

RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 10th March 2011 in Ravenstonedale High Chapel Room at 7.30pm

Present Cllr Caroline Morris (Chairman) Cllrs Helen Shields, Paul Capstick,
James Richardson and Ernest Leach.
Clerk. Chris Elphick

Apologies for Absence had been received from Cllrs Hilary Law , Alison Morriss, County Councillor Peter Thornton, UECF Project Officer, Libby Bateman and District Councillor George Boustead

Declarations of Interest

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 10th February 2011 had been circulated and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Local Council Elections 5th May 2011

It was reported that a pack explaining procedures to be followed would shortly be with the Clerk who will distribute the information before the next meeting.

HMRC – New PAYE Regulations.

HMRC has issued a new directive that, from April 5th 2011, all parish councils must become registered as employers and pay the clerk's salary through a PAYE scheme. The Clerk has always been an employee, with a Contract of Employment, but due to the small sums involved previous legislation permitted one annual return to be made. The Clerk has hitherto been paid monthly by Standing Order to minimise administrative costs.

It was **resolved** that an Imprest Account be opened for payment of salary and PAYE by the Clerk. This would have a fixed maximum balance which would be replenished as necessary by authorised signatories.

It was further **resolved** that the Clerk's hours be increased by one hour per month from April 2011 to compensate for the additional work involved. It was noted that external accounting firms would charge substantially more to carry out the work.

Ravenstonedale High Chapel

There has been little activity during the past month while Listed Building Consent to remove pews etc is awaited. A structural survey is to be carried out to assess the viability of constructing toilets at ground level outside the south end of the building . Some superfluous furniture items have been sold and the income allocated to the Council's chapel fund. Ravenstonedale Parish History Group continues to meet in the upper room on Thursday afternoons.

Finance

Sum received

Sale of chapel furniture items	£60.00
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Accounts for Payment

C J Elphick – Expenses per detailed account	£ 450.67
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Planning Applications

No. 11/0079	Proposed Stock Shed
Type	Full Application
Location	Field Ref. 6852 North of A685, Newbiggin-on-Lune
Applicant	Mr P Wilson
Parish Council	No objections

Scandal Beck Green

A Grant Application has been made to CWMET for a grant of £6,000 towards the becksides wall reinstatement

Highways

Wall, Land & Trees opposite Scar Gallery – no further news since last month's meeting with Cumbria Highways Area Engineer, Rob Lawley

The public seat on the roadside at Garshill was damaged beyond repair by a motor vehicle during the Christmas period. The Clerk has now received evidence, from more than one source, identifying the vehicle and naming the driver. Contact has been made with the offender but cost of reinstatement has not been forthcoming. It was **resolved** that solicitors be engaged to pursue the debt.

Eden District Council has informed the Parish Council that, due to the excessive amount of litter surrounding the litter bin in the A685 layby, it has decided to remove the bin in an attempt to encourage motorists to take their litter home "for a trial period". It was noted that the PC had received no consultation on this matter.

Upper Eden Community Plan Group

The Clerk reported on a meeting with Tom Woof, Chairman of UECP, during which a number of amendments to the draft Articles of Association of the proposed Community Interest Company were agreed.

There has been no response from NALC regarding the legality of delegating decision making on behalf of a Parish Council to a single councillor who is a Director of the CIC, which appears to be contrary to section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972. It was suggested that a CIC might be unnecessary for the group and went beyond the original concept of a group of councils acting together in order to have a stronger voice to provoke the appropriate bodies into action on Local Plan issues.

A Constitution such as that employed by the Cumbria Association of Local Councils was suggested as a possible alternative to a CIC.

It was **resolved** that a proposal be put to the members of UECP that a simple Constitution would be adequate to formally unite the UECP Group of Councils.

Public Participation

There were no contributions from members of the public

Correspondence received

CALC – Circular, March 2011

Clerks & Councils Direct

EALC – Meeting in Council Chamber, Penrith TH, Monday 28th March @ 7.00pm

The foregoing items were noted or circulated as appropriate.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 14th April 2011

Signed _____ Chairman

Date 14th April 2011