

BOTHEL AND THREAPLAND PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of Bothel & Threapland Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Bothel on Tuesday 14th July, 2020 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

S. Austin
G. Bowe
K. Nelson
R. Teasdale
N. Todhunter (Chair)
R. Watson

Also Present:

J. Lister, Allerdale Borough Councillor
One member of the public
J. Rae (Clerk)

As the Annual Meeting scheduled for 12th May had been cancelled due to the Coronavirus Pandemic (Covid 19) in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 the appointments of Chair (Councillor N. Todhunter) and Vice Chair (Councillor R. Teasdale) will remain until May 2021.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr A. Bowness, Cumbria County Councillor.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING 10 MARCH 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March, 2020 were agreed as a true record and were then signed by the Chairman.
The Chairman reported that due to Covid 19 the item relating to co-option of new members had been deferred until a future meeting.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman recorded his thanks to residents who had provided assistance to the vulnerable in the parish in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Local traders were also thanked for their continual support bringing supplies into the villages.

Repairs had been carried out on the public bridleway at Bank Lonning. Thanks were relayed to Cllr Bowe for carrying out this work

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No matters were raised.

6. REPORTS

- (a) Allerdale Borough Councillor: Cllr Lister reported that due to the Covid 19 pandemic the Borough Council had seen a substantial loss of income which had resulted in approximately £2.5 million being used from reserves. Cllr Lister also reported that talks on a potential devolution deal for Cumbria had been stepped up by the Government.
- (b) Cumbria County Councillor: Cllr Bowness was not present at the meeting.
- (c) Cumbria Police – The Police Newsletter for the Maryport, Aspatria, Silloth and Wigton areas had been circulated prior to the meeting.

7. COMMUNITY FUND

RESOLVED that the following accounts be paid from the Community Fund:

- (a) Expenses towards support for vulnerable people in the parish during the Covid 19 pandemic. One claim had been received amounting to £50.00
- (b) Repairs to bridleways – Repairs had been carried out on Bank Lonning £408.00
- (c) DJ Web Design – Annual Hosting Fee £100.00
- (d) St Michael's Church Annual Donation towards the churchyard maintenance - £500.00

8. FINANCE

- (a) The financial report as at 31st March, 2020 had been circulated with the agenda.

Bank Balances at 31st March 2020

HSBC £ 3,551.86

CBS £57,341.93

Income Received

Allerdale Borough Council

Half Yearly Precept £3,000.00

Electricity North West - Wayleave £ 30.71

Balances 30th June 2020

HSBC £ 6,201.45

CBS £56,933.93

- (b) Payment of Accounts

The following accounts were authorised for payment:

Clerk's account Quarter 1 £539.60

HMRC PAYE Quarter 1 £104.40

Internal Auditor £ 85.00

CALC Annual Subscription £153.25

Zurich Insurance –

Annual Insurance paid 1 June 2020 £381.12

9 ANNUAL AUDIT

The internal audit had been carried out with no issues identified.

- (i) Annual Governance Statement – Members considered the Annual Governance Statement and agreed that arrangements are in place for effective financial management and the accounting statements are prepared in accordance with Accounts and Audit Regulations. RESOLVED that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement.
- (ii) Accounting Statement 2019/20 – Members agreed that the Accounting Statement in the annual return fairly represents the financial position of the parish council. RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to sign the annual return.
- (iii) Certificate of Exemption - Members resolved that the Certificate of Exemption should be signed by the Chairman and Clerk certifying that the Parish Council is exempt from a limited assurance review and during the financial year 2019/20 the gross income for the year or gross annual expenditure for the year did not exceed £25,000.
- (iv) Period of Exercise of Public Rights – Members noted that the period for the exercise of public rights will commence on 1st August and will end on 12th September, 2020. A notice will be displayed on the parish notice boards notifying electors of their rights to inspect the accounts.
- (v) Publication on website – The Clerk reported the requisite documents will be added to the parish council's website

10. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence received since the last meeting had been circulated.

Cumbria Police – Newsletter Maryport, Aspatria, Silloth & Wigton May - June 2020
CALC - Coronavirus — information for parish and town councils
Cumbria CC - North Allerdale Traffic Regulation Order Review
CALC - Coronavirus and other Updates
CALC - Update on community building opening advice
Allerdale BC - Footway Lighting
CALC - Updated Changes to Bus Services across Cumbria
CALC - Corporate message – HWRC Re-opening
Cumbria CC - Allerdale Speed Limits - Bothel, Seaton and Great Broughton
The Chairman reported that the consultation on the proposed 50mph speed limit to replace the existing national speed limit on the A595 through Bothel due to take place at the end of March/early April had been postponed due to Covid 19 restrictions. Cumbria County Council had advised that the consultation will now take place in early September with all households in Bothel receiving information on the proposal. As the parish council is still unable to hold a public meeting it was suggested that an article be included in the local magazine to inform residents of the upcoming consultation.

11. PLANNING

(a) Applications received:

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Appeal under Section 78
Site at Skiddaw View Caravan Park Bothel
Proposal for 18 holiday lodges and associated access road
Appeal Ref: APP/G0908/W/20/3248232

FUL/2020/0073 – Barn south of Walmer House
Concreting of hardstanding to front and side of existing barn

FUL/2020/0122 – Overgates Mealsgate
Creation of new replacement access and track and fence

(b) Decisions:
None

12. HIGHWAYS

The following matters were reported:

Pot hole on the Bothel to Threapland road just passed the gas works

Blocked drain on School Lane causing water to run down onto the A595 via the pub car park

A number of caravans for sale signs have appeared in the area. The Clerk was requested to report this to the Borough Council's Planning Dept.

An update on the following matters was noted:

Flooding on the highway at Bothel – Highways had checked and cleared their drains. The water is emanating from a pond on the homeowner's land. The Parish Council will take this up with the homeowner.

Cones on the A595 - No progress has been made with the blocked drains at this location.

North Allerdale TRO Review – Highways had advised that a site visit was undertaken and the areas put forward by the Parish Council were reviewed but Highways will not be taking any proposals forward at this time. Members agreed to monitor the areas following the lifting of Covid 19 restrictions.

13. FOOTWAY LIGHTING

Further to minute ref 101 CALC had requested legal advice as to whether the Borough Council can legally enforce the transfer of responsibility for the footway lights in the parish. The advice had concluded that parishes will either contribute or the Borough Council will stop power to the footway lights. The annual cost for the lights in the parish will be £985. The charges will be effective from April 2021. This will amount to an increase in the parish precept of approximately 25%. The Parish Council has the option to have the lights removed. Members discussed whether some of the costs should be met from the Community Fund. It was agreed that as the Community Fund is not in perpetuity that costs should not be met from the Community Fund and should be met solely from the precept.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions the Parish Council is unable to hold a public meeting it was suggested that an article be included in the local magazine asking for parishioners' views on the Borough Council's proposals.

The Borough Council had confirmed that the footway lighting costs on the new housing development at Old Chapel Close will be the developer's responsibility and the costs will not fall onto the Parish Council. The Borough Council had suggested that Cumbria County Council may adopt the lights. A query was raised from this suggestion that if unitary authority goes ahead could the costs then be passed back to the parish council. Cllr Lister agreed to make enquiries and report back. Cllr Lister was also requested to enquire if the lights are switched off who is responsible if a member of the public trips or falls.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Bi-Monthly Meeting - 8th September, 2020

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Signed.....Date.....