

Bassenthwaite Parish Council

**Minutes of the Bassenthwaite Parish Council Meeting
held in the Parish Room on Thursday 2nd July 2015 at 7.30pm.**

Bass meeting 103 Draft minutes to be ratified at the August 2015 Parish Council Meeting.

Councillors Present: J Stephens, R James, K McMillan, S Langcake, H Reb & K Armstrong

Also Present: Cllr Grainger (Allerdale Borough Councillor) Cllr Bowness (Cumbria County Councillor), & E Clark (Clerk).

- 1) **Apologies** - Apologies for absence were received & accepted from Cllrs Richardson & Mattinson & PCSO Megan Jones.
- 2) **Minutes Resolved** – that the Chair sign as a correct record minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th June 2015.
- 3) **Public Participation** - There were no members of the public present.
- 4) **Requests for Dispensations** - There were no requests for dispensations.
- 5) **Declaration of Interests** - No interests were declared.
- 6) **Cumbria Constabulary** - PCSO 5298 Jones apologised for being unable to attend the meeting but forwarded the following report; there has been 4 incidents reported to the Police for the area of Bassenthwaite since the last meeting, an overview of one of the incidents reported is; On the 20th of June the police received a report of a loud party carrying on in the area of Bassenthwaite. The police attended and the noise was immediately turned down. PCSO Jones also thanked the parish council for making her aware of the ongoing parking issue on the School Road and Chapel Junction and advised that they would continue to monitor it and advise drivers when it is required. They had also communicated with the highway agency in the past and will continue to do this if any problems persist.
- 7) **Chairman's Announcements**
 - a) The Revd Peter Streatfield thanks the parish council for the first instalment of £500.00 towards the grass cutting of St John's Churchyard. The contribution towards the maintenance of the churchyard is much appreciated.
 - b) Information regarding the issue of the ongoing queries regarding local occupancy S.106 agreements. Responses received & circulated from the LDNPA solicitor which detail the definition of Local Occupancy/Local Affordable Housing and where said charges are recorded.
 - c) Allerdale Borough Council is currently consulting on the provision of its markets within the borough. The consultation is online and the link can be found at <http://www.allerdale.gov.uk/consultation>. The consultation asks about the provision of goods, the days that the market is held, its location amongst other things. The consultation will run until the 24th of July.
 - d) A Car Boot Sale has been planned for Wednesday the 22nd July between 5pm & 8pm on the Village Green.

- e) National Grid has published details of the route corridor it proposes to take forward to the next stage of the development process. The selected route corridor is made up of two parts including: a route going onshore north from Moorside to a point on the existing grid network at Harker, near Carlisle and a route going onshore south from Moorside across Furness peninsula then under Morecambe Bay, emerging at the new Middleton substation near Heysham in Lancashire. NG's work will now focus on determining the actual path the new connection will take within its chosen route corridor. NG will be holding a series of community information events this autumn and then another public consultation in the Spring/Summer 2016.
- f) The Secretary of State has appointed the following parish members of the Lake District National Park Authority for a four year term: Geoff Davies (Above Derwent PC), Mike McKinley (Gosforth PC) & Miles MacInnes (Barton PC).
- g) New shackles have been purchased for the old swings but they have not been fitted because it has not been possible to remove the old ones by hand so it's safer to leave as they are.
- h) An email from Julia Knott of the LDNPA Rights of Way stated the following; as the old quarry road and quarry at North Row are common land, registered to Bassenthwaite Parish Council, I'm just writing to say that we're going out with a work party to clear the vegetation. When we visited recently we realised it had become inaccessible because of the amount of growth of shrubs at Holly Bank and briars up the quarry road. Nick Thorne is working on legally opening up the historic route around the quarry to link up to the footpath at the top, which goes to Bank Wood. He'll be in touch in due course about that.
- 8) **Councillor Vacancy** – it was stated that so far, there had been no interest expressed in regards to filling the current councillor vacancy.
- 9) **Payment of Accounts** - the Council approved the following payments:
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|-------------------------------------|---------|
| (a) ISS - Grasscutting | £168.00 |
| (b) Mr R James – Laminating Pouches | £ 4.00 |
| (c) Mrs E Bell – Internal Auditor | £ 25.00 |
- 10) **Financial Report** - The balance as at 2nd July 2015 is £15,467.65 on all three PC accounts – *Approved*. The relevant forms were completed and signed to authorise the two HSBC account signatories to be Cllrs John Stephens, Robert James, Jonathan Mattinson & Helen Reb and the Skipton signatories to be Cllrs John Stephens, Robert James & Helen Reb.
- 11) **Money Management** – with regards to an emergency fund, the following good practice, from the 'Accounting Guidance for Local Councils' was read to councillors; *some councils may have an absolute certainty in their spending plans for the forthcoming year. For instance, if the only significant outgoing is the clerk's remuneration and this is agreed before the start of the year, the council will know exactly how much it will spend. However, most councils will have some uncertainty in their plans, perhaps because of*

general factors such as inflation or changes in interest rates on cash deposits or specific things such as not knowing exactly how much firms will tender for the rewiring work planned for the village hall. Before committing itself to its spending plans, the council should review the need for amounts to cover contingencies, in case inflation is higher than expected or works are more costly than was first thought. The amounts added to the budget should not be excessive. Councils might work to the principle that it is better to raise cash from a higher precept and not use it than to set the precept too low, and so run out of cash and run the risk of incurring an unlawful overdraft. A well-managed council will also look forward beyond the end of the year for which the budget is being set and think about whether there are any substantial commitments that it would be prudent to set aside funds for. For example, the village hall may need reroofing in three years' time, but the council could not afford the cost from that year's budget. Instead, a balance could be built up by raising the precept for a proportion of the cost in each of the next three years. Most councils will, therefore, budget to carry forward a balance, to cover contingencies or specific spending plans. This means that in setting the budget the council will have to estimate what balance will be brought into the new year, decide what balance it wants to carry forward and charge the difference against the new year's precept.

A contingency plan was discussed and the general feeling was that the parish council's finances were being managed satisfactorily. The rules state that an acceptable level of reserves is twice the level of the precept.

12) **Planning** – no applications or decisions received since the last meeting.

13) **Reports** – Cllr Stephens reported on attending the Lake District National Park Authority, North Distinctive area meeting held on the 9th of June at the Distillery which is situated just over from Ouse Bridge. The LDNP gave a presentation but there was nothing really new, the corridor travel plan was again mentioned. It was noted that they were hoping to receive a benefit from the new pipeline which would be used to fund cycle routes. Cllr Grainger reported that the meeting of the Derwent 7 on the 29th of June, was poorly attended and a new treasurer and chairman were elected. The 3-Tier Meeting at Bothel was held last week, the Solway barrage was explained and Michael Heaslip spoke about footway lighting. No-one wants to accept responsibility for the footway lighting, Allerdale are quoting approximately £3000.00 to put up a new light, lights on buildings are being frowned upon so they are trying to get the lights independent. 93% of lights have been replaced with the remainder not being fit for replacement. The cost of powering the lights may be put onto the parish councils. In 3-5 years the lights will be replaced by LEDs, a light as now costs £40-£80 per year to run, and by LED it would cost £8-£10. The next Derwent 7 meeting will be held in the Quaker Meeting House on the 29th of September.

14) **Highways** – School Road is to be repaired on the 20th – 22nd of July and then Armathwaite Road on the 23rd – 25th of July. Full details of both of these can be found on the parish website. High Side to Park Wood and Park Wood to Bassenthwaite Village and The Rake have a lot of dangerous pot holes. North Row End had been repaired and a filter drain had been installed towards Castle Inn which will help. A finger post at the chapel requires restoring. The Keswick and Scarness fingers are missing. Clerk to gain costs to restore and paint the sign for the next meeting.

15) **Community Asset** – it was noted that the application form to register the Sun Inn was with Allerdale and a decision should be made around the 14th of August 2015.

16) Parish Room Refurbishment – Stage 2 of the application was submitted in April, a reply to their queries has been returned to the assessor and positive messages have been received from them. A follow up question received, asks if enough has been included for surveys and that further costs can be added at Stage 3. They would also like a more ambitious plan to be contemplated. The infrastructure will be upstairs but no room is planned due to costs. The Lottery are asking that an upstairs room be added with a lift. It is all looking very positive and they have stopped talking about the £500k cap. They would like to see a larger hall but we are constrained due to the nature of the site. There are two assessors and Gillian has spoken to one and will speak to the other that deals with the capital side next week. A decision might be made early. Letters had been hand delivered today to Phillip Trafford & Nichol Mattinson from the parish room committee. It was stated that a letter had been found in the archives which was about a conveyance from Arthur Trafford to the parish council. It was not the original document but said that the parish council had the right to install a septic tank in the field, the parish council look after the fence and pay for the water while Mr Trafford looks after the gate. The letter was from Ogalthorpe & Hough, the PC's solicitors to Broatch & Sons, Mr Trafford's solicitors. Cllr Stephens to speak to the solicitors tomorrow for their legal view. The Environment Agency has advised that the septic tank should be tested and almost certainly would need upgrading. It was stated that the septic tank would still need to be looked at even if an extensive refurbishment was carried out instead of a full rebuild.

17) Change of Use of Telephone Box – an update email from John Sherlock of BT Business stated the following; *the kiosk in Bassenthwaite will be consulted for possible adoption later this summer. I have in excess of 40 kiosks within the LDNP to survey and post notice in before I consult with the LDNP. At this stage I would guess that the consultation period would run until mid-November with kiosks being adopted by Community Heartbeat Trust (subject to no objections following the consultation) towards the end of 2015. If CHT adopt the kiosk we will leave any power supply that is in the kiosk in place. The costs for the installation, timescales and ongoing maintenance for the defibrillator would be available from CHT. If the door needs to be replaced on the kiosk, this could be arranged following my survey and progression of the kiosk adoption.*

It was noted that currently, six people had shown support for the defibrillator being put in the phone box.

18) Japanese Knotweed – an email received from a parishioner stated an increase in the growth of the Japanese Knotweed at Parkergate. Scott Henderson confirmed that the site is on the list to be sprayed this year but it is critical that it is sprayed at the correct time of year. They are currently working with West Cumbria Rivers Trust who will be spraying the area and the best time of year to spray the plants is late summer. A councillor advised that they can't put the pipeline down until the Japanese Knotweed is got rid of.

19) Hearse House – Cllr Stephens stated that he would not be able to paint the door of Hearse House and he was trying to contact Revd Streatfield to ask if the church still wanted to use the building to store their lawn mower. It was agreed that a couple of quotes be obtained for the painting of the door and a decision to be made at the next meeting

20) Items for next Agenda - New items to be with the clerk by Monday the 27th of July.

21) Date of Next Meeting - it was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be on Thursday the 6th of August 2015.

The chair closed the meeting at 9.10pm.