

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SLYNE WITH HEST PARISH COUNCIL
held on MONDAY 20 MARCH 2006 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 Julian Newbold (JN)

Clerk Mrs Doreen Brookes (DB)

Also present for Open Forum PC Dave Lowe, Mr John Stelfox

731 **Apologies** Cllr Barbara Barber, Cllr Stewart Scothern, City Cllr Malcolm Thomas

Open Forum

Mr Stelfox, who is writing a Village Design Statement, enquired about funding for its production and printing. He was assured that some funding would be found for this but an estimate of the total costs was required. (see 734)

Mr Stelfox restated his concerns about the damage to the canal bridges, which are Grade II listed structures, and his perceived need for weight restrictions to limit their use by large vehicles. A letter had been sent to Mr Clive Holt at Lancashire County Council asking him to look at the problem but to date a reply had not been received; this will be followed up and clerk will write to British Waterways. PC Lowe offered to pass on the concerns to the Police Traffic Management Team.

Mr Stelfox also brought to the Council's attention the widespread dumping of rubbish along Green Lane and wondered if there was any way that the whole area could be cleaned up, for example, by volunteers or by Community Service. Lancaster City Council frequently removes large items that are dumped but there is still a considerable amount of debris and litter remaining. Further thought is to be given to this and enquiries made.

Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting; PC Lowe gave the report -five crimes had been committed and there had been four instances of anti-social behaviour -slightly fewer than in the same period twelve months ago. PC Lowe reported that during the summer and school holidays a police operation would focus patrols in the villages.

732 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

It was resolved to accept these as a true record, proposal made by SJ and seconded by JN.

733 **Matters arising from the minutes**

Rent for land on foreshore; part payment had been made.

Dog waste bin at Sea View Drive; DB had met Mr Woodhead from Lancaster City Council on site to discuss the positioning of the bin so that it was not on Mr Fish's land. The bin had been moved on to the pavement.

Wall on Coastal Road, west of Hatlex Lane; Lancashire County Council Divisional Highways had promised to look at this and report back to the clerk.

Lancashire County Council; Draft Parish and Town Council Charter: comments passed on to County Council included- charter is little more than a review of the present situation; it does not fully set out any commitments to future actions; there should have been greater input at ground level from the beginning; parts are too vague and intentions are not fully explained; lack of communication, for example, a liaison officer is already in post but the council had not been made aware of this, charter talks about District Partnership Officer posts and Parish Champion responsible to Leader; creating even more bureaucracy.

Wall on Coastal Road; thought to be responsibility of County Divisional Highways and they have promised to look at its condition.

Highway on foreshore; condition reported to divisional Highways who have promised to look at work required.

Warren Close -sign denoting cul-de-sac; passed on by Lancaster City Council to Lancashire County because it is thought that a road sign would be more suitable than just an addition to the street name sign.

734 **Financial Matters**

A report of receipts and payments for the previous month was presented by the clerk.

Current Account £4271.60 Savings Account £14407.45

Alliance and Leicester had requested further information regarding the named signatories on the accounts and this was to be provided.

Councillors' Allowances; information had been obtained from Lancaster City Council and it was agreed to increase the mileage allowances and subsistence allowances in line with those paid to city councillors. The major change is the increase in mileage allowance for motorcars to 40p per mile for journeys with a destination of less than 35 miles as the crow flies from Slyne with Hest. Proposal to make these changes made by AJ, seconded by SJ and agreed.

Library closure; the date for closure has been confirmed as 27 April 2006. A meeting with the Chairman of Lancaster City Council cabinet, along with representatives and councillors from Caton and Warton has been arranged for Thursday 30 March to discuss any possibilities for the future of the libraries. It was agreed that a councillor and DB and also Mr Brian Staveley, chairman of the hall management committee, will attend.

At its meeting on 27 February the hall management committee had expressed its displeasure at the Council's proposed intention to reduce the grant funding to the hall in subsequent years. The hall is seen as an important village amenity; it is being run in a break even situation and some hiring charges have been increased but there is a limit as to how far this can be taken.

It was pointed out that there is the possibility of the hall losing its charitable status if a situation was to be reached where the council was handing over large sums of money to support it. The immediate financial problems because of the loss of rent for the library would be reviewed but the management committee needed to be looking at alternatives for the use of the room and to continue to aim to become self supportive.

Village May Fair; the organising committee has applied to 'Awards for All' for funding for the event; however it had encountered problems because the details of its bank account had not been finalised before the application date. PM and SJ had given agreement to the Council's banking details being used in the application; also some financial support for the event had been offered. The full Council retrospectively endorsed these decisions.

It was decided that the Council would enter a shield in the May Fair procession and payment of the £5 entry fee was agreed.

Funding for the Village Design Statement being prepared by Mr John Stelfox; it was resolved to make some funding available for this but Mr Stelfox was asked to produce some more concrete figures before a final decision on the level of funding is taken; proposal made by PM and seconded by JC-K

735 **Payment of accounts**

Proposal to make a transfer of £3500 from the Savings Account to the Current Account made by SJ, seconded by AJ and agreed.

It was resolved to pay the accounts as listed, proposal made by AJ and seconded by SJ.

Chq No.			
100827	Mayoh Press	54.05	printing of stationery
100828	K-G-F electrical	173.90	completion of work on lights on rec. field
100829	Thomas Associates Architects	2232.50	planning application for Burial Ground
100830	Lancaster City Council	28.20	play equipment inspection
100831	Lancaster City Council	2350.00	work on headstones at Burial Ground
100832	Mr M Ashton	82.57	lengthsman's work, sundry items
100833	Mrs D Brookes	607.79	clerk's salary & expenses
100834	Petty cash	5.04	sundry items
100835	Lancashire County Council	5.00	search fee, Common Land Registration
100836	Information Commissioner	35.00	data protection renewal
100837	Lancaster City Council	122.58	non domestic rate bill, Burial Ground
100838	United Utilities Water	6.77	water service charges, Burial Ground

736 **Open spaces**

Village grass cutting contract; four contractors namely Lancaster City Council Contract Services, Derby Gardens, Rolling View Landscapes and MWK Contractors had been asked to give quotations. Only two had been received i.e. MWK contractors, - total cost £9000 + VAT, Contract Services, - total cost £3489 + VAT.

It as resolved to accept the quotation given by City Contract Services and award them the grass cutting contract, proposal made by JC-K and seconded by AJ. However the foreshore is to cut only when necessary and the burial ground was omitted resulting in a cost of £2289 +VAT. Burial Ground -grounds maintenance i.e. grass cutting and strimming round graves; City Contract Services had quoted £800 + VAT and Mike Ashton had quoted £800. It was resolved to award the contract to M Ashton as it was felt that he was likely to take more care and do a better job, proposal made by PM and seconded by AJ. A contract is to be drawn up.

Recreation field, inclusive play equipment (suitable for both able-bodied and disabled); a quotation had been received from Playdales for a 'birds nest swing' , the total cost including delivery and installation being £1730 +VAT. Proposal to accept this quotation and to have a swing erected made by SJ, seconded by JC-k and resolution carried. Virement of £2000, written into the 2005/06 budget for a bus shelter, to pay for this work proposed by PM, seconded by JC-K and agreed.

The monthly play equipment inspection reports have shown that the tree bark under the tower slide unit is low. It was agreed that a quotation for the topping up of the bark should be obtained from City Contract Services.

A complaint had been received about the unseemly graffiti on the back of the youth shelter. M Ashton is to be asked to paint over it.

M Ashton had been attempting to clear out the building at the Burial ground and asked if the Council would agree to him trying to sell the redundant Kubota deck and cab on e-bay -agreement given.

Leases; the Tennis Club's latest proposals regarding the level of the rent were considered but no decision was taken – a draft lease for both the Tennis Club and Bowling Club and further information from Bannister Bates Solicitors was still awaited.

Regarding the lease for Slyne with Hest Football Club, from a telephone conversation with Lyn Glading of Bannister Bates Solicitors it was understood that the Club's solicitors had responded with further proposals for the rent and conditions of the lease and written confirmation of this had been promised but to date had not been received. As another football season is nearing its end and the Club has not paid a rent or paid for grass cutting since 2003 because of the negotiations and pending new lease, it was decided that an invoice should be sent in respect of these charges.

Plaque for pound and stocks; Mrs Foster of the Local History Group had supplied some historical information and from this suitable wording for a plaque is to be decided.

An inspection of some work done at the pound several months ago has revealed that some of the cement and stones which it held is coming loose. Mr Clarke, who carried out the work is to be asked to remedy this. The task force is meeting on 29 March to begin its seasonal work of planting and improving the appearance of the village. It was agreed that the maximum expenditure on plants etc. for the whole season should be £750; proposal made by AJ and seconded by PM.

737 **Foreshore**

Land on which Dr & Mrs Pearson's garage stands; a letter which had been received from the Pearsons' solicitors regarding possessory rights and rights of access was considered and it was decided to ask Bannister Bates Solicitors for advice. It is confirmed that the land CL222 on which the garage stands has been registered in the name of the Parish Council on the Register of Common Land since April 1993.

Information plaque for the foreshore; still no information from Leander Architectural.

738 **Burial Ground**

Proposed new entrance and parking; planning consent has been given, however the projected budget supplied by Thomas Associates Architects for the scheme is between £90,000 and £120,000 which at this stage seems prohibitive -enquiries are to be made about obtaining grants and assistance.

The deed to a purchased grave has been returned because it is no longer required as alternative burial arrangements had been made -left in abeyance.

739 **Planning applications**

Application No.

Dealt with by sub-committee

06/00216/FUL

demolition of a garage and erection of a two storey side extension
for Mr & Mrs Bain, 36 Prospect Drive

some concern about size of extension and whether it is in keeping with the

property itself and neighbouring properties

- 06/00223/FUL erection of a two storey side extension and widening of drive for Mr C Gill, Prospect, Lancaster Road
main concern is the very large size of the extension and impact on the neighbouring property
- 06/00230/FUL conversion of storage space in existing garage to a bedroom extension to form access at first floor level and extension to ground floor to create shower room for Mr & Mrs Jackson, 49 Marine Drive
concern that this an overdevelopment of the property impacting on the neighbourhood, also flat roof link thought to be unsatisfactory
- 06/00259/FUL erection of a detached wooden shed within front garden for Duncan Ibbotson, Thornbank, Coastal Rise
some concern because this appears to be a construction of a new artist's studio or summerhouse rather than a mere replacement of a shed and the building would seem to be considerably larger than the original.

Withdrawal of applications

06/00107/LB and 06/00110/FUL for P Walker and D Hurst
06/00080/FUL For Mr Tom Hanley

Applications granted

06/00010/FUL Mr Spence, 15 Peacock Lane
06/00012/FUL Slyne with Hest Parish Council, The Cemetery, Bottomdale Road
06/00058/FUL Mr & Mrs R Jump, 6 Lonsdale Road
06/00081/FUL Mr & Mrs R Parkinson, 48 Hest Bank Lane
05/01616/FUL Mr & Mrs Kneale, 9 Ashworth Drive
05/01572/FUL Phil Rogerson, 25 Hest Bank Lane

Tree Preservation Order (TPO) No 380 (2006), placed on Beech Tree (T1) in field west of Bottomdale Caravan Park.

TPO not being placed on trees on land adjacent to Christadelphian Hall in Slyne Conservation Area, however permission has been granted to fell one ash tree.

It was brought to the Council's attention that it has come to light that a property may be being used for a purpose contrary to conditions which were applied when planning permission for extensions was granted. Further investigations are to be made.

740 **Highways**

Canal bridges - see Open Forum above

741 **Correspondence**

Heysham News; CPRE, Fieldwork and Countryside Voice; Connexions newsletter; Clerks and Councils Direct; Childline Northwest- appeal for donation; Lancashire County Council, Minerals and Waste Development Framework, Consultation on Core Strategy Issues and Options; LAPTC, Lancaster Area Committee, minutes and agenda for next meeting;

Lancaster City Council, Proposed Changes to Morecambe Promenade Bye-laws and Seashore; Lancaster City Council, Planning for Village and Rural Needs -Getting Involved Early; all above circulated Green Partnership Awards-invitation to presentation of certificates -Council will be represented.

742 **Matters suggested by members for future consider**

JN- still some concern about safety and parking of vehicles on Shady Lane opposite St Luke's School.

743 **Date of next meeting** Monday 24 April at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 10.05 pm.

