

GOSFORTH . PARISH . COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Gosforth Parish Council held on Wednesday, 11th January 2017 at 7.30pm in the Supper Room of the Public Hall.

Present: Cllr T Norman (Chair); Cllr C Walton (Vice Chair); Cllr D Ancell;
Cllr D Gray; Cllr G Hutson; Cllr A Jacob; Cllr P Turner

Apologies: Cllr D Hobson; Cllr G Parker; Cllr M McKinley; Cllr I Rae

Also present: Phil Hallington, Head of Policy, Sellafield Ltd
Shirley Fawcett, Head of Public Affairs
Jane Murray, Clerk

01/17 Declarations of Interest

None received

02/17 Minutes

Resolved- that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record.

03/17 Emergency Exercise

The Chair welcomed Phil Hallington, Head of Policy at Sellafield Ltd, and Shirley Fawcett, Head of Public Affairs, to the meeting. Their visit was in response to the cascade alert system being activated late at night during the emergency exercise held on 29 November 2016.

Mr Hallington explained that the exercise was a high level exercise, for which the timing was unannounced and for which the scenario was increasingly challenging in reflection of the increased security risks. It was observed by the nuclear regulators.

As part of the duty team, both he and Shirley had been summoned and took control of the incident at Summergrove control room, as Sellafield was under lock down.

It is standard procedure that the automated alert system is activated when the siren is sounded. However, the responsible person on this occasion was under lockdown on another part of the site and it was only when limited movement was permitted at 2330h, that he could move to the area where he could activate the cascade system and did so.

These events were not visible to the control team at Summergrove and apologies were offered to those who were caused distress, particularly those with frail relatives who had feared the worst in receiving a call at that time of night. It was also acknowledged that there had not been appropriate information on the helpline or website.

Apologies were received and noted. Some had felt that they had been reassured not disturbed by the call, but another suggestion was that the cascade system could be used to alert people to the exercise (rather than just an advertisement in the paper).

Gosforth Parish Council accepted an invitation to become involved in an emergency planning stakeholder group, which would be convened to consider communication issues with the local community. It was thought that these would take place in the evening and details would be communicated via the Clerk.

For the record, emergency exercises for 2017 would take place on 4th May; 19th September; 4th October and 1st November.

The Chair thanked Mr Hallington and Mrs Fawcett for attending.

04/17 Planning Matters

Bankfield – this was a small extension to the ground floor rear and the addition of a window to the upper rear to accommodate an upstairs bathroom.

Resolved – to support the application subject to any comments that might be made directly by neighbours (none having been received to the Council).

Bradbury House – representatives of Gosforth nursery and primary school were in attendance and were invited to speak. They supported the application, however, had concerns about the loss of privacy and associated safeguarding issues arising from the proposed upper floor terrace; about the proposal for yellow lines from the school down to Bradbury House, which would displace parking problems and disrupt drops off and pick ups; and of a potential for further placing strain on the sewers, the current load already proving problematic.

Also present was a representative from Bradbury House, who added that they were going to look at the terrace issue. It had been included owing to the positive effect that being outdoors had on Alzheimer patients, but there was the potential for screening. There was a proposal for an on-site meeting the following week with representatives from Abbeyfield.

Although generally supportive of the project, the Parish Council did want to see these issues, which had recently raised, resolved before moving forward.

The clerk added for the record (and for the benefit of those present) that, at the previous meeting, it had been agreed to voice a concern about any potential loss of existing services, such as day care or respite care, to the wider community in light of a greater on-site presence.

Of other issues, it was felt that there needed further consideration of the balance of rent to buy, given the results of the housing needs survey carried out, and that local occupancy should be considered although it was accepted that the clients were likely to be based between Egremont and Millom.

Resolved –

- 1) That the Council should object to the application until an opportunity had been had to resolve the objections raised by the school and nursery.
- 2) That the Clerk should contact the planning officer to suggest an on-site meeting to facilitate a resolution.

If the issues are resolved, the Parish Council would support the application, subject to the above (wider) comments.

Adjacent Hillcrest

The Clerk noted that there had been several responses from neighbours, none of whom supported the application. The responses had been circulated to Councillors. For the record, there had been recurring themes:

Access – unsuitable for construction traffic; unsuitable for extra load; no passing places; bad left-hand turn down hill; potential for obstructing emergency vehicles, united utilities vehicles; other field users; potential liability in the event of an accident of any authority authorising the development.

Flooding – land is often marshy and water logged; alleged flooded during storm Desmond; close to flood zone; questioning about independent sewerage if below the water table.

Inaccuracies – not adjacent to Hill Crest; plans not up-to-date with recent approved applications; Fell View is not a holiday park.

In respect to inaccuracies, the Parish Council also noted that the proposed new houses were not to scale.

The Parish Council shared the quite serious concerns about the access road, although were not necessarily against some limited development to that side of the village. They suggested that there should be a site visit by the planning committee to try and resolve the issue.

The applicant sought some clarification and added that a smaller development might also be possible, however the Parish Council were unclear as to how the access issue was to be resolved. They informed the applicant that they had also raised this issue with other recent planning applications.

Resolved – that the Clerk should voice the concerns over access to the Authority and request a site visit.

Sellafield

A planning application for comment had been received from Copeland by a neighbouring authority and the Chairman had made representations for Gosforth Parish Council to be consulted, given the nature of the applications which were for interim storage of nuclear fuel. His response had been received and was noted. It was also noted that Copeland Borough Council had agreed to consult the Parish Council on future such applications.

Approvals

The clerk noted that the planning application for a garage at Talloaks, and the retrospective planning application for Kellbank, had been approved.

05/17 Mid-Copeland Fund Approval

There had been a request to Mid-Copeland representatives for Seascale Bowling Club to receive a £500 grant. Further correspondence established that the only the representatives required to authorise the grant and they had done so. It was noted that Gosforth Parish Council had put in a request for £500 towards the refurbishment of the fire doors at Gosforth Public Hall.

It was agreed that any further requests received by the Mid-copeland group would be circulated by the Parish Council's representative for comment prior to any approval.

06/17 Meetings

It was agreed that Cllr T Norman and Cllr P Turner attend the 3-tier meeting on 26th January at 6.30pm in Egremont Market Hall.

07/17 Nuclear Issues

In light of the recent planning applications, Cllr Hutson had prepared a written briefing. He felt that interim storage was a solution for 20-30 years. However, noting that this fuel would not be reprocessed with Thorpe shutting in 2018 and Magnox in 2020, he did have concerns if there was to be no solution to a longer-term storage facility. He would continue to keep the Council briefing from stakeholder meetings.

Others felt that if there was to be an on-site storage solution, then this should be on similar terms and conditions as the Low Level Waste Depository.

08/17 Finance Committee Feedback

There had been a meeting on 4 January 2017. The Library costs for the year had been approximately £1,100. It was also noted that the Clerk had been contacted by British Telecom to say that they were planning to remove the telephone kiosk and attention drawn to a possible defibrillator option. In spite of a scheme to provide the defibrillator and the paint, it was clear there were other costs involved, but it was agreed to at least make enquiries.

Thus far, although the final precept would be tabled to the February meeting, it was looking like an increase in the region of 2.25%.

09/17 Questions from Councillors

It was asked whether a decision had been reached on the Wheatsheaf and advised that the Lake District Planning Authority was to take a decision on 1st February 2017.

It was noted that some debris had been left at the end of Meadowfield. The Clerk advised that she asked Copeland Borough Council to remove and would remind them.

10/17 Correspondence

CNC police had been in contact with respect to Project Servator. While generally supportive, there were concerns over the signs and it was requested that they should come and speak to the Council.

WW1 Beacon project: the Parish Council did not feel that a Beacon was necessarily the way forward, but asked that the information be passed to Des Hobson for any other potential supporting ideas.

The Forestry Commission were to close part of Bleng Forest for a short period for felling operations. The Parish Council were supportive provided that limitations on the time when they could come through the village, reminders about the speed in the village and any damage to footpaths be put right.

11/17 Items in Camera

None received.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.