

# Gosforth Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held online on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7pm

## PRESENT

Mark Fussell (MF) – Chairman

## Councillors

Rachel Unsworth (RU) – Vice Chair

Paul Turner (PT)

David Gray (DG)

Others: Jacqueline Williams (Clerk), and a member of the public.

Mike McKinley (MM)

Graham Hutson (GH)

Dawn Pennington (DP)

### 062/21 Apologies for Absence

**RESOLVED** that apologies be received from Cllr. Norman and the reason noted. Cllr. Andy Pratt also sent his apologies.

### 063/21 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Turner declared an interest in items 6, 10 and 16 as he is a member of both planning committees and the Scrutiny Management Board.

### 064/21 Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021, pages 105 to 107, be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### 065/21 Public Participation

A member of the public addressed the meeting on the subject of the project to restore the original course of the River Irt. The work is being carried out by the West Cumbria Rivers Trust and involves changes to the footpath and the removal of Fishermans Bridge which is the last remaining wooden bridge over the River Irt. Opposition to the removal of the bridge was posted on social media and received widespread support and there is disappointment that the proposed new route for the footpath is well away from the riverbank. The local resident believes that Sellafield were responsible for straightening the river and should be approached for funding to replace the bridge.

Cllr. Fussell explained that as this was not on the agenda the Parish Council are unable to discuss the issue in full, however it will be placed on the agenda for May. Cllr. Fussell commented that he had met with the WCRT and a gentleman from the Angling Club. The Parish Council will have an opportunity to comment at the planning application stage, however he said it was useful to get public opinion at this early stage. Cllr. Fussell said he would look into Sellafield's involvement and the issue would be discussed in full at the May meeting.

**Action: MF**

### 066/21 County Councillor and District Councillors' Reports

Cllr. Turner passed on Cllr. Pratt's comments about the school catchment consultation which he is encouraging everyone to respond to as individuals.

Cllr. Turner has raised the issue of the condition of the roads throughout the village and explained the difference between 'surface dressing' and 'patching'. The road to Santon Bridge was patched last

year and will be surface dressed this year and the road out of the village through Wellington will be patched this year and surface dressed next year. An engineer has been tasked to look at the other roads in the village. Cllr. Turner restated that Councillors should continue to report using the online system to help prioritise repairs.

Cllr. Fussell asked about the dropped kerbs. Cllr. Turner said there was a limited budget and the engineers would decide based on location, footfall and whether it would be technically possible. The Parish Council will be given the opportunity to comment when a list has been drawn up.

### **067/21 Planning Applications**

#### **Applications:**

#### **4/21/2116 Bleawath**

Councillors discussed the new access and the lack of options available. The only alternative that had been mentioned was joining with the access to Silver How but Cllr. Gray pointed out that it would take a lot of civil work as the ground was very low at that point.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk respond with no objections but with a recommendation that the Highways Authority be consulted and that a speed restriction be considered. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Gray suggested that a letter be sent to the resident who had raised an issue. Councillors agreed that her concern be noted but does not influence the planning application. **Action: Clerk**

#### **7/2021/4041 Old Hallsteads**

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk respond with no objections.

**Action: Clerk**

#### **7/2021/4044 Land adjacent to Ellerslie**

An extension to the response date had been granted to allow time for Councillors and local residents to study this new application to ascertain whether the points raised previously have been addressed. The application will be discussed at the next meeting in May.

#### **Decisions:**

**4/20/9005 Sellafeld** – land preparation for future waste development - Granted

#### **Other Planning Matters:**

**4/2021/4042 Harecroft Hall** – (for information only) - Granted

### **068/21 Financial Reports**

The Clerk pointed out the underspend on the budget report and the level of reserves. Cllr. Fussell suggested that Councillors think about projects and aspirations to bring to the next meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the Bank Reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 be received and noted.

The Clerk has prepared the Annual Governance & Accountability Return which requires an Internal Audit before it can be presented to the Parish Council for approval. **Action: Clerk**

**RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments be approved for payment.

### **069/21 Local Government Reorganisation**

Cllr. Fussell and the Clerk had attended an online presentation of the four proposals and none made any reference to Parish Councils. Cllrs. Turner and McKinley said there were strong and differing feelings and a consensus was unlikely.

**RESOLVED** that this item be removed from future agendas until further progress is made.

### **070/21 Public Toilets & Car Park**

Cllr. Unsworth had received a message from a local resident regarding the disabled toilet not flushing and being blocked. The Clerk had been in touch with the Cleaner who reported misuse of the toilets and the stiffness of the flushing mechanism on the disabled toilet. Unblock have been called to attend to another blocked toilet and Cllr. Norman has request a quote for the flushing mechanism. It was noted that Cllr. Norman is often called when toilets are blocked and he attends to this usually. A general discussion took place about the management of the toilets. Cllr. Fussell requested a notice be placed in the toilets with contact details to report problems.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk discuss an extra check with the cleaner and install signage.

**Action: Clerk**

### **071/21 Secondary School Allocations**

Cllr. Fussell reiterated that the consultation was now open. Cllr. Hutson raised a question about whether the withdrawal of free transport for Years 12 and 13 impacted on Gosforth. Cllr. Unsworth confirmed that there is a problem as children are now required to stay in education until the age of 18 and there is no provision of transport to colleges or schools, adding it effects at least 5 or 6 children in Gosforth. Cllr. Turner said that catchment is under consultation but post 16 transport is a separate issue. Funding is being made available to improve rural transport which may help but it is a long process.

### **072/21 Tourist Information Point**

Cllr. Gray said that the Tourist Information signs at the crossroads both point towards Seascale and raised the question of whether we want a TIP in the village. Cllrs. Fussell and Unsworth agreed that we did. Cllr. Gray said that the Café are happy to be a TIP. Cllr. Unsworth suggested that the Telephone Box could be an unmanned TIP in addition to the Café. Cllr. McKinley suggested contacting Cumbria Tourism. Cllr. Gray explained that there used to be two notice boards at the Car Park, one he has recently updated, and another supplied by Cumbria Tourism who failed to update it when requested some years ago.

Cllr. Turner offered to look into getting the signs moved.

**Action: PT**

Cllr. Unsworth offered to contact Cumbria Tourism.

**Action: RU**

### **073/21 Telephone Box**

Cllr. Unsworth reported that BT had responded regarding the certificate and the Clerk has agreed to have her name on it. Cllr. Unsworth has been trying to contact GEN II but may have to look at other options as they have not responded. Cllr. Hutson reminded the meeting that the Rotary have offered to help but expected their help would be more cosmetic.

**Action: RU**

### **074/21 Tinkers Hill/Gravel Pit**

Cllr. Fussell had requested the Clerk contact CALC for advice and they had asked if the decision had been minuted. Cllr. Gray confirmed that the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009 recorded the decision. CALC advised caution and to ensure that the Parish Council were not taking on a liability rather than an asset. Cllrs. Gray and Hutson said that the decision had been taken because they believed there was some value in the land. Cllr. Hutson was concerned that the land was not covered by our Public Liability Insurance. The Clerk said that she would follow up on obtaining a copy of the lease and agreed to obtain a valuation.

**Action: Clerk**

### **075/21 Geological Disposal Facility**

Cllr. Hutson reported that he and Cllr. Fussell had attended an online session and highlighted two points of interest. The current outline plan showed an annexe for high level waste which was not in

the original NIREX proposal. Secondly, Cllr. Hutson had pointed out that any local community that is impacted by the transport of waste would be looking for compensation. Cllr. Hutson is to have a follow-up conversation with the facilitator to discuss topics for future meetings. **Action: GH**

**076/21 Community-Led Plan**

Cllr. Fussell said that sub-committee members have held their first meeting. Cllr. Unsworth requested approval for expenditure on printing questionnaires.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council agree to meet the printing costs. **Action: RU**

**077/21 Unauthorised Use of Public Bridleways**

The Clerk reported correspondence from a local resident who had written again regarding Guards Lonning saying that she had already contacted LDNP and felt it was important that the Parish Council do something to protect the walk for local residents.

**078/21 Meetings**

No meetings reported.

**079/21 Councillor Administration** – Nothing to report.

**080/21 Councillor Matters**

Cllr. Hutson reported that the Haverigg team had completed one job and that he, and Cllr. Turner were scoping further jobs for them.

Cllr. Gray reported that the footpath running along the River Bleng is not being looked after and needs the warden to cut back the gorse and attend to the path. The Clerk offered to write to the Countryside Access Officer.

Cllr. Fussell has attended numerous transport meetings, the outcome of which was that we needed community transport champions. Cllr. Fussell had tried to contact Lorraine at ACT with no response.

**081/21 Item in Camera** – none.

**082/21 Parish Council Meetings**

The Clerk said that we may be legally forced to return to face-to-face meetings from 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and we will need to have meetings in the Public Hall as the Library is too small for social distancing. Cllr Turner said there is a legal challenge and we should wait for outcome.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

**Chairman.....Date:.....**