

# STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

(Draft copy of minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016)

## MINUTES

**Present:** Chair John Stott, Vice Chair Thomas Nelson, Councillors: Tot Mason, Geoff Wilson, Julie Knowles, Clerk Karen Wells, County councillor Brenda Grey and District councillor Sheila Eccles. (15 members of the public)

**66.16 APOLOGIES:** received none.

**67.16 MINUTES:** the minutes of the last parish council meeting dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 were signed by the chair as a true record of the meeting.

**68.16 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:** none

**69.16 OPEN SESSION:**

No issues brought to the councils attention.

**70.16 FLOODING:** During the floods in December 2015 Stainton parish was badly damaged. Houses were flooded, roads and bridges washed away or left unsafe. A landslip left the grade II listed aqueduct at Stainton Cross in an unstable condition.

The council have been in liaison with SLDC, Tim Farron and local agencies throughout, keeping them informed of the situation. SLDC have also been sending out information which the council passed on using email, parish magazine and word of mouth.

Cllr Geoff Wilson asked for it to be recorded that 'the people of the parish had pulled together at this distressing time, there was a fantastic community spirit'.

The meeting was well attended by members of the public. There was constructive discussion about the concerns of the people living in the parish and a plan for the way forward.

### i. **Environment agency (EA)**

The clerk had been in touch with the agency, but they were unable to send anyone to the meeting, which was disappointing. However the EA did set out a plan to help sort what action is needed.

- Concerns to collected at the meeting (clerk to report to the EA)
- A site visit to be arranged ( meeting cllrs and representatives of the community)
- EA to send someone to the March meeting.

**Concerns to be reported to the EA are as follows:**

- Clear up debris and piles of stones, from river bed and banking.
- Future dredging and removal of vegetation (Whose responsibility? If land owners how do they get permission?)
- Are there any issues further upstream from Stainton parish?
- Aqueduct – although it is understood that the canal trust will be doing the repairs there is concern about the damage to the water course and water flow in this area.

There is also grave concern that if the aqueduct were to collapse it would dam the river and cause flooding to the houses up stream.

The clerk will forward this information to the EA and with copies to Tim Farron, County Cllr Brenda Grey and District cllr Sheila Eccles.

- ii. **Lancaster Canal Trust:** A report was received from the trust about the repairs needed to the canal and aqueduct. 'The foundations have been scoured away causing the spandrel wall to fail. The washed out material has put the bank in danger of collapse. The short term plan is to build a dam with clay and keep the canal section drained. The estimated cost of repair is £2 million. The tow path will remain closed and an alternative foot path will be formed. The time scale for the repair to then listed structure is uncertain but the repairs will be done'.

The council met with the contractor's on site on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016. The work on the dam will start in the next few weeks.

**71.16 POLICING IN THE COMMUNITY:** PCSO did not attend the meeting. The clerk read out reports sent to the council. (Copy of full report held by clerk) A summary of the points:

- i. Since the 23<sup>rd</sup> November there have been no crimes in Stainton Parish, there were however 3 road related incidents,
- ii. There have been opportunistic burglaries in South Cumbria, where access was gained through open doors and windows, a reminder to keep houses secure.

**72.16 UPPER KENT LAP:** No meeting held since the council last met.

#### **73.16 HIGHWAYS:**

- i. **50 mph speed limit on A65:** County cllr Brenda Grey advised that the work should be completed in the next two months.
- ii. **Other highway matters:** Clerk to report- On the lower parts of Stainton lane the retaining wall between the road and the river have been undermined, the ford in the village needs reinstating, a fire hydrant has been covered - when the emergency repairs were carried out on the road, pot holes, problem with drainage near Helm view and replace markers on ditch down Stainton lane.
- iii. **Footbridges:** There were bridges washed away and damaged by the flood waters. The council have received an email from Guy Timperley: 'A bid has been made to the Dept of transport for funding of all required repairs to footbridges in the county. Repairs will be initiated when the funding has been agreed with central government'.

#### **74.16 PLANNING.**

**Application Received:** SL/2015/1054 Helm Mount Farm Barrows Green, (demolition of redundant shippens and construction of replacement ancillary storage building)

**Notifications Received: None**

#### **75.16 FINANCE:**

**To authorise schedule of payments for Jan/ Feb**

- i. **Payments:**  
**Made between meetings: None**

**Payments sanctioned during the meeting:**

Clerks Jan wage	= £ 129.15
Clerks Feb wage	= £129.15
Hire and associated costs of meeting paid to Crosscrake School	= £20.00

**Payments received: None**

- ii. **Budget for 2016/17:** The budget was finalised and signed off. The SLDC precept request was also signed off. Clerk to forward figure to SLDC.
- iii. **External audit:** A circular was received from NALC to inform the council that the audit commission has been abolished. A sector led body has been set up to provide audit services for parish councils. The council will automatically be included in this arrangement for the next five years.

**76.16CONSULTATION & FUNDING REQUESTS:** none

**77.16. Devolution of power to Parish Councils:** The implications of devolution of power from central government to Cumbria and then down to parish Councils was briefly discussed. When the council has more information it will discuss the changes further.

**78.16 Celebrations for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday:** The clerk read out an email from Sedgwick Pc. Asking if the two parishes should join together in the celebrations. The council decided that this was a good idea. Although details will be sorted out at the next meeting, it was decided that a beacon will be lit on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 on the hill behind the church. Clerk to liaison with Sedgwick PC.

**79.16 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.**

- i. **Tesco local community fund:** the clerk looked into applying for a grant however it was only for land with public access at all times.
- ii. **Web site:** It is now a legal requirement for parish councils to post their agenda, minutes etc. on line. It was decided that the best way to fulfil this requirement would be to set up a parish web site. The clerk attended a 'web site work shop' in December and will work on setting up a site before the next meeting.

**80.16 AOB: None**

**81.16 Councillor's issues to be raised at next meeting – None**

*(No discussions must take place on these matters but will be placed on the next Agenda)*

**82.16 Meeting closed at 9.15**

**83.16 next meeting – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016, at 7.30 to be held in Crosscrake Primary School, Crosscrake.**