

SATTERTHWAITE PARISH COUNCIL

Reference No: M078

Minutes of the meeting held at Grizedale, at 7.30pm on Monday 1st March 2010 at 7.30pm.

Present: Dr S Tiplady (Chairman), Mr T Gill, Mr A Stoker, Mr Dickinson, Mr D Fletcher (Councillors), The Clerk, Mrs C Salisbury (County Councillor), Mr C Davies (District Councillor), Mr Thomason, Ms Pollock

78.1 **Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

78.2 **Minutes**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 18th January 2010 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

78.3 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

It was queried whether Dr Tiplady should express an interest in the hydro project, but Dr Tiplady stated that there was no reason to do so.

78.4 **Open Session**

Mrs Salisbury informed the meeting that the road repairs at Bowkerstead had been undertaken and that the outstanding horse riding signs should be erected in the next month as they had been approved within the 2009/10 budget.

78.5 **Matters Arising**

a. Dog Fouling

Mrs Salisbury has provided the paragraph of information and it has been included in the March newsletter. The Clerk has also spoken to the police and was informed that the Community Support Officer can issue fixed penalty tickets for dog fouling if someone is caught. In addition in Hawkshead and Coniston posters had been erected advertising this fact. It was **resolved** to request that a similar poster be erected on the parish noticeboard.

b. Neighbourhood Watch

The Police had informed the Clerk that the Neighbourhood Watch scheme now worked through e-mail. This method of communication created potential problems for those without e-mail addresses. It was **resolved** to identify people who would be happy to receive e-mails and then communicate with neighbours. A note to this effect will be placed in the newsletter.

c. Parking Problems in Satterthwaite

Mr Fletcher informed the meeting that he had investigated the possibility of creating the car park at the rear of the church. Within this area it would be possible to create a 12m by 12m parking space. Using a foundation of hardcore with surface matting he estimated the cost to be between £6500 and £7000. It was **resolved** to wait until the Parish Plan actions were agreed and

the plan published before deciding whether or not to progress.

78.6 **Parish Plan**

A draft document containing the actions that would form the foundation of the plan was discussed. The Clerk stressed that these actions had been identified in response to the issues raised in the Community Questionnaire. The Working Party was not recommending that these actions were pursued merely suggesting them as a way forward. Further it should be recognised that the actions created conflicts that would need to be addressed.

Mr Davies commented that he felt there was some very positive actions that had been identified and that the working party should be complimented on their work.

It was **resolved** to publicise this document and to hold public meetings at Grizedale, Satterthwaite and Graythwaite so that the community could determine priorities, decide upon an action plan, and examine the resources needed to undertake it. Following this the detailed Community Plan would be created and communicated to relevant outside bodies.

78.7 **Turbine at Farra Grains**

Since some concern had been expressed about the proposed scheme the Chair asked the Clerk to recap the history of the project to date.

The Parish Council has a commitment to investigate renewable energy schemes under the 2006 Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act and the Cumbria Climate Change Commitment. However, the Council has no money to invest in such a project and owns no suitable land upon which to site it.

Two Councillors conducted some research to identify locations within the parish that would be suitable. The obvious choice was at Force Mill, but there is no publicly owned land and it was felt that the scheme would have an unacceptable visual and environmental impact on this scenic waterfall. A scheme at Farra Grain, on Forestry Commission land, appeared viable and had little visual or environmental impact.

Experts from Inter Hydro Technology of Kendal and the School of Renewable Energy at the University of Cumbria confirmed that the Farra Grains site had potential and recommended that a feasibility study be undertaken. A local retired engineer volunteered to take some flow rate measurements, confirming the initial findings. Several sources of grant funding to construct hydro schemes were identified.

At the meeting on 1st December 2008 the Parish Council agreed to set up a working party to progress the project.

One of the major sources of grants for hydro installations is the Community Sustainable Energy Programme (CSEP) but grants will only be given if there has been a feasibility study by a registered consultant. CSEP and the Lake District National Park Authority Sustainability Fund were the only two

organisations identified that would give feasibility study funding, and the former required use of one of their listed consultants. Two of the few who covered the North West region were approached, but one quoted without visiting the site and was rejected. In June 2009 the Council agreed to employ Teesdale Environmental Consulting after grant applications were successful.

The purpose of the feasibility study was to determine whether or not it is practicable to install a micro-hydro turbine at the chosen site. It had to include legal, environmental and planning issues as well as construction and connection issues. It also had to identify any uncertainties surrounding the project.

The feasibility study was concluded in December 2009 and the report was presented to Parish Council in draft form at the November meeting and in final format at the January 2010 meeting. There are many uncertainties in the project, the most significant being a lack of detailed flow data for the site. The Working Party recommended meeting the Environment Agency to determine the best way to collect the flow data required. This action was agreed at the January 2010 meeting.

Mr Fletcher expressed concerns that the project had not been progressed in a suitable manner and that the Council had been misled about the results of the feasibility study. He also stated that in his belief the project was not viable. After considerable debate it was agreed that accurate flow data measurements would be obtained.

The Clerk also stated that there was no intention of exploring funding options involving loans. A project plan was presented that shows the path to be taken and the points at which decisions will need to be made as to whether or not to progress to the next step.

In January members of the Working Party had also met with Colton Parish Council to explore a broader, cross parish approach to the adoption of renewable energy. Colton had proposed to set up a meeting to explore this further. It was **resolved** to support the initiative.

78.8 **Planning Application 7/2010/5002 and 5003 – Cunsey Mill, Renovation and repairs of Cunsey Mill**

It was **resolved** to support these applications.

78.9 **Planning Application 7/2010/0008: Tree Preservation Order 87, The Heald, Roadside pruning and maintenance of clear wayleave**

It was **resolved** to support this application.

78.10 **Planning Application 7/2010/5043 – Orchard Cottage, Satterthwaite: Erection of new external single story domestic storage building with workshop area**

The application was discussed. Mr Dickinson raised a concern about sporadic development. Dr Tiplady expressed concern about the long term implications of using an agricultural holding for domestic storage.

It was queried whether Mr Stoker should declare an interest in the application, but Mr Stoker stated that there was no reason to do so.

It was **resolved** to support the application with the caveat that the building be constructed without windows so that it reflects a traditional Lakeland hog house. In addition the building should be camouflaged by appropriate planting.

78.11 **Reports from representatives to Outside bodies**

Mr Fletcher reported that the next LAP meeting would be discussing infrastructure and asked that any councillor who had ideas about the subject contact him.

78.12 **Financial and Administrative**

The Clerk provided a financial statement for the year up to February 28th.

Meeting dates for 2010/11 were agreed.

78.13 **Correspondence**

The items of correspondence were noted.

It was **resolved** that Mr Fletcher would represent the Council on the Windermere Lake Restoration Programme.

78.14 **Items for Next Agenda**

The following items were agreed for inclusion at the next meeting:

- Major mountain biking and orienteering events in the Parish
- Response to Natural England Consultation on National Park extension.

78.15 **Date of Next Meeting**

6th April 2010 at Satterthwaite Parish Room. The meeting closed at 11.00pm.