

## RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015 in Ravenstonedale Community & Heritage Centre at 7.30pm

**Present** Cllr Ernest Leach (Chairman) Cllrs, James Richardson, Hilary Law and Helen Shields  
Clerk, Chris Elphick  
District Councillor Ian Torkington  
County Councillor Libby Bateman  
Ten members of the public

**Apologies for absence** had been received from Alex Watts-Tobin, Alison Morriss and Paul Capstick

#### **Declarations of Interest**

There were the following declarations of personal or prejudicial interest in the following items on this agenda.

Cllr Ernest Leach declared an interest in planning application 14/0924. He owns an adjoining property.

Cllr Hilary Law declared an interest in planning application 14/1067. She  
Cllrs Leach, Law and James Richardson declared non-prejudicial interests in the proposed closure of Ravenstonedale Endowed School. They represent Ravenstonedale Educational Foundation.

**Minutes of the Meeting** held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014 had been circulated and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **Public Participation**

Several members of the public were concerned that Cumbria County Highways had expressed the intention to demolish the historic Tarn Bridge at Town Head, Ravenstonedale.

John Bell, Cumbria Highways Area Engineer, had attended a site meeting on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January at which he explained the structural condition of the bridge due to erosion undercutting the supporting structure. The cost of rebuilding, even if possible, would run to tens of thousands of pounds and was not within the County Highways budget. A wooden replacement bridge had been proposed by Highways. Mr Bell, following representations from residents, had agreed that, since the bridge was not considered immediately liable to collapse, it would be inspected at six-month intervals to monitor its condition for the foreseeable future.

#### **Cumbria County Council closure of Ravenstonedale School**

Ravenstonedale Endowed Primary School is effectively closed, due to there being no pupils at the present time. The school is no longer open to new admissions, leaving Ravenstonedale without a catchment area school. The anomaly is that, to officially close a school, the County Council is obliged to carry out a time consuming consultation process which will last until April 2015.

Meanwhile Cumbria County Council, which would be obliged to provide free transport to the nearest or catchment school, is insisting on charging parents for school transport.

Parents are objecting to these charges.

It was **resolved** that the Parish Council write to the County Council in support of the parents' claim for free school transport.

## Planning

Notice had been received from EDC Planning Department that, from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015, all plans will be sent out in A3 or A4 format which will not necessarily be to scale.

No. 14/0993 Fell Monkey Puzzle tree due to shading of greenhouse  
Type Tree Works (CA)  
Location Coldbeck House, Ravenstonedale CA17 4LW  
Applicant Mr Chris Kelley  
Parish Council Would regret the loss of this tree of special character. **GRANTED**

Elm Lodge, Ravenstonedale. **Tree Preservation Order (TPO) confirmed.**

14/0924 Change of use of an agricultural building to a cottage with associated operational development  
Type Change of use PD/PN (Class JKLM)  
Location Agricultural Barn, Clouds Lane, Ravenstonedale CA17 4LL  
Applicant Ms L Brook  
Parish Council No objections

14/1067 Rebuilding of storage shed on same footprint and retrospective change of use of land to builders yard  
Type Full Application  
Location Land at High Lane, Newbiggin-on-Lune CA17 4NY  
Applicant T A Law  
Parish Council No objections

## Precept for 2015-2016

The Clerk circulated a draft budget for consideration. A particular variable item concerned the potential costs for a council election in 2015. Information received from Eden District Council indicated that the sums involved could be from £160.00 to £650.00 dependent on the number of candidates.

It was **resolved** that the Precept for 2015-2016 remain unchanged from the previous year at £20,000.

## Finance

### Accounts paid prior to meeting

N-o-L playground rent £ 100.00

### Accounts for Payment

C J Elphick (Month 10) £ 480.00

Allan Stobart Fuels £ 346.08

C J Elphick (Expenses to 31/12/14) £170.32

C J Elphick (SLCC subs 50%) £ 74.50

The foregoing Items were approved for payment

## Ravenstonedale Community & Heritage Centre

The installation of the Emergency Exit from the hall and associated works have now been completed.

## Fell End Broadband

More Properties have now been connected to the Superfast Broadband system.

Final application to Defra/BDUK fund.

Chris Elphick and Libby Bateman had met with a Defra representative to check compliance with the conditions of the BDUK grant. Full compliance was confirmed .

### **Commons Registration Update**

It was noted that an amendment had been made to the Town & Village Green registration scheme as detailed in the Commons Act 2006 - Schedule 3. It will be considered whether the Council's land at Scandal Beck and the Shrubbery should be registered.

### **Annual review of staff salaries**

It was **resolved** that the Clerk's salary be amended in accordance with the new new NALC pay scale SCP 27 rounded up to the nearest 50p.

It was noted that there were additional duties with constant revisions of government legislation to be assimilated - Transparency code, New Local Audit Regulations etc.

### **Publications & Correspondence Received**

CALC Circular - December/January - circulated

CALC letter to Eric Pickles MP re. Unitary Cumbria

Eden Housing Association - statement of available services

Local Government, England - Statutory Instrument (SI) 2014/2095 "The Openness of

Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014"

NALC - Quality Council Award Scheme 2015

The foregoing publications were noted.

**Date of next meeting** Thursday 12 February 2015