

Ennerdale & Kinniside Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: Jane Coltman
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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 19th March 2024 at 6.30pm in The Gather, Ennerdale Bridge

Present: Cllr J Thursz (Chair), Cllr S Guise (SG), Cllr R Maxwell (RM), Cllr R Outhwaite (RO), Cllr S Parker (SP), Cllr P Rowson (PR), Cllr B Wright (BW).

Clerk: J Coltman (JC)

Members of the public: 7

Meeting commenced at 6.30pm

Minute Number	Item	Action
1007/03/24	To Receive Apologies Cllr Nancy Rowson was unwell.	
1008/03/24	Declarations of Interest None	
1009/03/24	To Approve Minutes PR stated that the minutes did not reflect the concerns he raised about the minutes at the last meeting. PR stated that he felt that the public had been incorrectly excluded from part of the last meeting. JC explained that was not a comment on the accuracy of the minutes, but a comment on procedure, which she could explain outside of the meeting. RO requested a note be added to minute 985/01/24 to indicate that a recorded vote had been requested. PR requested a recorded vote. Resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16/01/24. Proposed SP, seconded RM. Votes in favour Chair, SP, RM, RO, SG, BW. Votes against PR.	JC
1010/03/24	Exclusion of Press and Public Agenda items 25 & 26, contained personal information and related to staffing matters. Resolved to exclude press and public for items 25 & 26.	
1011/03/24	Reports from Invited Speakers <u>Rachel Oakley – Wild Ennerdale</u> . Rachel gave a report updating on latest activities which is appended to the minutes. <u>Neil Thirkell – National Trust</u> . There had been a change of tenants at Mireside. The coast-to-coast path was being improved. Steps were being taken to formalise some rights of way. Rachel said that Wild Ennerdale may be able to assist with the Biodiversity policy. SG said that they could take it to the next partner's meeting. RO asked if Beckfoot would be occupied. Rachel said that it would not be in the foreseeable future.	SG
1012/03/24	Report from Cumberland Councillor Cllr Jones-Bulman was expected but not present.	

1013/03/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Clerk's Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King's Portrait. A free portrait had been ordered. • Hedge Cutting. The outreach team from Haverigg had not expected to be able to complete the work by the end of February. A contractor within budget had been engaged and had completed the work. A bench had been damaged by them. They had been made aware and would repair the damage and sent their apologies for the accident and any distress. • Road Signs near Fearon Place. Cumberland Council state that they will be replaced in the new financial year. • Neighbourhood Watch. Rev Parker had written to the Council regarding the demise of the neighbourhood watch. The Chair would cover this later in the meeting. • Domain Name Helper. A fund had been set up to assist councils to change to .gov.uk domain names. This would likely become compulsory in the next few years. 	
1014/03/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Councillor Updates</p> <p>Wild Ennerdale SG was still monitoring numbers on the Jubilee Trail.</p> <p>Parish Enhancement. SP & BW had helped to organise a Fraud Prevention event with Cumbria Police. It had been very informative and there were leaflets offering advice available in the Gather.</p> <p>BW had identified a number of streetlights that need repair. RO had put her in touch with somebody from Friends of the Lake District who was going to offer advice on dark skies.</p> <p>Emergency Plan. SG & SP were co-ordinating dates to hold a meeting before the next parish council meeting.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JC BW</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SG/SP</p>
1015/03/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ref item 10d. The proposed route was the one that everybody used anyway. • Ref item 13. A member of the public had sent an email earlier that day regarding this item which he recapped. • Minutes. A member of the public raised questions about the approved minutes of the last meeting. He made allegations about a number of people and raised issues unrelated to the meeting. The Chair asked him to be silent but he refused. The Chair proposed that he no longer be heard from. Resolved that the member of public no longer be heard from. The disruption continued so the member of the public was asked to leave or the meeting would be suspended. The member of the public agreed to remain silent. 	
1016/03/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Planning</p> <p>Decisions noted: 7/2023/4068 – Land adjacent to Greenthwaite – Approved with conditions. COM/3325292 – Fencing on Longmoor Common – Granted in part (10 years rather than 15)</p> <p>Consultations:</p>	

	<p>7/2023/4072 – High Merebeck, Kinniside – Amended plans. Now local accommodation rather than holiday let. Resolved to recommend approval. (RO Abstained)</p> <p>Diversion of Bridleway – Resolved to offer no comment.</p> <p>7/2024/4028 Croft Foot Cottage, Ennerdale – Concerns were raised over the finish of the exterior cladding. The colour and design is not sympathetic to the original building and situation and out of character for the area. Resolved to recommend refusal. (RO Abstained)</p> <p>Other Planning Matters:</p> <p>RO email RO had circulated an email regarding a property in the parish where concerns had been raised about a suspected lack of planning permission. The response from the planning authority confirmed that there was permission in place.</p> <p>JT Planning responses. JT stated that there appeared to be inconsistencies in the responses from the LDNP planning officers to applications. Some were more fulsome than others. It was not always clear that due weight and consideration had been given to comments submitted by either the Parish Council or the public. Fuller explanations would be welcome. Resolved JT to write a letter to LDNPPA.</p>	<p>JC</p> <p>JC</p> <p>JC</p> <p>JT</p>
1017/03/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Draft Biodiversity Policy</p> <p>The policy was on the website still and the Clerk required suggestions to help personalise this for the Parish Council.</p>	ALL
1018/03/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Decisions taken under Delegated Authority</p> <p>None</p>	
1019/03/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Revision of Complaints Procedure</p> <p>PR did not support the procedure. He considered it gave too much power to the Chair, Vice-Chair & Clerk to make decisions. He thought the tone was confrontational. The Clerk explained that this was not a new procedure, it had merely been amended to remove the references to the now non-existent committee as agreed at the last meeting. RM said that it had been agreed that the Chair, Vice-Chair & Clerk would work together to deal with complaints initially and refer anything they considered vexatious to the full Council for a decision. The Clerk & Chair confirmed that is how the procedure now read. JT stated that this is now our extant procedure with only those modifications that had been agreed at the last meeting. He stated that a complaint would now get as good as, if not a better hearing, than previously. It is now a whole council decision rather than a committee. SP had found a number of typing errors that he would refer back to the clerk. RO proposed that the word “decision” be replaced with “recommendation” in the formal complaint section of the policy. The meeting was interrupted by a member of the public. He was asked to be quiet by the Chair but continued to interrupt. The Chair asked him to leave the meeting but he refused to leave.</p> <p>Resolved to suspend the meeting.</p> <p>The members of the public concerned refused to leave so the police were called.</p> <p>The Chair advised that if business could not be concluded this evening, then an EGM may need to be called at additional cost to parishioners.</p>	

	<p>The members of the public promised not to disrupt the meeting further, so the meeting was re-started.</p> <p>JT said that the procedure could be reviewed at a later date if members wished to look at it again, but this was as already approved and needed to be in place at least as an interim policy. Resolved to approve the interim policy as amended by RO with typing errors to be notified by SP.</p>	JC/SP																				
1020/03/24	<p align="center">Scope of Empowerment and Delegated Authority</p> <p>Deferred due to lost time.</p>																					
1021/03/24	<p align="center">Policy DS4 – Copeland Local Plan</p> <p>The modified definition changed “Towns and service centres” to “identified settlement”. This means that the village of Ennerdale would be included in the area considered suitable for some developments. Resolved That the Council would object to the change in definition.</p>	JC																				
1022/03/24	<p align="center">Council’s Relationship with the Church</p> <p>Deferred due to lost time and Rev Parker had left during the meeting disruption.</p>																					
1023/03/24	<p align="center">Community Led Plan</p> <p>SP said that a working party could work with the community and any other resources to create a new community led plan. The Clerk advised that there was a budget of £1000 for the project in the 24/25 financial year. Resolved SP would be the primary point of contact. £200 of the budget allocated to this early stage, available through the Clerk.</p>	SP																				
1024/03/24	<p align="center">Review of Parish Assets</p> <p>Resolved JT & RM would do an audit of the asset register and report back to the next meeting.</p>	JT/RM																				
1025/03/24	<p align="center">Annual Parish Meeting</p> <p>Resolved to hold the annual parish meeting on Tuesday 28th May at 6.30pm in the Gather subject to room availability.</p>	JC																				
1026/03/04	<p align="center">Finance Report</p> <p>Total book balance £11,067.09 after payments to be approved at this meeting.</p> <p>The budget comparison showed that the Council had spent around £6000 less than had been budgeted.</p> <p>Estimated reserves at year end were £10,647.09. When the budget was set they were anticipated at £10,222.61 which means that there will be an additional £424.48 to carry forward to the new year. Resolved to accept the finance report.</p>																					
1027/03/24	<p align="center">Payments for Approval</p> <p>Resolved To approve the payments.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>J Coltman</td> <td>Expenses</td> <td>£ 37.20</td> <td>000701</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Coltman</td> <td>Wages</td> <td>£ 648.69</td> <td>000702</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>PAYE</td> <td>£ 162.20</td> <td>000703</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mallatite</td> <td>SID</td> <td>£ 3,296.57</td> <td>000704</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lamplugh WEPC</td> <td>Newsletter</td> <td>£ 12.50</td> <td>000705</td> </tr> </table>	J Coltman	Expenses	£ 37.20	000701	J Coltman	Wages	£ 648.69	000702	HMRC	PAYE	£ 162.20	000703	Mallatite	SID	£ 3,296.57	000704	Lamplugh WEPC	Newsletter	£ 12.50	000705	
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1028/03/24	<p align="center">Councillor Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SID RO said that if there was a spare SID from Cumberland Council, we could ask for it to be located elsewhere • Untidy area. SG said that a comment had been made about it being untidy by the new building in the school yard. This had been mentioned to a school governor. 																					

1029/03/24	Date of next meeting Confirmed as May 21 st 2024	
	Press and public left the room and the Council entered a closed session.	
1030/03/24	Members discussed the disruption and the comments made by the people involved. They considered that the conduct by one member of the public in particular was threatening and harassing behaviour. Resolved that the Clerk should report the events of the evening to the police on behalf of the Council	JC
1031/03/24	Staffing Committee JT stated that there were some non-discretionary payments due to the Clerk, but that additional hours had been worked above those, for which the Clerk was due time off in lieu. JT proposed to pay the clerk for the lieu time owed, rather than carry it forward into the new financial year. Resolved to approve the payment of the additional hours.	
1032/03/24	Confidential Updates There were no updates to report.	

Meeting closed at 8.34pm

Chairman's signature.....

Date.....

DRAFT

wildwaterforestmountains ennerdale

Ennerdale & Kinniside Parish Council Meeting Tue 19th March '24 Wild Ennerdale update

1. Volunteers

Thank you to our volunteer team for continued support.

Work parties every Tuesday year-round. Some new volunteers joined and are local to West Cumbria. Just under 2,000 hours given in 2023 through a wide range of tasks across the partnership area. Annual 'thank you' meal enjoyed at The Shepherds Arms in January.

2.a Forest planting & felling

£50K grant awarded for non-native conifer removal in the upper valley through NE 'Funding for nature connectivity & landscapes projects' (Wider benefits C2C upgrade). Supports previous funding from Environment Agency for fenced enclosures & tree planting beyond Middle Bridge.

£95k of funding secured from Forestry England DEFRA funded national Wilding Project. This is being used to install temporary stock fenced enclosures in the valley bottom to protect native tree planting from sheep encroachment. This is instead of using tree shelters and is part of reducing plastic in the environment. In addition, the funding is helping kick start a developing tree, shrub and plant nursery at the National Trust's Beckfoot property through purchasing poly tunnels, compost and timber to make raised seed beds and seedling trays.

2.b Phytophthora Update

The despatch of timber from the felling complete in 2023 is ongoing. Unfortunately Phytophthora Larch Disease has been found in a number of new areas of the forest. Forestry England are developing plans to respond to these new findings which will be shared with the Parish Council once they have been developed.

3. Species work update

Beavers: Last month the Wild Ennerdale volunteers took down the demonstration beaver fence. This marks the end of our work on partially enclosed beavers in Ennerdale. Free-living beavers remain a long-term ambition.

Water voles: We are currently assessing the suitability of habitat in Ennerdale to support a translocation of water voles. Water voles were once widespread and well-established in Cumbria, but the Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre has just a handful of recorded sightings since 2000. Underpinning the reestablishment of water voles is the removal of American mink, a non-native predator, against which their defences cannot compete. Plans to start trapping for mink around Ennerdale are underway and could contribute towards eradicating mink across Cumbria.

Do you have a stream on your property and would like to trap mink? The Waterlife Recovery Trust has lots of useful information on how to get started <https://www.waterliferecoverytrust.org.uk/>

Would you like to survey a local stream bank for signs of water vole, mink and otter? The People's Trust for Endangered Species coordinates the National Water Vole Monitoring Programme between April and June. More information on how to take part is available at <https://ptes.org/get-involved/surveys/countryside/national-water-vole-monitoring-programme/how-to-take-part/>

If you would like to get involved, please contact please contact Hayley Dauben, Species Reintroduction Project Officer at hayley.dauben@forestryengland.uk or 07425 732513.

Appendix I

4. Coast to Coast National Trail

Working with LDNPA staff (Sharon Hodgson as lead) to identify lakeshore areas suitable for works to upgrade ahead of the National Trail declaration in Oct 25.

Existing stepped bridges will be replaced with step free bridges and surfaces on steep inclines will be improved to make access easier for wider audiences. Details are being worked on and Park staff will engage with the PC in due course.

5. UU land West (Phil @ WCRT)

Ongoing works to improve the River Ehen has included bank stabilisation works, woodland management, tree planting, improving fish passage, wildflower planting and improving in river habitat.

Going forward, works to reduce sediment and nutrient input, enhance biodiversity and increase water storage are planned by drain blocking at Low Moor End. Further works to improve fish passage, reduce sediment and nutrient runoff and improve habitats are planned throughout the catchment through bank stabilisations works, fencing, culvert removal/replacement, tree planting etc. Also, as mentioned, works to remove redundant revetments at Low Moor End are in the planning stage.

6. Tree Nursery at Beckfoot

Proposal for a tree & flower nursery at Beckfoot for locally grown species to be planted in the valley. Volunteers have been tidying the garden area ready for polytunnels and raised beds. Some spend required on outbuildings to bring them back into use for welfare purposes.

Thank you to Richard Maxwell for offering a parcel of his tenanted land adjacent to Beckfoot garden, which will allow extra space for the growing on of young sapling trees.

7. Events

Easter Trail in partnership with The Gather – 29th March – 14th April.

Family friendly activities following the Jubilee and/or Ennerdale Views route.

Chocolate prize back at The Gather.

Sporting event requests are coming in for 2024. Take time & resource to assess by landowners. No use of public car parks permitted.

Approved events to date:

Ourea Lakes, Northern Traverse (C2C) /Lakes Traverse (Ennerdale section) - 6-7th April

Ourea Great Lakes 3 day (not WE land) – Ennerdale show ground 5-6th May

Ennerdale Horseshoe – June 8th

8. Wild Ennerdale partner meetings

Next meeting whereby PC reps (Ric & Sandra) are welcome to attend a time slot is Wed 24th April.