

RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 8th September 2011 in Ravenstonedale High Chapel Room at 7.30pm

Present Ernest Leach (Chairman) Cllrs Helen Shields, Paul Capstick, James Richardson, Hilary Law and Alex Watts-Tobin.
Clerk. Chris Elphick
District Councillor Ian Torkington (part)
UECP Project Officer Libby Bateman
Two members of the public

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Hilary Law, Alison Morriss, and County Councillor Peter Thornton.

Declarations of Interest

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 14th July 2011 had been circulated and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Ravenstonedale High Chapel

It is proposed to mount an exhibition of traditional crafts in the hall to coincide with National Heritage Weekend September 10th & 11th.

The Clerk is to establish what licences are required for occupation of the building and register with the rating authority to get a rateable value, then to apply for available rebates.

A "Time Capsule" had been discovered in the base of the pulpit comprising copies of newspapers (Daily Telegraph and Cumberland & Westmorland Herald) for the date of its installation in High Chapel – November 25th 1967.

Finance

An "Unqualified" report has been received from the External Auditor for 2010-2011. This means that there are no queries to answer.

Accounts paid prior to meeting

Neptune (Replacement seat at Garshill)	£758.40
A Kirby (Grasscutting)	£708.00
Atkinson's (High Chapel renovation)	£146.84
Hodgson (High Chapel renovation)	£122.88

Sums Received

Electricity North West (Wayleave)	£ 14.86
-----------------------------------	---------

Accounts for Payment

Steven Hodgson Tree Services Ltd	£354.00
BDO Stoy Hayward (Audit)	£162.00
C J Elphick (Clerk's Expenses)	£222.34
EDC (Election Expenses 2011)	£ 70.00
Atkinson's (High Chapel renovation)	£245.69
C J Elphick (Electric Centre)	£105.08

Planning Applications

No. 11/0527 Erection of First Floor Extension
Type Full Application
Location Stable Cottage, Coldbeck
Applicant Mr & Mrs J & DM Pike
Parish Council Queried the visual impact of the proposed development, within the conservation area of Ravenstonedale and the adequacy of parking facilities. These matters had been echoed by District Councillor Ian Torkington.

Notification had been received from Cumbria County Council of a Proposed Diversion of Public Bridleways No. 358073 & 358081 at Intake. No objection was raised.

Ravenstonedale Parish History Group

Members continue to meet in the High Chapel Room on Thursday afternoons. A number of enquiries have been received from people researching family history. Monthly talks resume on Wednesday 21st September.

R-dale to N-o-L Cycleway

New design drawing had been received from Highways, showing the proposed route following the field boundary wall thus separating the cycleway from the main carriageway. It is hoped that the project may be implemented in the foreseeable future.

Upper Eden Community Plan Group (UECP)

Libby Bateman outlined the objectives and management structure of the Upper Eden Neighbourhood Plan. This included an invitation to comment on amendments to the draft EDC Local Plan. There was broad support for the proposals but councillors were not unanimous. It was recommended that individual councillors should respond as individuals. This may be done online.

Libby also updated the council on the current proposals for provision of high speed Broadband in Upper Eden, particularly with reference to the Fell End working group.

Proposed donation of memorial seat for Scandal Beck play area

A family with local connections spanning several generations had noted the lack of seating in the Scandal Beck play area. Seating is a part of the overall plan for the area but has, to date, not been provided due to lack of funds.

Members of the Akrigg family of High Stennerskeugh have offered to finance the purchase and installation of a seat in the play area. The offer has been gratefully accepted. It is suggested that a seat of the same pattern as that recently replaced at Garshill should be provided.

Millennium Field

A request had been received from the landlord of the newly refurbished Kings Head to permit the occasional erection of a marquee to accommodate Wedding Parties, etc on the Millennium Field. The request included "very occasional" landing of a visitor's helicopter on the field.

The Millennium Field is leased from the Carlisle Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd. The lease states that it is for "use as a sports field for the benefit of the local community of Ravenstonedale".

It was considered that the proposed activities would not fit the lease conditions.

Public Participation

There were no contributions from members of the public

Annual review of Clerk's pay & conditions from 1st April 2011

It was noted that, despite the Clerk's contract of employment containing a clause requiring an annual review of pay and conditions, no review had been carried out since 1st April 2009. During that two year period the clerk's workload has increased substantially. Lately the Inland Revenue has insisted that all parish councils, however small, must register as employers and account for PAYE, whereas there had previously been an agreement that due to the minimal sums involved clerks could make their own annual return. Getting the Council registered and the subsequent monthly form filling is another additional chore.

It was **resolved** that the Clerk's working hours be increased to forty per calendar month and that the hourly rate be rounded up by 6.8 pence to the nearest pound. The increase to be backdated to 1st April 2011.

Correspondence received

Clerks & Councils Direct
Eden Association of Local Councils – AGM 12th September, Penrith Town Hall
e-on – new electricity tariff
Registration of Births, Deaths & Marriages – Cumbria changes
Charity Gala Evening – Chairmen invited 22nd October, Penrith.
CCC – Departments Structure

Date of next meeting: Thursday 13th October 2011

Signed _____ Chairman Date 13th October 2011