**Askham and Helton Parish Council**

**Meeting:** Parish Council Meeting **Date:** Thursday, 25th January 2024

**Venue:** Askham and District Community Centre

**Present:** Laura Harker (LH), Malcolm Holt (MH), Chris Whittaker (CW), Mary Westgarth (MW).

**Apologies:** Gary Calland (GC), Sophie Riches (SR), John Banks (JB), Neil Hughes, W&FC (NH).

**In Attendance:** Sandie Watson (Clerk/RFO), David Bliss, Lowther Estates (DB)

**Members of Public:** 2

**Minutes**

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| 270.1  Apologies | GC – work, SR – work, NH – other event, JB – unknown  Resolved that the apologies be accepted and the reasons recorded. |  |
| 271.2  Declarations of Interest | 1. Register of Members Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their Register of Interests.  2. Personal/Prejudicial Interests. None received.  3. Dispensation Requests. None received. | **ALL** |
| 272.3  Minutes | Resolved that the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting on 30th November 2023 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman. |  |
| 273.4  Public Participation/  Open Session | Mr Bliss from Lowther Estates gave a report on a planning proposal for demolition of agricultural buildings, erection of five house and associated works and change of use to allotments.  A member of the public came to support this local occupancy housing scheme. Reference item 10. |  |
| 274.5  Sink Holes on the Village Green | The Council expressed its concerns for the appearance of sink holes in the village green. Mr Bliss from Lowther Estates stated they would cover the holes and will put forward a proposal to open up the water course that flows under the green. MH will report to Lowther Estates any areas of concern/sink holes that may occur in the meantime. | **MH**  **DB** |
| 275.6  Posts in the Upper Village Green | The Council requested Lowther Estates to consider removing the posts that were inserted three years ago as a parking deterrent. Mr Bliss agreed that this would be looked into and a management plan to open up this area in sections would be considered. | **DB** |
| 276.7  Trees in the village | The Council requested Lowther Estates to provide its policy and a safety risk assessment of the trees in the village and on the Village Green. This follows an incident when the bow of a tree fell on a parked car.  Mr Bliss will send to the Clerk, Lowther Estates Tree policy.  Mr Bliss mentioned the offer from Lowther Estates to plant 10 trees in the parish had not been completed. The Clerk to check when the Council’s response to the proposal was sent to Lowther Estates and resend if necessary. | **DB**  **SW** |
| 277.8  Permissive Footpath | The proposal to put a permissive footpath from Tirril and Askham was discussed. LH will send a letter of support from the Council as agreed at the November meeting. | **LH** |
| 278.9  Askham Bridge | Following discussion it was resolved the Council would not pursue this request as it was determined this action would not resolve the problem. |  |
| 279.10  Lowther Estates Presentation | The presentation was received in item 4 -public participation. The council agreed to consider the application in full when the consultation is received from the LDNPA. |  |
| 280.11  Outcomes of Actions of last meeting | **Bus Shelter**: Ceiling to paint – deferred until later in the year.  **Emergency Plan** – as SR was absent the plan was not received. SW to ask SR to circulate to the Council.  LH asked if the VH could apply to be a ‘warm spot’ and also be designated as an emergency hub. SW to circulate information to the Council.  LH will bring it up at the Village Hall meeting next week.  CW suggested the PC purchase 8/10 small lanterns and batteries to light up the hall when the power supply is off. The Council agreed to purchase the lanterns (around £30) and will ratify its decision at the next meeting. | **MH**  **SW**  **SR**  **SW**  **LH**  **CW** |
| 281.12  External Meetings | None received as NH and GC absent.  Lowther Parish Council has invited Kendal Calling organisers to its next meeting in February. GC agreed to attend and report back to the Council. | **GC** |
| 282.13  Planning Applications | **Applications:**  **Decisions:**  **7/2023/3139 1 Hill Top, Askham, Penrith CA10 2PG**  Proposed extension over existing garage. Support. **Granted.**  **T/2023/0135 Lingmell, Askham, Penrith CA10 2PG**  Remove 1 Cotoneaster tree. No objection. **Granted.**  **7/2023/3149 Whale View Cottage, Helton, Cumbria CA10 2QA**  Proposed addition of rear facing rooflight and erection of outbuilding. No objection. Ratified. **Granted.**  **7/2023/3146 Hall Cottage and Little Hall Cottage, Askham, Penrith CA10 2PF**  Use of Hall Cottage and Little Hall Cottage as two separate dwellinghouses. Support. Ratified. **Granted.** | **SW** |
| 283.14  Scaffolding at Whale View Cottage | LH raised concern over the length of time the scaffolding has been erected at Whale View Cottage. It is situated on a bend and there is a concern for safety. Following discussion it was decided to monitor the situation as permission has been granted by Highways and therefore an acceptable risk. |  |
| 284.15  20mph Speed Limit | The results from the Council’s consultation were received by CW. The consultation was advertised in the Parish Newsletter and on the November agenda and minutes. Of the 24 responses received, 23 were in favour and 1 a neutral view. Following discussion the Council resolved to support the application. CW to complete the application. | **CW** |
| 285.16  Computer Equipment | The Clerk circulated a proposal prior to the meeting to purchase a laptop. Following discussion the Council agreed to purchase a laptop. Agreed budget of £500.00. | **SW** |
| 286.17  Budget 2024/25 | Following discussion the budget was agreed and set for 2024/2025. | **SW** |
| 287.18  Precept 2024/25 | The Council resolved to request £10,925.00 for the Precept 2024/2025. | **SW** |
| 288.19  Financial Report | Resolved: The Clerk circulated the budget and bank reconciliation. Closing balance on 30 December 2023 £4740.59.  The Council reviewed and accepted the transactions and budget 2023/24 updates. |  |
| 289.20  Payments of Account | Resolved. The Council approved for payment:  Clerk’s wages/expenses £733.62, CPSL £34.80, Hall Hire £16.00. | **SW** |
| 290.21  Correspondence | C3043 north of Highfield between Askham & Yanwath. Highways Propose to close the road Wednesday 3rd April (after the Easter Bank Holidays) until Friday 12th April 2024.  Closure times 8am to 4pm to be confirmed. Traffic signal control over the weekend of the 6th April.  GC has reported potholes on Helton Fell to Highways. |  |
| 291.22  Items for agenda and dates of next meetings | Parish Council Meetings:  Thursday, 28th March 2024  Policy Reviews, D Day event  Thursday, 30th May 2024  Thursday, 25th July 2024  Thursday, 26th September 2024  Thursday, 28th November 2024  All meetings held at 7.00pm at Askham and District Community Centre. | **SW** |

**Meeting closed 20.56pm**