

RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 8th November in Ravenstonedale Community & Heritage Centre at 7.30pm

Present Ernest Leach (Chairman) Cllrs, Alex Watts-Tobin, Hilary Law, and Helen Shields
Clerk. Chris Elphick
District Councillor Ian Torkington, Broadband Champion, Libby Bateman and Caroline Morris, St Oswald's PCC.

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

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 October 2012 had been circulated and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Ravenstonedale Community & Heritage Centre

The new central heating system is almost complete and will enable use of the building throughout the winter.

John Bunney has refurbished the Hewetson/Bunney grave, renewing an existing inscription and adding new side inscriptions. Also paving the entire surface for ease of maintenance. Mr Bunney indicated that he would be making a further donation towards the graveyard maintenance, particularly in the vicinity of his family plot.

It has been suggested that the flower/shrub bed along the north east wall be levelled and grassed (except for a weigela bush in the front corner) for tidiness and ease of future maintenance. Cost of £360 has been quoted.

Play Areas

Newbiggin-on-Lune

The Annual Inspection report had been received. Only minor points were to be remedied and a barbecue to be removed. Disability access latch on main entrance gate to has been damaged and is to be replaced.

Scandal Beck Green

The Annual Inspection report had been received. No action was required except for surface on footbridge.

Unauthorised works to footbridge

Without the knowledge or consent of the council, a layer of chicken wire had been fixed to the surface of the footbridge, presumably to improve traction when wet.

On discovering this action, advice was sought from Cumbria CC footpaths officers who stated that chicken wire was unsuitable in these circumstances and could create problems. The bridge was immediately closed for safety reasons.

Subsequently the playground inspector reported that the wire should be removed immediately. The wire has since been removed and the bridge will be reopened as soon as the surface has been pressure washed.

Issues

Work was carried out on council property without the council's knowledge or consent. This constitutes a civil tort of Trespass.

The work was carried out by untrained, presumably uninsured, personnel. This could invalidate the parish council's insurance.

This unauthorised unilateral action, however well intentioned, has caused great inconvenience to users of the play area.

There has also been the cost of professional removal and considerable waste of officer time and mileage.

Ravenstonedale School

The school had received the offer of sixty saplings to be planted in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Liz Hutchinson has approached the council seeking suggestions for suitable locations. The saplings are of several species including one Royal Oak.

It was suggested that some might be accommodated on the edges of the Millennium Field. This would need the agreement of the field committee.

Finance

Sums received

HMRC (VAT reclaim) £1,585.73

Accounts paid prior to this meeting

Stephenson & Wilson (Oil Tank base) £ 582.00

Gary Sedgwick (Interim Heating payment) £8,400.00

Accounts for payment

Steven Hodgson (Playground repairs) £ 144.00

Keith Pratt (Gutter Cleaning etc) £ 218.98

e-on (C&HC) Estimated a/c

C J Elphick (Month 8) £ 472.60

HMRC (Month 8) £ 7.40

C J Elphick (Month 9) £ 472.40

HMRC (Month 9) £ 7.60

The foregoing accounts were approved for payment.

Upper Eden First Responders

The annual return had been filed with Eden District Council in respect of the 100 Club lottery run by the First Responders.

It was noted that the parish council has not otherwise used the licence for several years. Suggestion was made that the PC pay the cost for the First Responders to have their own licence, thereby saving on administration.

It was **resolved** to continue with the existing arrangements.

Great North Air Ambulance

A request for funding was received from the Great North Air Ambulance Charity.

It was **resolved** to donate the sum of one hundred pounds.

Fell End Broadband

The Clerk had been nominated as potential TalkTalk Digital Hero for the North West region by Rory Stewart MP. Libby Bateman won the award in 2011. Potentially the prize of £5,000 would be available to the Fell End project.

Public Participation

Caroline Morris said that the PCC was contemplating having a "Brown Sign" erected to direct visitors to St Oswald's and the Gilbertine ruins. Caroline asked if the parish council would be prepared to make a contribution to the costs involved.

It was considered that the request was premature and that a plan indicating the attractions and facilities offered should first be prepared.

Correspondence & Publications Received

CALC Circular – November 2012 – Annual Report 2012

Came & Company Insurance "Parish Matters"

Clerks & Councils Direct

Date of next meeting Thursday 10th January 2013

Signed _____ Chairman

Date 10th January 2013