

# Bassenthwaite Parish Council

Minutes of the Bassenthwaite Parish Council Meeting  
held in the Parish Room on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015 at 7.30pm.

Bass meeting 108

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**Councillors Present:** J Stephens, R James, J Mattinson, H Reb, K McMillan & N Harrop.

**Also Present:** Linda McMillan (Dark Skies), Gillian Forsyth (Parish Room Committee),  
Vic Siddall (Parishioner) & E Clark (Clerk).

- 1) **Apologies** - Apologies for absence were received & accepted from Cllr Richardson, Cllr Armstrong, PCSO 5356 Smith, Cllr Grainger (Allerdale Borough Councillor) & Cllr Bowness (Cumbria County Councillor).
- 2) **Minutes Resolved** – that the Chair sign as a correct record minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015, with the following addition to item 13 – Parish Room Refurbishment; *Unblock alerted us to the fact that an agreement be set up between the landowner and the parish room to state that the parish room are the operator of the septic tank.*
- 3) **Public Participation** – three members of the public present for items 18 & 21.
- 4) **Requests for Dispensations** - There were no requests for dispensations.
- 5) **Declaration of Interests** - No interests were declared.
- 6) **Cumbria Constabulary** - PCSO 5356 Smith apologised for being unable to attend the meeting but forwarded the following report; on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November, the police attended the Bassenthwaite area after receiving a report of a caravan being broken into and a burglary having taken place. Police attended and an investigation took place. Cllrs asked if the specific site of the caravan could be given as there were numerous campsites in the Bassenthwaite Parish. **Resolved:** Clerk to email PCSO Smith.
- 7) **Chairman's Announcements**
  - a) A consultation on parking charges is being held from now until the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2016 at [www.allerdale.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.allerdale.gov.uk/consultation).
  - b) Allerdale Borough Council is currently consulting on its draft budget for 2016/17. The final date for responses is the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2016 (Cllrs emailed full details).
  - c) Alan Bowe, church warden sends thanks to the parish council for their generous help with the cost of the grass cutting at St John's Church during 2015.
  - d) The CALC three tier meeting is to be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2015 in Allerdale House at 7pm.

*At this point of the meeting the Chairman authorised item 18 be brought forward.*

- 18) **Parish Room's Outside Light** – Linda McMillan (Dark Skies) stated that she believed that there was a misunderstanding as to why the light had been taped, it's not about turning lights out at 9pm or taking lights away. In the 2013 parish survey, parishioners stated that the glare/intrusive light in their bedrooms etc was an issue so the Dark Skies

working group was formed. It was agreed that a single light should be taped so parishioners could see what the light looked like. The parish room light was chosen as it didn't directly affect anyones property and parishioners could look at the light and say how they felt about it. Some people may not like it but other people may feel more positive about it. There currently had not been time to carry out a consultation with parishioners. It was noted that it was light pollution that was the issue.

*Linda McMillan left the meeting - 8pm.*

The parish council had received two letters from parishioners asking for the tape to be removed from the light, a letter from the Dark Skies Group explaining their objective and a further parishioner had advised that it wasn't good for children walking along School Road as it was now very dark. It was stated that the parish was an ageing population so lighting and security were very important. Councillors were reminded that the idea of Dark Skies had come out of the parish plan and the parish council took up the action and arranged for the light to be taped. The chair read through the minutes of the meeting from the November 2014 meeting when the decision was made. Allerdale Borough Council advised that should an accident occur due to the taping of the light the parish council would be responsible. A vote on the removal of the tape from the light was called with 3 in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention.

Resolved – the tape to be removed from the light as soon as possible.

*Mr Siddall left the meeting - 8.20pm.*

*At this point of the meeting the Chairman authorised item 21 be brought forward.*

- 21) **Parish Room Refurbishment** – Cllr Stephens stated that he had been researching whether the Stage 3 Lottery Grant could be put in the name of the parish council and had found that it was perfectly ok, so the grant application would continue as is. Gillian Forsyth reported that a bat survey had been carried out and there were no bats but this would need to be re-checked before the build starts. The asbestos check had been carried out and there is a trace in the flooring but its minimal and nothing to be concerned about. The septic tank works perfectly well and shouldn't need to be emptied for 10 years. The land had been surveyed and test pits drilled to assess the land drainage capability. All surveys have been carried out well within budget and the planning application has now been submitted. The building will be of a timber frame so it can be built off site and causes as little disruption as possible. The business plan has been put to the Lottery and the full stage 3 application has to be submitted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2016 for a decision to be made by the end of June. The parish then has a month to decide if they want to move forward with the build. Then, within the next 6 months the build must be started or the money will be lost. Tenders will go out and the main contractor will do everything. The parish council require an agreement to be drawn up which states they are the operator of the septic tank, this will need to be done whether or not the build goes ahead. Resolved; Cllr Stephens to obtain a quote.

*Gillian Forsyth left the meeting – 8.45pm.*

8) **Payment of Accounts** - the Council approved the following payments:

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|---|---------|
| a) Clerk's Salary 01.10.15 to 31.12.15              |         |
| Expenses – Postage & Envelopes                      | £ 27.43 |
| b) H M Revenue & Customs                            | £106.20 |
| c) D L Electrical Supplies – Electric Supply Tested | £ 30.00 |

The Council approved the following payments for the Parish Room Refurbishment (from the Parish Room BIG bank account)

d) LDNPA – Planning Application	£ 770.00
e) Howarth Associates (preparation of survey drawings)	£ 840.00
f) Unblock (septic tank inspection)	£ 330.00

- 9) **Financial Report** - The balance as at the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015 is £16,698.98 on all three PC accounts – *Approved*.
- 10) **Budget & Precept for 2016/17** – a letter had been received from the Revd Streatfield asking for financial help to continue the maintenance of St John’s Churchyard in 2016 and councillors discussed the possibility of a defibrillator in the parish. It was agreed that the purchase of the defibrillator (approx. £1950) could be a capital expenditure and the annual maintenance could come from the precept.  
The budget for 2016/17 was considered and it was unanimously agreed to keep it the same as 2015/16. The precept for 2016/17 was considered and it was agreed to be set the same as 2015/16 which was £ 7350.00 plus the CTRS grant which was expected to be £87.99.
- 11) **Transparency Grant** – the clerk reported that there was currently a transparency grant, funded by the government, which allowed parish councils to produce a bid for funding to enable them to work towards compliance with the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. It was agreed that a computer and printer/scanner should be applied for and the application form was approved by the council.  
Resolved; clerk to proceed with the application.
- 12) **Planning**  
a) **App Ref No. 7/2015/2270** – Demolition of existing ‘Parish Room’ building to be replaced with the new ‘Parish Room’ building – Bassenthwaite Parish Hall, School Road. *The Parish Council supports this application.*  
  
The following application was received after the issue of the agenda;  
b) **App Ref No. 7/2015/2278** – erection of a greenhouse and potting shed – Highside Croft, Bassenthwaite. *The Parish Council had no objection to this application.*
- 13) **Reports** – no reports received.
- 14) **Annual Play Area Inspection** – an email from Allerdale Borough Council advised that the annual playground inspection was due and this year’s service would again cost £56 plus vat. Resolved; clerk to advise Allerdale to proceed with the annual inspection.
- 15) **Standing Orders & Financial Regulations** – it was agreed that the chair and clerk review the model standard orders & financial regulations so they may be considered at the next meeting.
- 16) **Christmas Tree** – Edward Trafford was unfortunately unable to supply the parish council with a tree this year as the effect of storm force gales meant there was no tree suitable. Peter Sibson has however very generously agreed to donate a tree for the village green. Don Lomax has now carried out seven different tests on the lights, completed a report and the electricity supply form. The switch on date is set for the 9<sup>th</sup> of December until the 7<sup>th</sup> of January. It is hoped that the tree would be set up either Wednesday or Friday next week, depending on helpers.

17) **Holly Bank Footpath** – an email from Nick Thorne, Countryside Access Adviser of the LDNPA gave the following update; *I have been in quite extensive contact with the agent who is acting for the objector to the modification order. He wanted to know what the future held, either if the order was confirmed or rejected by the Secretary of State. I explained to him that if the Secretary of State rejected the modification order, then we would be in a position where we had an unusable path going over a quarry face. In which case, we would be back 10 years to where we started – basically looking for a suitable route to divert the path to get it open and usable. And that the most logical diversion route was the path alongside the quarry (the same route as the modification order). He has contacted his client to discuss this. I am hoping that his client withdraws his objections. But if that has not happened by Christmas, I will send the paperwork to the Planning Inspectorate for them to determine the matter. Meanwhile, our field team have been out to clear the old lane leading to the quarry, as it was becoming overgrown. They have also erected signs at the start of the path (at Holly Bank) which has had an oil tank built right next to it – and planting obscuring the path. I hope that helps clarify where we are with this.*

18) **Parish Room's Outside Light** – discussed earlier.

19) **Highways** – Cllr James reported that highways had done a good job on School Road but it was previously agreed that they would edge and widen it out, but this did not happen so 18" of an already very narrow road, has been lost. Thanks to be given to highways for School Road and the Scarness Lodges Road. Thanks also to be sent for the swift action of the gully emptier and jetter. All 8 gullies have been cleaned out from Winding Gate Road End to North Road Bridge (A591). Within three days of a phone call to Allerdale concerning the village being covered in leaves, the sweeper arrived and tidied the area – letter of thanks to be sent to Allerdale.

20) **Procurement of Audit** – an email from CALC advised that a Sector Led Body had been set up to procure the audit services on behalf of parish councils. It advised that at this stage the parish council need do nothing unless they wished to opt out of the audit procurement arrangements and set up their own independent audit panel and procure relevant services. It was discussed that the parish council would exceed the £25,000 turnover limit if the lottery grant goes ahead and it was questioned what the consequences of this would be – clerk to query with CALC.  
Resolved; the parish council agreed to become an opted in authority to this scheme.

21) **Parish Room Refurbishment** – discussed earlier.

22) **Hearse House** – an email from the Rev Streatfield advised that he would like to carry on with the current arrangements with regards to Hearse House.

23) **Items for next Agenda**

New items to be with the clerk by Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

24) **Date of Next Meeting** - it was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be on Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2016.

*The chair closed the meeting at 9.50 pm.*