

TEMPLE SOWERBY PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council followed the Annual Meetings on Tuesday 4th July 2017 in the Victory Hall. This commenced at 7pm

Present were Councillors Kevin Overs (KO) (Chairman), Angela Mathers (AM), Jonathan Richardson (JR), Caryl Varty (CV), Martyn Cannon (MC), and County Councillor David Whipp (DW). Also present was Caroline Fennell (Clerk) together with three parishioners.

Item 1 – Apologies - District Councillor Major JHC Sawrey-Cookson

Item 2 – Minutes

It was resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 9th May and 15th June be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

A parishioner present at the meeting raised a number of issues regarding the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 18th May. In particular, the parishioner questioned why his name was mentioned in full on the minutes of the meeting rather than being referred to as 'parishioner'. It was explained that the extraordinary meeting was held regarding a planning application for a large development within the village. As the parishioner in question was a member of the land owning family, albeit not the applicants themselves, he had increased knowledge of the development and was in the capacity to answer questions and clarify points raised regarding the development. As such, he could not be referred to merely as a 'parishioner' as this would not differentiate him, and the weight of his answers from that of other parishioners, who did not have that specific knowledge of the development. It was suggested by the Parish Council that his name could be removed from the minutes but that an alternative term would need to be used, this was agreed upon as 'a member of the land owning family'.

The parishioner also queried the following points:

1. that there was no play area stated on the original application yet this was referred to in the minutes – the Parish Council agreed that this could be reworded to an area that parishioners referred to as a play area
2. regarding comments made at the meeting about the building materials used, the parishioner stated that JR had not read the plans. JR stated that he had read the plans he found the building materials used on the plans difficult to make out
3. that AM stated on three occasions that parishioners can make their own objections to EDC, which he felt could sway people. Both AM and CV disputed that the word 'objections' was used.

In summary, the Parish Council agreed to remove the parishioners name and replace with an alternative, and to amend the minutes to reflect point 2 above. The minutes will then be presented at the next meeting.

Item 3 – Requests for Dispensation – None

Declarations of Interests – None

Item 4 – Adjournment of Meeting

A Parishioner stated that Temple Sowerby is currently a Key Hub and that under the revised Eden Local Plan, Temple Sowerby may lose this, resulting in Temple Sowerby losing a lot of its key services. As such, what are the Parish Councils views on this and what are they going to do to ensure services remain?

JR asked him to clarify what services he referred to. This was stated as services such as schools and public transport. JR stated that two high schools had removed support for the current buses which strengthens the need for a public service bus.

The parishioner asked if the Parish Council agreed that Temple Sowerby should be a Key Hub. AM felt that this is not the decision of the Parish Council and that she felt the decision had already been made by EDC. CV stated that the Parish Council had not made any decision regarding this and really that is something that should be discussed within the Parish Council and referred back to.

The parishioner stated that increased austerity could result in services being reduced further if Temple Sowerby is not a Key Hub, and that as anything requiring public funding is at risk, Temple Sowerby no longer being a Key Hub will further effect its provision. A lengthy discussion ensued between councillors and parishioners regarding the availability of public services in the area and their reliance on whether Temple Sowerby remains a Key Hub. This focused in particular on the provision of the school and the bus services. DW stated that he is not aware of any plans to close any schools. The next transport meeting is to be held on 07/07/17 at 10am, and Rory Stewart has been invited to attend. AM stated that EDC are holding Public Consultation Meeting regarding the Local Plan on 31/07/17 which councillors will be attending.

Item 5 – Chairman will report on matters from last minutes, not listed on agenda.

An Internal Auditor is still required for the Parish Council. The previous Clerk was considering this role but has since declined. Another parishioner has been approached but as yet has not responded.

The Internal Auditor checks the accounts and minutes quarterly and is an ongoing position for which a gift of thanks has previously been given, as this is an unpaid position.

CF to contact CALC to see if they can assist in appointing somebody if the approached parishioner also declines.

Item 6 – Parish Houses – Rent Reviews

Tenancy agreements for 1 & 2 Crossfell View have been signed and returned.

A fire safety review has taken place in the parish houses regarding smoke alarms/CO2 alarms. It is advised that properties have a smoke alarm on each storey, which all parish houses have, along with CO2 alarms. The smoke alarms are connected to the electrics whilst the CO2 alarms run on batteries. Once these have been fitted and are working, it falls to the tenant to ensure they remain in working order. Number 3 also provides an annual gas certificate.

A trustee of the parish houses stated that smoke alarms are the bare minimum required and should the parish council be taking a more proactive stance? CV stated she would be happy with annual checks of these like the gas. It was questioned to what extent the Parish Council as

landlords are responsible for safety checks within the properties. JR to speak with Arnison Heelis letting department to get some further information.

It was mentioned that previously the fire service has visited the properties, not to do a safety check but to offer advice. Suggested that they could visit the properties again or attend a Parish Council meeting. CF to contact to discuss.

The chimney in Number 2 needs some work doing to the chimney lining. Steve Bradley is aware and dealing with this.

Item 7 – Planning Matters

Planning Application No 17/0356 for Mr H Lowthian, Houtsay Park, Temple Sowerby – change of use of an agricultural building to accommodate an energy storage battery - no objection

Planning Application No 17/0293 for Reiver Homes – Erection of 28 dwellings and associated infrastructure on land to the rear of Temple Sowerby Medical Centre – following an extraordinary meeting a letter of objection was submitted to EDC

Planning Application No 17/0334 for Mrs Stephenson – outline application for a residential development on land SE Templars Court, Temple Sowerby – following an extraordinary meeting, a letter of objection was submitted to EDC

Planning Application No 17/0461 – Victory memorial Hall, Temple Sowerby – alterations and repairs to elevations – no objection

A discussion was held regarding the move by EDC to paperless planning applications. It was agreed that it would be better for EDC to email the plans rather than have to download them. CF confirmed the Parish Council is on the list to receive a projector to view the plans, and it was discussed how these plans could be shared with parishioners at meetings, using the laptop/projector. CF to research cost of screen/large sheet of paper.

It was confirmed that EDC are holding a Planning Committee Meeting on 20th July, although at this time it is unknown whether the above mentioned planning applications will be held. Parish Council will have the option to speak at the meeting. JR will try and speak with the planning officer to confirm.

Item 8 – Village Greens, Play area, Trees, etc.

JR noted that the grass had been cut when it was very wet, which resulted in it left looking very clumpy and messy on the green. Questioned whether there was any flexibility to when the grass cutters could attend to avoid inclement weather. It was suggested due to the large scale of the contractors business this would be unlikely, and therefore this should be considered when renewing the contract as a smaller, more local company would have more flexibility regarding the weather.

A parishioner questioned the time of the grass being cut as she stated that it was being cut at 10pm. The Parish Council assured the parishioner that this could not have been the contractors as the village greens had only been cut that day and they only work within business hours.

It was noted the area of hardcore placed on the Village Green to allow for car parking close to Sunnybank was still in situ. CF confirmed letters had been sent to houses in the vicinity but no replies had been received as yet. AM and JR are attending a day course on the management of village greens on 18/07/17 and will raise this then.

It was confirmed that there is currently no committee in place regarding the Maypole. AM queried whether the Parish Council could insure something that they don't own. CF confirmed that this had been added to the insurance for public liability following the last meeting. The previous clerk confirmed that it was erected in 1969 by a committee but that no committee is currently in place. JR stated that as it is a fixture on Parish Council land it should become the Parish Councils by default. AM stated that the Maypole will need adding to the list of assets if the Parish Council does take ownership.

Arising from the last extraordinary meeting, it was mentioned that 50% of vehicles travelling through the village are speeding. JR raised the general question as to what the Parish Council can do about this.

It was stated that average speed cameras will only record people who travel right through the village, not those who are going to a destination in the village. AM suggested that the village needs something physical to deter speeding.

DW suggested writing to Cumbria County Council who will undertake a traffic survey measuring average speed and the time of day of occurrences. KO stated that this had been done previously some time ago. JR stated that the issue could also be raised regarding articulated lorries coming through the village unnecessarily, and could CCC put a weight limit on the village? MC confirmed that this had been requested previously but CCC would not do it due to cost and legal implications.

The previous Clerk stated that both Frank Birds and Carrs have been contacted previously by letter and telephone as there is no need for the lorries to come through the village. She also confirmed that it is 4-5 years since the last traffic survey, which both CCC and Cumbria Constabulary undertook.

JR suggested that reapply to have this done again. DW stated that equipment is owned by CC and it is a case of getting on the list to have this done. Then leave it to CC to act upon the results and find a solution to the problem. MC stated that the previous report from Cumbria Constabulary showed that it required action. KO confirmed that they started putting the Speed camera Van in the village.

A parishioner stated that part of the conditions for the bypass was that they put traffic calming measures through the village, which hasn't been done. It was questioned whether anything was written down regarding this, and suggested that Highways may have something. CV suggested that the council haven't ensured that conditions that were put in place for the bypass were followed through.

Ko stated that someone has complained about low lying branches on the village green close to the maypole. It was queried whether branches that needed cutting were on the village green or on the verges. AM confirmed the ones near the maypole will fall under village green. Parish Council confirmed that Rob Simms, a Tree Preservation Officer had been out previously to assess trees and there is a list of those that need pruning/felling. CF to get quotes for this work.

Item 9 – Accounts and Financial Report

Income:	1 Crossfell View – May & June	£ 500.00
	2 Crossfell View – May & June	£ 600.00
	3 Crossfell View – May & June	£ 368.32
	TOTAL	£ 1468.32

Expenses:

Countrywide (Grass Cutting May & June)	£ 440.00
Zurich Insurance	£ 922.86
Bradley Construction	£1190.00
VAC Subscription	£ 30.00
CALC Subscription	£ 160.14
Outgoing clerks salary/expenses	£ 720.87
Clerks expenses	£ 191.71
CALC updated Guides	£ 7.00

Balances at		
30/06/2017:	Community Account	£ 9009.46
	Business Money Manager Account	£ 4,798.11
	Penrith Building Society (Maypole Account)	£ 1,166.00
	Penrith Building Society (Parish Houses Account)	£ 3,091.56

Cheques to authorise:

TSHost Domain Renewal	£ 22.18
Countrywide (Grass Cutting) June, July	£ 440.00
Clerks expenses	£ 131.64
Transfer to Parish Houses Account	£ 4000.00

Annual Governance statement read out and agreed and signed by Chairman.

AM suggests that an updated list of assets is also sent with the Annual Return.

Item 10 – Correspondence

All correspondence received since the last meeting has been circulated.

Regarding the planning application received for Temple Sowerby Victory Hall, a parishioner pointed out that the cartilage on the plans was wrong, and having seen a planning officer was informed this should be brought up by the Parish Council. Noted that the curtilage on the plans appears to cover village green. CF to make EDC planning department aware.

Updated version of Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities does not need to be adopted. Sections 1-3 are statutory and section 5 is examples and advice. Section 4 is non-statutory but the Parish Council needs to be aware of it. This was noted by JR and seconded by AM.

How to Invest Parish Funds Seminar to be held 03/10/17. AM questioned whether this would be valuable as not really in a position to invest given the small amount of funds available. CV stated happy to attend if free. JR suggested this be forwarded to the next agenda.

EDC Planning Meeting 31/07/17 at Appleby Market Hall - CV and AM to attend.

Prior to closing, a parishioner raised an issue of barbed wire being left adjacent to the River Eden after fencing had been replaced, and was concerned regarding the effect this may have on wildlife. The landowner was present at the meeting and has stated he will look in to it.

DW asked if he had anything to add – he stated that he had attended his first full panel meeting with CCC and had been asked to sit on the Shadow Cabinet for Highways and Transport.

The Chairman thanked those present and announced that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 18th September 2017 at 7 pm.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed Date