

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SLYNE WITH HEST PARISH COUNCIL
held on MONDAY 24 JANUARY 2005 in the MEMORIAL HALL

Cllrs present Mr Peter Millard (PM) –Chairman, Mr Stephen Jones (SJ) Mrs Andrea Johnson (AJ)
Miss June Cohen-Kingsley (JC-K), Mr Michael Jackson (MJ) from 9.45pm

Clerk Mrs D Brookes

Also present for Open Forum Mr & Mrs J Stelfox, City Cllr M Thomas, Mrs G Greaves, Mrs F Percival,
Mr D Mowle, Mr J Leach, Mr A Holden, Mr D Wade, ECSO D Gwilliam

512 **Apologies** PC D Lowe

Standing orders were suspended

Open Forum

Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting, ECSO Gwilliam gave the report
During the month there had been reported, 2 burglaries, 2 incidents of criminal damage to cars and 2 incidents of damage to vehicles and 10 reports of juvenile nuisance. The Memorial Hall and the Bowling Club had both suffered damage. There had also been several reports of property damage due to stormy weather and an incident on the shore when 3 cocklers had been feared lost but were safely brought back. A warning was issued that in the area a man with a foreign accent had been calling at houses trying to gain access to properties, with older people particularly being targeted. It was also reported that a firm called EEC Security had been telephoning people offering 'free' advice about home security and then recommending expensive work. The advice is to report such firms to the police or Lancashire Trading Standards Department. There is free advice available from the police and from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service for anyone who has concerns about security.
Police surgeries will continue to be held monthly at the Memorial Hall. The dates are displayed on notices round the village.

Heysham/M6 Link Road. AJ had attended a meeting with Officers from the Environment Directorate of Lancashire County Council and it would seem that the only option is the northern route. Slight changes have been made to the original plan and the road has been moved further away from the houses at Lancaster Road, there will be higher embankments at the side to reduce noise and visibility and there will be traffic lights near to Morecambe College instead of a roundabout. At this stage it seems unlikely that the bridge over to the Lune Industrial Estate will be built. AJ reported that the Officers did not foresee a rat run through the village being a problem. Also the Officers were not aware that several routes into the village were over narrow canal bridges with a width for only one vehicle.

There was lengthy discussion about the potential effects of the road on the village including the possibility of ribbon development, incursion into the green belt, environmental issues and the potential for the village to become a suburb of Lancaster.

There was considerable concern expressed about the likely development of 'rat runs' through the village as motorists try to avoid congestion black spots. The increase in the traffic through the village and its speed is already a cause for concern and there would be even greater impact on the village as a result of the new road. It was thought that there may be 'sweeteners' and therefore possibly some funds available for traffic control measures, safety initiatives and improved public transport. The Council should be pushing for these measures and it was suggested that one way forward was through the Parish Plan to bring this to the attention of residents and to seek their views and then on the completion of the Plan to bring the concerns to the various Authorities.

City Cllr Thomas reported that there had been a children's competition to design a sign to encourage people to pick up faeces left by their dog. Signs had been produced and were available to anyone wishing to put one up in an area plagued by dog fouling. Cllr Thomas to be contacted.

There were complaints about the dog waste bin at Raikes Lane not being big enough or emptied frequently enough. The Council and City Council are already dealing with this.

All the visitors except Mr Holden left the meeting

513 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Proposal to accept these as a true record made by SJ, seconded by AJ and agreed.

514 **Matters arising from the minutes**

The vacancies on the council had been advertised but to date there had been no response.

New Manor Lane bus shelter; enquiries had been made about its modification following a complaint but this was not possible.

Green Lane bus shelter; Lancaster City Council had agreed that this was their responsibility and would be looking at any work on it that might be necessary.

Light at corner of Hest Bank Lane/Peacock Lane; Lancashire County Council had been contacted and they were still waiting for contractors to come to complete the job.

Beach Clean; about 20 volunteers had attended the recent beach clean session, removing a considerable amount of litter with the resulting improvement to the appearance of the beach and foreshore. Further sessions are planned.

Clerk's attendance at the SLCC training day on 23 February; the clerk had decided that she would like to attend, proposal to pay the £33 fee made by PM seconded by SJ and agreed.

515 **Financial Matters**

A receipts and payments report for the month was presented.

Current Account £2648.28 Savings Account £34140.54

An independent audit had been carried out by the Independent Audit Group formed by local parish council clerks. There were no issues to report.

Approval of budget for 2005/06; a budget meeting had been held on Monday 17 January. Members of the Council had been supplied with details of the actual and predicted expenditure for the current financial year and information about possible expenditure and receipts for the 2005/06 year. A budget had been drawn up resulting in a deficit of £26510 between expenditure and receipts and this would form the basis of the precept request. On the tax base of 1342.36, supplied by Lancaster City Council, this would give a rate of 19.75 per band D property which is the same as for the present year.

Resolution:- to approve the proposed budget and to request a precept from Lancaster City Council of £26510. proposal made by PM, seconded by SJ and agreed unanimously.

Slyne with Hest Memorial Hall (SHMH); a request had been made by the Committee for the consideration of a grant of £1600 to be included in the Council's budget deliberations for the year 2005/06. The grant would go towards off setting the deficit for the running costs of the hall. A report of SHMH's financial position had been submitted. The Committee intended to review its fee charging policy and was making every effort to become financially independent. It was agreed to make a grant of £2000 to SHMH in the year 2005/06, proposed by PM seconded by JC-K.

The Council also agreed in principle to making a grant towards the resurfacing of the front of the hall. A letter from the SHMH Committee with a written estimate of the cost was awaited. The Council felt justified in agreeing to this because the resurfacing was needed for safety reasons and it would also enhance the appearance of the hall and benefit the village as a whole. It was also agreed that the Council would be willing to give consideration to any specific projects for the hall if the Committee submitted a written request.

Assets consultation review; MJ had been ill and as little progress had been made the matter was deferred.

Bowling Club Rent; following the decision at the December meeting (ref 499), Mr Leydon, secretary of the Bowling Club, had made a further submission regarding the reimbursement of the inadvertently overcharged rent of £1724.80. After much discussion about the Club's financial position and payments it has had to make because of continuing vandalism it was proposed to revoke the previous decision to pay £523.20 and to make a one off payment, without prejudice and without setting a precedent, of £1724.80; proposal made by JC-K seconded by AJ and agreed. As previously agreed the present Agreement will continue until the end of its term in June and then it is intended that a new agreement will be brought into force.

516 **Payment of Accounts**

Transfer from Savings Account to Current Account not required.

Proposal to pay accounts as listed made by SJ, seconded by PM and agreed.

Chq No			
100674	A R Hyslop Ltd	26.30	stationery
100675	T Cowperthwaite	293.75	recreation field drainage assessment
100676	Mrs D Brookes	559.14	clerk's salary & expenses
100677	Petty cash	7.14	sundry items
100678	Mike Ashton	14.47	maintenance items -open spaces
100679	Society of Local Council Clerks	33.00	course fee

517 Open Spaces

Recreation field lighting; still waiting for meeting between K Galley and Mr Fell from Lancaster City Council to discuss arrangements.

Grass Cutting and Bowling Green maintenance 2005; attempts had been made to obtain another quotation but the contractor, Mr Greaves, had not shown much interest; Grasscare had failed to supply a tender and therefore the only one received had been from City Contract Services.

Proposal to accept the quotation of £2663 + VAT for village grass cutting including the Burial Ground every nine working days made by AJ, seconded by PM and agreed. It was decided that the grassed area of the foreshore should not be cut this year and the area on the corner of Arden Close /Shady Lane to be added (cost of this to be confirmed).

Bowling Green maintenance 2005 season; decision taken to accept the quotation from City Contract Services, proposed by SJ, seconded by PM, figures to be passed on to Mr Leydon, Club secretary, and his submission awaited.

Play equipment inspection; decision taken to accept City Contract Services quotation of £288.00 + VAT to carry out monthly inspections and supply a written report. Proposed by PM, seconded by SJ.

Tree at recreation field; a sycamore tree had been blown down during the stormy weather and was lying in the field used by Mr Hoggarth. Agreed to ask Mr Peter Walton to remove it.

Recreation field drainage; after careful deliberation and having contacted a number of firms and taken advice over the preceding twelve months on the problem of drainage of the recreation field, following an inspection and report made by Mr T Cowperthwaite, the Council had satisfied itself that Mr Cowperthwaite was the contractor capable of carrying out a satisfactory job and on these grounds decided to accept the quotation supplied by Mr Cowperthwaite.

Resolution:- to accept the quotation of £8500 + VAT for drainage work on the recreation field and to invite Mr Cowperthwaite to carry out the work; proposal made by AJ, seconded by JC-K and agreed unanimously.

Disability Access Policy; the clerk was asked to submit the draft report to Mr R Bracewell, Lancaster City Council Access Officer for his comments. The progress on providing access on the recreation field is largely dependant on the drainage work being completed.

Green Partnership Awards, Mr S Edwards, Lancashire County Council Countryside Officer had indicated that grants up to £400 might be available for environmental work. The Tree Wardens wished to extend the work already carried out on the hedges at Bottomdale and this could be suitable for an award application. Match funding would be required; proposal to agree this funding made by PM, seconded by AJ and carried.

Replacement of the hawthorn hedge on the foreshore which was removed during the work carried out by United Utilities also to be looked at.

518 Football Field

Mr Richard Turner of Bentham, a land valuer had made an inspection of the Bottomdale fields and sent a report. In this he raised the issue of changes in the Common Agricultural Policy and subsidies and Mr Turner has suggested that this could be more beneficial to the Council than a straightforward commercial rent especially in relation to the land used by Mr Riley. Mr Turner had promised more information but to date this had not been received. The clerk was requested to send copies of Mr Turner's comments to Lyn Glading at Bannister Bates Solicitors and to Mr S Wright at the Football Club.

519 **Foreshore**

Land on which Pearson's garage is situated; A letter had been received from Dr & Mrs Pearson in which they stated that they had never been charged for the land either when it was in the ownership of Bolton-le-Sands Parish Council or more recently owned by Slyne with Hest Parish Council. Legal advice which they had obtained suggested that if land has been accessed free of charge for a period exceeding 15 years the land could be claimed by those who use it exclusively. SLCC is to be asked for advice on whether this is so. Dr & Mrs Pearson repeated a former offer to purchase the land on which the garage stands. This is to be considered when covenants and legal matters have been checked.

Parked tractors; Mr Graham had removed one tractor but two were still left parked. A deadline for removal of the tractors was set at 31 March 2005 and Mr Graham is to be informed of this. If they are not removed other steps will need to be taken.

Foreshore improvement and maintenance; it was decided to put out notices advertising for tenders to carry out work on the foreshore; this would be based on the list of actions compiled by councillors during 2004.

Shore café; it had been noticed that there had been some fly-tipping at the side of the café and this is to be brought to the attention of Mrs Whalley, the proprietor.

Highway; potholes have formed in the road near to the café and there has been some flooding; Lancashire County Council Highways Department to be informed and asked to inspect this.

Cockle fishing; a meeting of the various Authorities involved has been arranged on Friday 4 February to discuss progress made in overcoming the problems and control of the cockling activities. The clerk is to attend the meeting to represent the Council.

520 **Planning Applications**

Application No.

05/00009/FUL first floor extension over garage to provide bedroom with balcony in front for Mr and Mrs J Herd, 5 Coastal Drive no comments

05/00035/FUL erection of an extension to rear to form porch/sitting area for Mr N Ireland, Derby Barn, Main Road no comments

dealt with by sub-committee

04/01708/FUL erection of a first floor extension to the rear and detached garage for Mr & Mrs Kenyon, 72 Coastal Road no comments

04/01733/FUL revised application to 04/00541/FUL for the erection of a single dwelling to replace existing (permission to demolish already granted) for Mr & Mrs C Barton, Marnwood, 52 Hest Bank Lane considered to be an improvement on previous applications but still some concern about the large size of the building and its potential to overwhelm neighbouring properties.

04/01212/FUL notice of appeal against a refusal for planning permission made by Mr & Mrs D Hutton, 2 Throstle Walk No further comments, the Council supports the Chief Planning Officer and his reasons for refusing the application

Applications granted

04/01659/FUL Mr & Mrs Whitehead, 27A Hest Bank Lane
 04/01349/CU Mr W B & Mrs D G Casson, Beaumont Cote Farm, Beaumont Cote
 04/01469/FUL Mr J Walling, 12 Prospect Drive
 04/01597/FUL Mr & Mrs Easton, 1 Hayfell Grove
 04/01553/FUL Dennis Pratt, 3 Ascot Gardens
 04/01653/FUL Mr & Mrs J Magnay, 8 Croft Avenue

Application refused

04/01526/FUL Mr & Mrs R Atkins, 43 Sea View Drive

Slyne Lodge, Notice of Application for Transfer of Justices Licence; transfer of the licence into the names of Mr David Curzon, Mrs Sandra Elizabeth Curzon and Mr Jamie Scott Coates

Tree Preservation Orders; TPO No 342(2002) Marine Lodge, 25 Hest Bank Lane –urgent assessment of various trees within the grounds of the above address

TPO No 155(1989) 38 Peacock Lane- T10 sycamore (is in fact a beech) –prune back for safety reasons

Work on trees within Slyne Conservation Area, land adjacent and north of Slyne/Lancaster Road- sycamore tree within hedgerow-fell.

The Tree warden, Mrs J Mowle had carried out inspections at all the above sites and sent comments to the Planning Advisory Officer.

MJ suggested that there should be a tree management scheme and the Tree Wardens are to be contacted about this.

521 **Burial Ground**

Improvements to entrance and parking- MJ had so far not revised the plans –deferred

Safety and Inspection of Memorials: the clerk had consulted the Lancaster City Council Cemeteries Manager for advice and his suggestions are; i. make public aware that work is to be carried out, ii. contact as many deed holders as possible; iii. contact the Blackburn Diocese about the graves in consecrated ground, iv. contact City Contract Services to see if they can carry out stability tests on the memorials and secure unstable ones as necessary, v. keep a record of all tests, results and actions. The clerk is to begin this process.

522 **Highways**

Heysham/M6 Link road –see comments above

Milestones; a letter had been received from Mr S Gardner, Lancaster City Council Conservation Officer apologising for not having had the opportunity to visit the sites but suggesting appropriate care of the milestones. He promised further information in due course.

The clerk had received complaints about the erratic bus service into Lancaster, partly due to the closure of the southern end of Hest Bank Lane while drainage work is carried out. A letter has been sent to Stagecoach. SJ has also complained to a Stagecoach Inspector.

Parking of vehicles on pavements; a letter highlighting this problem had been received from Mr J Leach – consideration to be given to ways of tackling this problem.

523 **Correspondence**

Heysham News; Clerks and Councils Direct; English Nature, Cumbrian Nature; The Local Channel, information; Connexions, information; Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service, Burning Issues; Lancashire County Council, information about the 'Limestone Line' local bus service; LAPT, minutes of meeting held on 22 November; Lancaster Area Rural Road Safety Committee, minutes of previous meeting, notice of meeting on 27 January; Lancaster District Sustainability Partnership/Sustainable Transport Forum, minutes of meeting held on 7 December; Lancashire Police Authority, notice of meeting on 18 January; Lancashire County Council, Rural Strategy 2004, Local Pilot for the North West Lancashire Pathfinder (April 2005-March 2007), invitation to participate; Lancaster City Council, Lancaster Local Development Scheme, notice of availability of information also Draft Statement of Community Involvement; Office of Deputy Prime Minister, Freedom of Information Act 2000, Authorisation of Qualified Person and Amendments to Schedule 12A of Local Government Act 1972; Learning +Skills Council, ESF Co-financing Tendering Round 3- draft proposals, preliminary information.

524 **Matters for future consideration**

MJ –tree policy see above

525 **Date of next meeting** Monday 21 February at 7.30pm in the main hall

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

