

# Gosforth Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Gosforth Parish Council  
held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at Gosforth Public Hall  
following the Annual Parish Meeting which commenced at 7pm**

## **PRESENT**

**Mark Fussell (MF) – Chairman**

## **Councillors**

**Rachel Unsworth (RU) – Vice Chair**

**David Ancell (DA)**

**Paul Turner (PT)**

**Graham Hutson (GH)**

**David Gray (DG)**

**Others: Andy Pratt, Copeland Borough Council & CALC, Jacqueline Williams (Clerk),  
Chris West (West Cumbria Rivers Trust), a representative from the National Trust and two  
members of the public.**

## **083/21 Apologies for Absence**

**RESOLVED** that apologies be received from Cllrs. Norman, McKinley and Pennington and the reasons noted.

## **084/21 Election of Chairman**

**RESOLVED** that Cllr. Mark Fussell be elected Chairman – Proposed: David Gray – Seconded: Graham Hutson and agreed by all.

## **085/21 Acceptance of Office of the Chairman**

**RESOLVED** that the Acceptance of Office of the Chairman be received and witnessed by the Clerk.

## **086/21 Election of Vice Chair**

**RESOLVED** that Cllr. Rachel Unsworth be elected Vice Chair – Proposed: Mark Fussell – Seconded: Graham Hutson and agreed by all.

## **087/21 Other Appointments**

Cllr. Pratt confirmed that Mid Copeland Parish Partnership are not meeting at present, and he will inform the Clerk when they re-start so that a representative from the Parish Council can be appointed.

**RESOLVED** that Councillors named in the attached list be appointed to the Finance Committee; the Village Care Committee; to external groups; to liaison roles and as appointed representatives and Trustees to the Public Hall and the Playing Field.

## **088/21 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Turner declared an interest in any items on Lake District National Park planning and rights of way.

### **089/21 Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021.**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021, pages 108 to 111, be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **090/21 County Councillor and District Councillors' Reports**

Cllr. Turner had nothing to report. Cllr. Pratt reported that Peter McCall had been re-elected as Police & Crime Commissioner with 53.5% of the vote. There will be a 3 Tier meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May, chaired by Copeland BC with various items including GDF, Copeland Local Plan and County Highways. The meeting will be via Zoom and a link will be circulated. Copeland BC's AGM had been deferred due to the elections. All decision making or constitutional meetings will now be face-to-face, but briefings may continue to be virtual. Cllr. Pratt said that Jackie O'Reilly, Copeland's Public Protection Manager, can be contacted for advice on any public health matters.

Cllr. Hutson commented that the next GDF webinar is going to be on geology and the facilitator is going to make them more interactive.

Cllr. Gray asked about schools and whether the 300 new houses being built in Whitehaven will have any impact on West Lakes Academy allocations. Cllr. Pratt said that the houses will not be in the WLA catchment area, but they will put pressure on Whitehaven school places. Cllr. Turner reported that the consultation had just closed and received 232 responses which is better than last year.

### **091/21 Planning Applications**

#### **Applications:**

#### **7/2021/4052 The Lion & Lamb – decking with timber balustrade**

Councillors discussed their concerns regarding highway safety with reduced visibility and the potential of visual distraction from the outside screens, pedestrian safety given the narrow area between the balustrade and the road and disturbance to neighbours with noise and disturbance.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk respond with the objections listed above and a request that, if permission were to be granted, it would be temporary permission.

**Action: Clerk**

#### **4/21/2152 Sellafield – erection of a CNC Operational Unit**

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

**Action: Clerk**

#### **4/21/2005 Sellafield – re-consultation on additional information**

**RESOLVED** that Cllr. Fussell seek clarification on the application.

**Action: MF**

#### **7/2021/4044 Land adjacent to Eilerslie – housing development of 20 homes**

Councillors discussed the changes to the previous application and noted an improvement to the design with the use of sandstone. It was noted that no objections from Parishioners had been received by the Parish Council by the close off date of 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021. (Note: One email was received after the Parish Council's deadline, objecting to loss of privacy and design.) Cllr. Hutson was still concerned about potential contamination of the surrounding agricultural land. It was pointed out that there are a number of houses that already feed into the waterway without mitigation and the SuDs drainage system is designed to capture and filter out contaminants. Cllr. Gray remained concerned about the drainage of the water coming off the fells. Cllrs. agreed the location was not an ideal site but the developers had provided mitigation. As there was no consensus, a vote was taken with three Councillors in favour of supporting the development and two abstentions.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk respond in support of the development.

**Action: Clerk**

**Decisions: None**

**Other Planning Matters: None**

### **092/21 Public Participation**

Chris West from West Cumbria Rivers Trust had been invited to talk about the project on the River Irt. He described how they have taken into account comments from local residents who use the permissive path and Fisherman's Bridge. They have modified the proposed route of the path, so it is nearer to the river and are planning to plant trees and create a causeway to separate walkers and livestock. Chris was joined by a representative from the National Trust who provided more detail. The Clerk said that she had received six emails from residents who were upset at the loss of the bridge and the circular walk. Chris and the NT rep explained that the bridge was dilapidated and said that a circular walk was possible if the bridge 50 yards further on was used. Cllr. Unsworth asked if the reason the bridge was not being replaced was down to funding. They responded saying that they were not sure what course the river would eventually take and although it was possible to put in a short-term structure it may soon become redundant. There is also a question over the viability and maintenance of a structure. Chris is planning more 'walk and talk' sessions to explain the modified route and will send the most recent map.

Cllr. Fussell thanked Chris and the NT rep for coming to talk to the Parish Council and was pleased to hear they were demonstrating their flexibility by listening to residents and looking at other options.

### **093/21 Financial Reports**

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

The Clerk said she had submitted the VAT return and has made enquiries about an Internal Auditor for the Annual Governance & Accountability Return. Two have been recommended by local Clerks, with charges from £75 to £150 and the Clerk requested permission to proceed which was granted.

The Clerk presented the schedule of payments for approval and two further invoices which had been received late; Came & Company (Insurance) £1507.63 and TRPublishing £100 (Tethera).

**RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments and the two additional invoices be approved for payment.

### **094/21 Public Toilets & Car Park**

Cllr. Pratt had circulated an email regarding a further delay as Copeland were carrying out a usage survey of the Car Park and Toilets. Cllrs. noted there did not appear to be any counting equipment in use and Cllr. Pratt said he will try to clarify how the survey is being conducted. A document is now expected for the June meeting.

**Action: AP**

Cllr. Gray has received a quote for £270 from John Slater for a concrete pad for the memorial bench being donated by a member of the Parish. Cllr. Gray has also obtained a price for the bench which he will forward to the resident and if he is happy with the cost, the Clerk can order it.

Cllr. Gray said that the Scouts wanted to donate a picnic table and he will be contacting them again with an up-to-date price. The plan is to take away the old table and use the existing plinth which may need extending at the Parish Council's expense. If this is agreed the Clerk can add the picnic table to the order.

**Action: DG/Clerk**

Cllr. Gray said the shrubs near the notice boards and the mosaic need cutting back and asked if the Haverigg Community Team could do this work. Cllr. Turner agreed to contact them.

**Action: PT**

### **095/21 Telephone Box**

Cllr. Unsworth had a meeting with members of the Rotary who managed to reduce the costs and are willing to do the refurbishment work.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council approve the expenditure of £464 for the refurbishment and use of the Telephone Box as a Tourist Information Point.

**Action: RU**

**096/21 Public Toilets**

The Clerk had discussed with the Cleaner an extra check on the Toilets and the Cleaner had suggested a remuneration. Cllr. Fussell requested the Clerk discuss whether the Cleaner believes an extra check would be worthwhile, however a review of the Cleaners rate of pay should be reviewed at a meeting of the Finance Committee.

**Action: Clerk**

**097/21 Meetings**

No meetings reported.

**098/21 Councillor Matters**

Cllr. Gray will forward the information regarding the footpath along the River Bleng to Cllr. Unsworth.

Cllr. Turner is looking into what is happening with the Viking Way. Cllr. Gray noted that Sustrans had reserved Route No. 727 but that it may not be official yet.

Cllr. Ancell raised the issue of drug use. Cllr. Fussell stated that the Parish Council has a zero-tolerance stance against drug use in the Parish and all incidents should be reported to Crimestoppers and/or the Police. Cllr Pratt said that any incidents of drug use happening on licenced premises should be reported to the Licencing Officer at Copeland Borough Council.

Cllr. Unsworth had been in touch with Cumbria Tourism and there are two options, one for an unmanned Village Information Point which would be the Telephone Box. The other is a Tourist Information Point which would be a display stand. Cllr. Unsworth asked to meet with Cllr. Gray and the Café owner.

Cllr. Fussell noted the letter received regarding the maintenance of the Church graveyard, maintenance of the grounds and the removal of the brambles. Cllr. Hutson said this could possibly be a job for the Haverigg Team.

Cllr. Fussell has been approached by a resident regarding speeding and suggested the Parish Council have a future item on driving and road safety in the village.

**099/21 Item in Camera – none.**

**100/21 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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

### **Councillor Committee Appointments 2021-22**

Finance Committee – Cllrs. Norman, Ancell and Fussell

Village Care, Car Park & Toilets – Cllrs. Gray, Norman, Ancell

### **Appointments to External Groups**

Mid-Copeland Parish Partnership – *not currently meeting*

Sellafield Sites Liaison Group – Cllrs. Norman and Fussell

Sellafield SSG (WC SSG) – Cllr. Hutson and Fussell

3-Tier Meetings – Cllrs. Turner and Unsworth

CALC meetings (as necessary) – Cllr. Turner

LDNPA – Cllr. Mike McKinley

### **Appointment to Roles**

Highways – Cllrs. Turner, Gray, Hutson

Footpaths – Cllr. Unsworth

Parish Communications – Cllrs. Unsworth and Hutson

### **Appointments to Trustees**

Public Hall – Cllr. Fussell as Chair

Playing Field – Cllrs. Fussell and Norman

### **Other Appointments**

Library – Cllr. Unsworth