

GREAT CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL [140-Jan] GM

CLERK: Mrs Angela Meek, 10 Newlands Lane, Workington, Cumbria CA14 3NF

The **GENERAL MEETING** of the Great Clifton Parish Council was held on Thursday 18th January 2024 at 7:00pm in the Great Clifton Village Hall.

Attendees: Cllr Paul Arts, Cllr Jonathan Coles, Cllr Malcolm Fee (Chair), Cllr Peter Gaston, Cllr Robert McKenzie, Cllr Alyson Smith. Representative Councillor for Great Clifton, Mark Fryer. Angela Meek, clerk.

MINUTES [140-JAN]

1. **The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Kirkbride. There was no disclosure of pecuniary interests and no resignations or co-options to note.
2. **Minutes of the General Meeting held on 16 November 2023** were discussed and all agreed that they were of a true record and the Chair signed.
 - Matters arising from the GM were discussed and are noted in item 7 Council Business.
 - a. Cllr Fryer referred to item 6 on the November minutes where he felt he had been instructed by the Parish Council to call in a planning application. Cllr Fryer advised the correct procedure, where the Parish Council have concerns about a planning application, is to raise their concerns with him and he will then make a decision about whether or not to call the application in. Cllr Fryer noted that, on this occasion, he shared the Parish Council's concerns and had called in the application.
 - b. Cllr Arts asked if Cumberland Council had anything in place to help parish councils and smaller groups with VAT payments. Cllr Arts is working on a project and grant funding for a children's pump track costing around £100k but is hindered by the VAT the parish council will need to pay upfront before it can be reclaimed. Cllr Fryer thought the project should be VAT exempt but would talk to the Finance Department to see if a rolling fund could be put in place that parish councils and groups exempt from VAT could tap into to enable payment of the VAT to allow a project to progress and be returned to the rolling account when reclaimed from HMRC. Cllr Arts was given Cllr Fryer's phone number for future contact.
 - c. Cllr Gaston asked about the overgrown hedges leading into the village not having had the usual autumn cuts last year. They are causing visibility issues when exiting the Bow Flatts and the Greengarth junctions and will shortly begin a new growth. Cllr Fryer asked for this to be reported through the Cumberland app and the clerk to forward reference numbers to his PA to ensure that the works are looked at. **[A]** Clerk reported **[EI/184867]**.

Also reported was:

- d. Camerton Lonning Heavy vehicles working on the wastewater plant have damaged the road surface. Repairs to potholes & road edges need redone. **[A]** Clerk reported **EI/184874**
- e. Cllr Gaston mentioned his walkabouts in the village with Home Group and the PCSOs approximately every 6-weeks. Cllr Fryer asked to be contacted when the next planned walkabout is, so he can attend. **[A]** Cllr Gaston to organise the walkabout and contact Cllr Fryer.
- f. Fly tipping on Clifton Lodge, Cllr Fryer said Cumberland Council takes a firm stand against fly tipping and it should be reported in real time. **[A]** all councillors to report.

- g. Drains outside the Old Ginn House are blocked and flooding in rainfall. [A] Clerk reported EI/184880
- h. Drains at the bottom of Middlegate (both sides of the road) are blocked causing standing water. [A] Clerk reported EI/184886
- i. Cars parked up on pavements on the Gavels causing issues with pedestrians passing with wheelchairs, prams etc. [A] Clerk reported EI/184892 - To be looked at on the village walkabout.
- j. Potholes are a problem at Middlegate. [A] Clerk reported EI/184897
- k. Light out – outside the chapel on Gatehead. [A] Clerk reported EI/184916

Cllr Fryer asked for all reported reference numbers to be forwarded to Joanne.

- l. State of the Rose Villa Property, ongoing since 2015 – although he has attempted to fence the site off, he has placed an old van by the fence to attempt to block visibility into the site. Fast growing trees have been planted which could become an issue in future. [A] To be looked at on the village walkabout.

Cllr Fryer made his leave and the meeting resumed.

3. There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

4. Planning Applications

- Planning Application HOU/2024/0001 - Applicant: Mr & Mrs D King
Proposal: Two storey side extension, Location: 8 Gatehead, Great Clifton, Workington CA14 1TN
Councillors had no objections.

5. Financial Matters presented by the Clerk.

- Bank Statement No. 323 and dated 30 November 2023 – start balance £20,643.53. money in £0, money out £321.37, end balance £20,322.16.
- Bank Statement No. 324 and dated 31 December 2023 – start balance £20,322.16 money in £0, money out £1,133.10, end balance £19,189.06.
- Schedule of Payments/Receipts –[AM] Receipt - Taylors Joinery – Perspex £77.88, and receipt for postage stamps Chq No. 801 £6.00 totalling £83.88. Village Hall – Annual Grant Chq No. 802 £1000.00, Methodist Chapel - Annual Grant Chq No. 803 £200.00. St Luke’s Church – Annual Grant Chq No. 804 £300.00. Namesco Limited - 3 Year Subscription for Website Domain Chq No. 805 £56.39. Invoices were issued to the parish council on the evening from the Village Hall Committee for the use of the Hall for the children’s Youth Clubs. Chq No. 806 £186.00.
- Signing of cheques.
- Overview of accounts for inspection – all agreed they were of a true record. All agreed that the new finance sheets were easier to read.
- Annual Leave dates for the clerk are: 16-Feb-1-Mar & 1-16 June

6. Projects, Grant Applications

- The Harry Gill Project – no update
- Bus Shelter Refurbishments – it has been arduous to get a company to give a written quote for the refurbishments of the four bus shelters – [A] Clerk to contact Mapel Leaf and Cllr McKenzie will look for quote.
- Seven benches requiring rub down and painting – [A] Clerk and Cllr McKenzie to look for quotes.

7. Parish Matters:

- Rose Villa – as above – Item 2. L.
- Fly tipping on Clifton Lodge – Response Letter from named Contractor enquiring dates and times of incidents.
- Metal Detecting - Permission Letter sent out, not returned.
- Youth Club contribution from the Parish Council – The Village Hall Committee will fund the room hire for a further month.
- Main Road has not been gritted during this cold period & only once in the last cold period the other week. There has been one accident & several near misses. Clerk to ask highways why this main road is not being gritted as it is the main bus route. [A] clerk reported **EI/184924**

8. Village Hall

- Receiving more bookings for children's parties.
- The Youth Group (GCCYG) have started a youth Club but has had to split it into two groups for ages under 12's and over 12's. The over 12's were changed from Mondays to Thursdays due to lack of volunteers. The under 12's are held on Wednesdays, both groups are doing well. It was reported at the meeting that there have been a few issues with some minor damage.
 - toilet roll holder being torn from its mount.
 - Stage curtains being pulled (children should not be allowed on the stage)
 - Wet and used tea towels are being left behind (the Chair and the clerk spoke to Rachael, and it is agreed that the youth group organisers will bring their own tea towels.
- There was a problem with children running into the hall during a dance group session on Tuesday evenings, this seems to have stopped. WPCSO Luke King is monitoring the situation.
- The Village Hall Treasurer Bill Perry gave notice of retiring from the committee as of January 2024. The Village Hall Committee wish to thank Bill for all his good work over the years of looking after the accounts. We are in the process of looking for a new treasurer.
- A family booked the Hall on Christmas Day for a family reunion, they said that it worked well.
- A tile blown off the roof has been repaired.

9. Allotments – nothing to report.

10. Agenda items for March Meeting

Some of the above and councillors are asked to forward items to the clerk by 15 March 2024.

11. Date of next meeting is 21 March 2024

Meeting closed at: 20:40

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