory requirements, lack of cash handling and fidelity insurance adequately fulfils the criteria.

Planning Applications

No. 10/0089 CHANGE OF USE OF VACANT OUTBUILDINGS INTO TWO HOLIDAY LETS

Type Full Application

Location Sandwath, Newbiggin-on-Lune

Applicant Mr S Forster

Parish Council No objections provided the scheme includes adequate parking facilities as there is no space for on-road parking on this single-track road.

No. 10/0091 PROPOSED CONSERVATORY & ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING ANNEXE

Type Full Application

Location Sandwath, Newbiggin-on-Lune

Applicant Mr S Forster

Parish Council No objections

Ravenstonedale War Memorial

The site has been visited by Able Memorials and a quotation for repairs is expected imminently.

Review of Risk Assessment Register (required for audit)

Copies of the current Risk Assessment Register were circulated and individual items checked. It was recommended that training update should be arranged for the nominated Child and Vulnerable Adult Responsible Officer, Alison Morriss.

Quality Parish Status

Application for re-accreditation at the end of the current four-year period.

Ravenstonedale PC believes in the Quality Parish scheme which, with the benefit of a qualified clerk, ensures that the council may run effectively and efficiently. It was noted that, of the seventy-six parishes in Eden District, only four have (had) quality status. It appears that this is very much the national pattern.

To re-apply for the Quality badge would take approximately thirty hours of the Clerk's time. Since the clerk is employed for only thirty hours per month it was not

considered to be the best use of resources. The cost of re-application, including the application fee, clerk's overtime, stationery, etc would be approaching £500. It was felt that it had not been possible to quantify any tangible benefits to the council except the knowledge that nationally recognised standards of performance had been attained. The council is assured that, even without a **Q** badge, standards will be maintained. It was **resolved** not to apply for re-accreditation at this time.

UECP

There was no report from the UECP due to the absence of both Cllr Law (who was on other parish duties) and the Project Officer.

Councillor Training

It had been suggested that councillors should take advantage of CALC's training resources.

It was **resolved** that a date should be booked towards the end of May for a local training session at a cost of £75.00.

Allotments - Newbiggin-on-Lune

The offer of private facilities for allotments had been withdrawn due to management problems.

Date for April Parish Council Meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting of the council be postponed from 8th to 15th April due to the incapacity of Clerk.

Correspondence received

CALC Circular March 2010 – circulated by e-mail

Local Council Review

Clerks & Councils Direct

EDC Litter Pick campaign

SLCC Newsletter

Open Spaces Society - magazine

ASHTAV – Re-using Rural Buildings of Character for Jobs & Homes

Conference - Kendal Town Hall, Wednesday 21st April

The foregoing items of correspondence were circulated or noted as appropriate

Date of next meeting: Thursday 15th April 2010

Signed _____ Chairman

Date 15th April 2010