

Askham and Helton Parish Council

Meeting: Parish Council Meeting **Date:** Thursday, 20th March 2025

Venue: Askham and District Community Centre

Present: Laura Harker (LH), Malcolm Holt (MH), Mary Westgarth (MW), Gary Calland (GC), John Banks (JB), Sophie Riches (SR)

Apologies: Chris Whittaker (CW)

In Attendance: Sandie Watson (Clerk/RFO), Cllr Suzanne Stolberg (SS) LDNPA Member

Members of Public: 3

Minutes

381.1 Apologies	CW – holiday Resolved that the apologies be accepted and the reasons recorded.	
382.2 Declarations of Interest	i. Register of Members Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their Register of Interests. None received. ii. Personal/Prejudicial Interests. None received. iii. Dispensation Requests. None received.	ALL
383.3 Minutes	Resolved that the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting on 23 rd January 2025 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
384.4 Public Participation/ Open Session	Cllr Suzanne Stolberg, LDNPA member, gave a brief introduction and background. Cllr Stolberg asked if there were any ongoing/new issues to investigate. Cllr Calland reported there are two stile steps missing on the footpath to Helton which had been reported to the ranger in November. The side rails of the bridge on the bridleway in Helton do not meet safety standards, they need to be higher, also previously reported to the ranger. Penrith to Kendal Landscape Recovery Project could we have an update on progress. Road works, a discussion was held regarding the roadworks and closure on the Askham to Shap road. Councillors to report issues to Highways via the Clerk. Cllr Calland has a meeting with Fibrus tomorrow and will report back.	SS All SW GC
385.9 Off road footpath Helton to Askham	<i>Item 9 brought forward by Cllr Harker.</i> A representative from Lowther Estates introduced himself and gave a report on the project. They are looking for a grant with an appetite to see better access and get people off the road. Footpath will be across Lowther owned land. The next step will be a map of the proposed footpath which will be circulated for the PC and residents to make comments. This consultation will be circulated	

	in the newsletter and on social media where it is hoped for strong local support.	
386.5 Setterah flood plain improvements	A representative from Lowther Estates introduced himself and gave a brief background on the conservation project. Plans are for wetland creation and rewilding. Land affected is owned by Lowther Estates. Cllr Westgarth read out her concerns about the proposed changes highlighting its effect on the residents, wildlife and locality. Questioning how these plans will 'improve' conservation as proposed. An explanation of re-wilding was received. It was also suggested that a guided walk of the Setterah floodplain could be arranged to give further insight. Dates and time to be arranged.	
387.6 Outcomes of Actions of last meeting	Tree seat – MH reported that due to installation difficulties a review of plans was necessary and advised that it would be more suited to install an alternative bench. MH will obtain and circulate quotes for a fixed bench to the Council for consideration. Gully between Helton and Butterwick is still blocked. Clerk to contact Highways for an update. The Monty – two residents have been in contact and expressed an interest in supporting the project. The Clerk will contact Cumbria CVS for further information in collaboration with Cllr Westgarth. VE Day – no interest in holding an event in the village. There will be nearby events taking place which residents can attend.	MH SW SW
388.7 External Meetings	No reports received.	
389.8 Planning Applications	Applications: T/2025/0040 Low Nook, Askham, Penrith, CA10 2PG Fell 1 laburnum tree – 5 day notice – no provision for consultation No Comments T/2025/0013 Corrie, Helton, Penrith, CA10 2QA Fell 1 multi stemmed willow (T1) and 1 weeping silver birch (T2) Ratified no objection. 7/2023/3190 Lowther Castle and Gardens, Old Walled Garden, Lowther Construction of paths. Pending response from LDNPA.	SW
390.10 Devolution	Government consultation received.	
391.11 Local Government Boundary Commission	Government consultation received.	
392.12 Cumbria Constabulary	Neighbourhood Policing Pledge. Cllr Whittaker will represent the Council.	

393.13 Community Governance Review	Consultation received.	MW & SW & MH
394.14 Mower Service	Resolved to proceed. MH to book service.	MH
395.15 Parking in the village centre	Cllr Whittaker has reported issues to Highways. Highways have added the request to the list for assessment and it will be reviewed in the next financial year.	
395.16 Financial Report	Resolved: The Clerk circulated the budget and bank reconciliation. Closing balance on 28 February 2025 £5,973.24. The Council reviewed and accepted the transactions and budget 2024/25 updates.	SW
396.17 Payments of Account	Resolved. The Council approved for payment: Clerk's wages/expenses £704.30, CPSL £34.80, HP Ink £6.00, Hall Rent £16.00. Defib pads £180.00, Web hosting £107.99, ICO £47.00.	SW
397.18 Correspondence	Sockbridge and Tirril Neighbourhood Plan Consultation received. Community Emergency Planning Workshop – digital leaflets to be circulated. LDNPA Engagement plan, received. Request to remove boulders outside Brook Terrace – MH to investigate and report back to the Council. Eamont and Shap by election congratulations to Nicky Vecqueray.	MH
398.19 Items for agenda and dates of next meetings	Parish Council Meetings: Thursday 22 nd May 2025 Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm <i>followed by</i> Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm MW will provide tea and biscuits Thursday 24 th July 2025 Thursday, 25 th September 2025 Website Thursday, 20 th November 2025 All meetings held at 7.00pm at Askham and District Community Centre.	SW MW

Meeting closed 21.35pm