

## SATTERTHWAITE PARISH COUNCIL

Reference No: MO64

Minutes of the meeting held in the Parish Room, Satterthwaite on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008 at 7.30pm.

Present: Dr S Tiplady (Chairman), Mr A Stoker, Mr A Threlkeld, Mr T Gill, Mr J Wilson (Councillors), Mr G Prest (Forestry Commission), Mr A Hill (LDNPA), Mr M Dickenson, Mrs S Threlkeld, Mr E Collins, Mrs H Collins, Ms V Campbell (Members of the Public), The Clerk

64.1 **Apologies**

All councillors were present.

64.2 **Appointment of New Clerk**

Due to ill health the previous clerk Mr David Shaw had to resign with immediate effect. The council passed a resolution accepting his resignation and wished to thank him for his contribution.

Mr David Granville had agreed to undertake the duties of Clerk. The council passed a resolution accepting his appointment.

The Council also agreed to the spending of £10 for the Clerk to attend a training course.

64.3 **Minutes**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

64.4 **Declarations of Interest**

Mr A Stoker declared a personal interest in the Mountain Bike Event as a previous participant (Item 64.5a)

64.5 **Open Session**

**a. Mountain Bike Event**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Prest and Mr Hill.

Mr Prest stated that after the last mountain Bike Event he had received feedback from a number of people expressing some concerns about the organisation of the event. It is the policy of the Forestry Commission to conduct a review of event with the organisers so that lessons can be learned for future events. The comments made by people at the meeting would be used in this review. Before listening to comments he asked that people recognise a number of points.

- Firstly, the forest was a good location within the National park to hold such events.
- Motorbikes are used to ensure any injured participant can receive first aid treatment quickly.
- The FC is considering producing a checklist for organisers of such events.
- For car events only one side of the forest is used and perhaps that policy should also apply to mountain bike events.

Mr Hill informed the meeting that staff at the LDNPA have some concern about the perceived increase in the number of events. The events can be commercial or private and major events are programmed into the calendar. All organisers are directed to the Code of Conduct on the LDNPA website and

encouraged to communicate with the local community early in their planning. Organisers are also encouraged to try and add value to the local community.

The Chairman asked for any comments from members of the Council and the public. Mr A Threlkeld raised a number of points.

- There was a lack of general information about the event under scrutiny
- Although the event was advertised as a “challenge” in practice it was seen as a race. This created health and safety issues when racers encountered walkers and other forest users
- The marshalling on the event day was at best terrible and at times non-existent
- The event was allegedly a charity event and a rough calculation indicated that about £12,000 would have been raised. Has the money been given to charity?
- Some the money raised should be allocated to the repair of the tracks that the event used
- There had been no letter of thanks to the local community for tolerating the event
- The event had used parts of the Forest not generally open for access and consequently participants had returned to try and ride the course again. This created problems when livestock were involved particularly for safety reasons.
- The marshalling trail bikes used it as a joy ride. They didn’t know the route being used and consequently created considerable disturbance of the neighbourhood.

Mrs Threlkeld suggested that the events should not use footpaths to avoid any confusion with riders returning to ride the course again at a later date.

Ms Campbell asked if the event had been risk assessed for health and safety purposes because some riders had got lost and the marshals had disappeared before all participants had completed the course safely.

Mr Collins confirmed that he had experienced the marshalling problems in previous years and marshals had told him that bikes could not be stopped because it was a race. He suggested that it was important that marshals are instructed and trained and that their conduct during the event is policed.

Generally, it was recognised that the car events were much better organised and that lessons from these could be transferred to bike events.

Mr Hill stressed that an event must comply with the legal aspects. If they are racing on a right of way they must have permission. The land owner must also give permission. Ultimately the land owner has the right to refuse permission for the event to take place.

Mr Prest thanked the meeting for their feedback and he promised to use it when the event review took place with the organisers.

#### **b. General Address**

Mr Prest provided an update on Forestry Commission activity.

- In order to balance the FC books the decision had been taken to sell Rose Cottages, Hawkrigg garages and Ormandly barn.
- A new design was being considered for the orientation hut that would be cheaper to build than the original plan.
- The design of car parks away from the centre at Moor Top and Bogle Crag were being considered to provide extra help with seasonal overflow parking.

- Go Ape would be submitting a planning application for moving part of their course due to some of the trees currently being used rotting.

Mr Hill stressed that he needed to receive information about any improper use of the park by motor bikes and mountain bikes so that he had evidence on which to structure action.

Mr Collins asked if the LDNPA and the Council had been informed about the night rally the Morecambe Bay Car Club were organising this coming weekend. Neither had been informed.

#### 64.6 Matters Arising

##### **a. Use of Notice boards and meeting rooms at Grizedale**

The FC has given permission for the new notice board that will be provided at Grizedale to be used for Council notices. They will also revisit the costs of using the Yan for meeting purposes.

##### **b. Turbine at Farra Grains**

The Chairman and Mr Gill were due to meet Inter-Hydro Technology on October 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the proposals. It appears that the project would receive the support of the FC and would be eligible for grants. A similar project at Coniston had proved to be successful.

##### **c. Overloaded bicycle racks on cars**

A reply had been received from the Police advising that PC Burke had been asked to liaise with the Grizedale Forest Visitors Centre regarding the issues raised.

##### **d. Redundant Fire Equipment Lean-to**

The Parish Room committee has given permission for it to be demolished. Messrs Gill, Threlkeld and Stoker agreed to liaise to undertake the task.

##### **e. Plastic Bottles and Roadside Litter**

A reply from LDNPA had been received stating that they would ask the Grizedale Visitor to stress to cyclists and other users the importance of disposing of rubbish properly.

##### **f. Refuse collection from holiday lets**

A reply had been received from SLDC stating that they were unaware of any holiday lets in Satterthwaite. The Chairman had raised the matter with our MP who was now pursuing the matter further.

##### **g. Pollution from Satterthwaite sewage works**

No response had been received from United Utilities. The Clerk was asked to make contact again.

#### 64.7 Reports from representatives to Outside bodies

**Hawkshead Market Hall Trust** – Mr Stoker reported that the trust was seeking further advice about the value of the Liz Cantwell painting as it had received information that the value could be considerably less than thought. If this proved to be the case an alternative approach for its future would be sought.

**Highway Steward Representative** – Mr Threlkeld reported that a Highways Steward had been allocated to this area for one week, four times per year. A list was being compiled for his attention.

**Grizedale Consultative Group** – Dr Tiplady reported that the opening party at the Yann had been postponed until the new year because of poor response. The FC was hoping to acquire a Quality Assurance Kitemark for their curriculum activities. The bus service had been used by 1000 passengers in August but complaints had been received about the rudeness of some drivers. A new caterer, Brewery Arts Centre in Kendal, has been awarded the new catering contract.

64.8 **Highway Steward**  
No further discussion was held since the list had been passed to Mr Threlkeld.

64.9 **Financial and Administrative**

- The Clerk provided a financial statement for the year up to October 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The Clerk also presented a draft budget for the year 2009/10. It was noted that the Council had been informed by SLDC that a cost of £569 would be levied next year to cover the cost of elections held in May. The Chairman had expressed concern to the District Councillor about the size of this amount, which represents 255 of the budget. She had received advise that SDLC is entitled to levy the fee. The Clerk was asked to contact the SLDC to see if help could be obtained to pay or defer this amount. Consequently, the approval of the budget and completion of the precept forms was deferred to the next meeting.
- Since the appointment of the Clerk was recent it was agreed that the review of the Clerk's Terms and Conditions should be considered at a later date.
- A Risk Assessment was tabled and agreed by Council.
- Payments were made to Satterthwaite Parish Parochial Church for £200 and Satterthwaite Recreation and Play Area for £200. The payment to Mr Baverstock for £60 was deferred until a invoice had been received.

64.10 **Correspondence**  
The items of correspondence were noted

64.11 **Items for Next Agenda**  
An additional meeting would be necessary to review two planning applications for Well Cottage and Go Ape.

In addition the budget for next year would be finalised.

64.12 **Date of Next Meeting**  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2008 at 7.30pm in the Parish Room at Satterthwaite.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.