

# GREAT CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL [137-Sep] GM

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The **GENERAL MEETING** of the Great Clifton Parish Council was held on:  
Thursday 21 September 2023, 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

## MINUTES

**Attendees:** Paul Arts, Jonathan Coles, Malcolm Fee, Jo Kirkbride, Robert McKenzie, Alyson Smith. Angela Meek, Clerk.  
Representative Councillor from Cumberland Council was not present.

<sup>PC</sup>  
~~PCSO~~ Sarah Parkinson attended the meeting covering for PCSO Luke King and gave a short talk on policing around the villages. Motorbike use is an issue in the village of Great Clifton with a small amount of vandalism cases. Sarah sat in on the meeting giving information where required and responding to questions. Should anyone need to contact either Sarah or Luke their details are:

[Luke.king@cumbria.police.uk](mailto:Luke.king@cumbria.police.uk) – [sarah.parkinson@cumbria.police.uk](mailto:sarah.parkinson@cumbria.police.uk)

1. **The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.** There were apologies received for absence from Cllr Gaston. There was no disclosure of pecuniary interests to note. There were no resignations, and no co-options to note.
2. **Minutes of the General Meeting** held on 20 July 2023 and referenced 136-Jul were discussed, all agreed that they were of a true record of the meeting and the Chair signed the minutes. There were no matters arising from the above signed minutes.
3. **Public Participation Session** – No members of the public were present.
4. **Planning Applications:**  
Planning Application RMA/2023/0001 - Proposal: Reserved matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale of development, together with ground assessment Phase 2 study and coal mining assessment for approved application OUT/2022/0004 for the erection of new dwellings - Location: Abbott Wood, Great Clifton. Cllrs are against this planning application because of the overdevelopment of Great Clifton, access and exit visibility from the site, protection of trees with TPO's, the proposed buildings are not in keeping with the village look. Clerk to contact Cllr Fryer being the Cumberland Council Representative for Great Clifton Parish Council to **CALL THIS IN** to enable further consultation.
5. **Financial Matters** presented by the Clerk were:
  - Bank Statement no. 320, start balance £83,618.87, end balance £83,537.29, no money in, money out [792] £81.58 – outstanding is [791] £86.40 website domain. Printout of account as of 21/09/2023 money out [793] £81,731.82 (cheque signed between meetings), current balance £1,805.47. Receipts due in at the end of the month is £6,500.00. Payments due is £1088.10 clerks' salary.
  - Schedule of Payments/Receipts [794] £440 Triple T Ltd for grass cutting. [795] £145.00 2<sup>nd</sup> half home working allowance and expenses, two receipts were handed to the clerk for payment totalling [796] £44.27 Cllr expenses – cheques were signed after the meeting.
  - Overview of accounts for inspection were discussed. The clerk has today reclaimed the VAT return totalling £14,141.83.
6. **Projects, Grant Applications**

Chair's Signature.....





- **Children's Pump Track:** Cllr Arts said that the next stage was planning permission with the costs being £300 with no guarantee of being granted, without this first stage the project could not go forward. Councillors discussed the cost and agreed to add to the November agenda for discussion and vote.
- Also discussed was the VAT that came with the project being some £20,000 which is refundable but would take time to recoup from HMRC VAT Team. And the parish council does not have this amount in the account. Also discussed was how do other parish councils overcome the VAT costs; the clerk will ask CALC for guidance.
- **Solar panels for the Village Hall:** Cllr McKenzie has looked at funding for the project, but many are 50% of the payment with the Village Hall Committee or PC to pay the other 50%, and on top of the cost is the VAT, this is not affordable for either committee or PC.
- **Cumberland Representative Councillor for Great Clifton:**  
It is noted that the representative councillor would normally attend meetings and advise on the issues of the parish, funding, planning applications, and such. Since March 2023, to date this representation has been absent. Clerk to contact Cumberland Council to enquire if the representative councillor is to attend the November meeting.
- **Hedgehog Highway Project** – councillors discussed the project and decided not to take part as volunteers are scarce.
- **County of Cumbria & D-DAY 80 – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024** – it was thought best to let the Town and Borough Councils take the lead in these events and villagers could attend the larger events.

## 7. Parish Matters

- **Rose Villa - Monkey Puzzle Tree** – [State of site]

Kerry McCartney reported that a site visit had been completed with her manager, it was agreed that action needs to be taken regarding the appearance of the property. An option of screening the site with a solid fence and everything being placed behind it, with items that cannot fit behind being removed from the site. A further meeting is to be arranged shortly and if the property owner does not agree to the screening a further Untidy Site Notice will be issued and prosecution will commence.

- **The Monkey puzzle Tree:** Kerry had sought advice from an independent arboriculturist who could not determine the trees decline and therefore Cumberland Council will not be pursuing this. The tree will be reviewed at the next meeting with the owner to consider the best course of action for the tree.

Councillors were perplexed at this statement as the tree had been under constant scrutiny and reported to ABC [now CC] on many occasions going back to 2014. From its height, its age is estimated to be around eighty years. A TPO has failed to protect it. Parish Councillors discussed the implication of the statement 'next site visit to consider the best course of action' which may be felling the tree.

- **Playground snagging list** has been completed to a more than satisfactory state and full payment has been made.
- **Village Walkabout** – representatives of Parish Councillors, Cumberland Councillors, PCSO and other Agencies – Cllr Gaston to report in November.
- **PCSO Meeting in the Village Hall 24 July 2023** – Possible Youth Group Start Up.  
Cllr Coles said that the youth committee group had funds to hire the hall once a week to allow for the youths to meet up, this would require at least 6-10 volunteers to set up the group but as yet there is only himself.

- **Workington Together Community Panel** - The Workington Together Community Panel covers the wards of Harrington, Moss Bay and Moorclose, Seaton, St. Johns and Great Clifton and St. Michaels - The panel's final priorities will run alongside and support Cumberland Council's central aim of improving the health and wellbeing of residents. Empowering our Children and Young People. By completing the survey, you can help the Workington Together Community Panel decide what issues to prioritise in its 2023/24 Neighbourhood Investment Plan. The panel will then support projects matching those priorities.
  - **Poppy Appeal for Remembrance Day** which will be observed on 12 November to commemorate the Armistice that ended the First World War and other wars. The clerk was requested to order two wreaths for St Luke's Church and the Chapel.
  - **Bus Shelter Repairs** – the clerk requested two quotes for the stripping back to bare brick and re rendering with rough on the outside and smooth on the inside. Triple T Ltd struggled to get a builder to quote. And a small company called Maple Leaf who quoted £1500 for each bus shelter totalling £6000. His workload would not allow for him to begin the work until into 2024. This may mean a rise in the cost. Cllr McKenzie will find a second quote.
  - **Flooding** outside Rose Villa and the Gavels leading to Stoneycroft, and outside 45 Clifton Lodge - clerk to report.
8. **Village Hall:** Report by Cllr McKenzie  
 No extra booking during August only the regular weekly users. For September there are several children's parties booked in.  
 The hall has had a visit from the Fire Service to check the fire risk assessments are compliant, displayed and checked monthly. Smoke alarms, safety lighting and clearly marked emergency exits were all checked, and they were happy with the reporting forms.
9. **Allotments:** the road through the allotments has been resurfaced. Some allotments are in an untidy state and the parish council has been asked to send letters to all tenants to tidy their plots up or risk termination of contract.
10. **Agenda items for November Meeting**  
 Harry Gill project  
 Pump Track Planning to discuss and vote.
11. **Date of next meeting** – (meeting dates for the diary)  
 16 November 2023, 18 January 2024, 21 March 2024

Meeting closed at 20:15