

LAKES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 6TH July 2020 at White Platts Recreation Ground, Ambleside at 6pm

PRESENT: Cllr L Waterhouse (In the Chair), B. Hewitt, Mrs J. Birkett, W. Clark, Mrs G. Hodgkinson, L. Johnson, P. Martyn, C. Shepherd, P.A.Thompson, P.Truelove and P. Wileman.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Malcolm Lamb (South Lakeland District Councillor)

APOLOGIES: Cllr Mrs E. Footit, Mrs V Rees, N.C. Martin and P Simpson.

ALSO: M A. Johnson, Suzanne Pender, Jane Renouf and 2 members of the public

1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the following meetings were approved:

- Council meeting held on 4th March 2020.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Mrs Waterhouse declared an interest in all Planning. Cllr Thompson declared an interest in Orders for Payment.

There were no other declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

3 MATTERS OF INFORMATION FROM AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 1

Cllr Wileman queried an issue with the County Councillor.

4. FINANCE

- RESOLVED – to accept the Internal Audit report for 2019/20 and to confirm the findings of the review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit, as reported for 2019/20.
- RESOLVED – to affirm the Annual Governance Statement for 2019/20.
- RESOLVED – to receive and agree the Annual Accounts for 2019/20.
- RESOLVED – to receive the report of the Internal Auditor and re-appoint Mrs Lees as Internal Auditor for 2020/21.
- RESOLVED – that the Risk Register was discussed, reviewed and agreed. A new comprehensive Risk Register is being developed that includes all issues raised by the present COVID-19 emergency and will be submitted to Council for approval later in the year.
- RESOLVED – To agree the 28 Orders for Payment for July in the sum of £15995.20 and to confirm the Orders for Payment circulated by email and approved for April, May and June 2020.
- RESOLVED – To agree the Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 8th June 2020 at White Platts Recreation Ground.
- RESOLVED - To receive the verbal report from the Clerk/RFO on the COVID-19 impact on Council finances. A meeting of the Finance Committee will be held in September/early October to discuss an emergency budget, together with a budget for 2021/22, once income and

expenditure is known at the end of the summer period. It is expected that the Council will sustain a loss of between £30k and £50k due to the COVID-19 emergency, however this amount can be contained, due to the financial Contingency planning of the Council for such an event.

THE CHAIRMAN ADJOURNED THE MEETING FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK.

There were no representations.

The Meeting was RECONVENED

Cllr Hewitt IN THE CHAIR

5. PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. 7/2020/5361 Chesters by the River Ltd, Skelwith Bridge Ambleside
Enlargement of terrace decking with new balustrading and surfacing, alteration and extension to canopy roof. No Objections although some concern was expressed at possible local parking issues.
2. 7/2020/5360 4A, Stonecroft, Ambleside
Single storey extension – No Objections
3. 7/2020/5358 High Green Lodge, Troutbeck
Part single storey and part two storey extensions plus alterations following withdrawal of planning application 7/2019/5656 – No Comment
4. 7/2020/5354 Unit C, 101 Dixons Court, Lake Road Ambleside
Change of use of Hairdressing Salon to local occupancy dwelling – No Objections
5. 7/2020/5346 Gillside Barn, Grasmere (Certificate of Lawfulness)
Change of use to dwelling house (C3) – REFUSAL on the grounds that there is a huge history of planning applications and several appeals relating to this property. NONE of the applications seem to be for planning permission for conversion of the barn to a house. The building is listed, and so application should be made for any INTERNAL alterations affecting the character of the building. There have been NO applications for this. With the application is a letter from the agent, dated June 2020. It states that the building has offered accommodation since 1989.... until a settled state was reached in 2010. However, application 7/2007/5568 states that the existing use of the barn was “glassmaking workshop”. The existing and proposed drawing submitted with the application showed only barn doors and some tiny slit windows traditional on barns. A subsequent application 7/2012/5145, in 2012, by the same agent, for the introduction of a “craft light window” to the workshop, was refused with the subsequent appeal dismissed. **The version of the history given in the letter by the agent in support of the current application is inconsistent with what was stated in those applications and cannot therefore be relied upon.** There are glazed windows on 3 sides of the building, some quite large. However, most these appear to be recessed within barn door openings that remain. In other words, the conversion has been done discretely (no wholly glazed walls for example). To grant a certificate of lawfulness for the property as an open market dwelling on the basis of the agent’s letter, does not appear to concur with any planning application submitted over the years and must be questioned. It is understood the property was registered for Council

Tax in June 2018 and, in the absence of any valid evidence of lawful occupation, the Parish Council therefore recommend REFUSAL of this application.

6. 7/2020/5384 Field Garth, Rydal Road, Ambleside
Proposed double garage – No Objections

7. 7/2020/5356 Hillsdale, Church Street, Ambleside
Removal of chimney stack and slate over – No Comment other than concern was expressed at the impact on the over-roof skyline in the area.

8. 7/2020/5381 Greenhowe Caravan Park, Great Langdale
Temporary 3 year permission for 'year round' occupancy (to facilitate self-sufficient business recovery from the impact of COVID-19) –
Refusal on the grounds that the case for this is not proven and will set a precedent for other similar applications. The Council would have no objection to an extension to January 4th annually to facilitate business over the Christmas and New Year period.

Cllr Mrs Waterhouse IN THE CHAIR

6 MATTERS OF INFORMATION

- A. From the Chairman – The Chairman said that the National Park has not yet been consulted on new planning legislation promoted by the Government.
- B. From the Clerk – The Clerk had nothing to report.
- C From Members
 - a. Councillor Mrs Birkett said the repairs to the walls leading to Skelwith Bridge had enhanced the area and that a letter of thanks should be sent to the volunteer undertaking the walling.
 - b. Councillor Hewitt complained about the lack of consultation of the recent highways works on Compston Road and Church Street. Emergency works should be just that and not result in leaving the work on a Friday afternoon and not returning until Monday.
 - c. Councillor Thompson said there was a phantom plant stealer in the Parish with plants going missing from tubs. He had also had to clean graffiti off the walls in Mechanics toilets.
 - d. Councillor Truelove said that there was a hot food stand at White Moss car park.
 - e. Councillor Johnson reported on the old Ambleside sign on Rothay Bridge that has been damaged by an accident to the bridge. The sign has been recovered and, although damaged in three pieces, is repairable. Cllr Thompson and Cllr Johnson will investigate costings for repair.
 - f. Councillor Wileman said that 5 trees had been chopped down in Borrans Park because of Ash die back.
- D. From District Councillors - Councillor Lamb reported on speeding issues near the Swan with the formation of a task force trained in the use of a speed gun by the Police.
- E. From the County Councillor – County Cllr Will Clark reported on highways issues including speeding at Rydal and the proposals for COVID pedestrian spacing at Grasmere and Ambleside. He invited representations from the public on these issues. He said it was unlikely that the one way system at Grasmere will go ahead. Highways issues have been prioritised to deal with the COVID emergency.

7. TO AGREE A DISPENSATION FOR COUNCILLORS AFFECTED BY THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY

The Local Government Act 1972 states that when a Council Member fails to attend any meeting for six consecutive months from the date of his or her last attendance then he or she ceases to be a member of the Authority unless the Council accepts a reason for the failure to attend before the six month period expires. Council are therefore asked to agree that the Covid19 emergency is an acceptable reason for vulnerable Councillors not to attend.

The recommendation is to grant Dispensations to Cllr Mrs Ella Footit (last meeting January 2020) and Cllr Mrs Vivienne Rees (last meeting January 2020) and any other Councillors to which this reason may apply for a period of three months, to be reviewed in October 2020.

RESOLVED That the Council agree to grant the necessary Dispensation to Cllrs Mrs Footit and Mrs Rees and this be reviewed in October 2020.

8. TRAFFIC AND ASSOCIATED ISSUES AT RYDAL

Cllr Mrs Hodkinson spoke at length on traffic and safety issues at Rydal that had been exacerbated by the lifting of travel restrictions resulting in a huge parking problem at Rydal both on the main road and on farmers land. A591 through traffic had to cross double white lines with a series of near misses taking place. Local people had obtained irrefutable photo/video evidence to strengthen their case for traffic calming measures to be taken. She had written twice to the Cumbria PCC without reply and letters to Tim Farron MP had been acknowledged and passed on to the appropriate authorities. Nothing had been done however the County Council has agreed to mark out the bus stop on the A591 to discourage illegal parking and Rydal Ward Members will support this financially with a donation from their local allowance.

RESOLVED That the Chairman pass the information to the LDNPA and the County Councillor will continue to take this up with Highways. The Clerk will invite the Police to the next Meeting of the Council to discuss the issue.

9. AMBLESIDE ACTION FOR A FUTURE

Cllr Martyn had circulated a report from the Transport Group of this organisation with proposals relating to pedestrianisation of The Slack. 20 local businesses had agreed to this on a trial basis however other businesses were opposed to the scheme. The group are seeking Parish Council support.

RESOLVED - That the Council decline support for this scheme because it is a matter that will be decided purely by Cumbria County Council, however Members did agree to support in principle AAFAP's aspirations for improving the Parish.

10. TREE WORKS

7/2020/0071 – Summer House Cottage, Grasmere – Crown reduce three Beech trees by 20/30% Crown reduce one Sycamore by 20%

No Observations

11. PLANNING DECISIONS

7/2020/5257 Garden House, Kelbarrow, Grasmere – proposed external detached lift to provide disability access from lower parking area to house - Refusal

7/2020/5277 Brydewood, Low Gale, Ambleside – extensions and alterations – granted.

7/2020/5219 – Amendment to design on building at Troutbeck - refusal

7/2020/5225 – Devonshire House, Rothay Road, Ambleside – 2 storey rear extension - granted

The Meeting closed at 7.15pm