

CUMBRIA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of 168th Meeting on Thursday 9th June 2016

Part 1 Meeting with South Lakeland District Council

SLDC Leader, Councillor Giles Archibald, welcomed everyone to the meeting, saying that he believes in SLDC working together with parishes by seeking both their opinions and ideas.

Parish Charter – Simon Blyth, SLDC Principal Partnership & Communities Officer

Simon handed out a draft Parish Charter between SLDC and parish councils for 2016/17, with SLDC officer contacts for community rights, various resources and practical support, plus actions achieved during 2015/16 were listed on the back. CALC Amanda McCleery confirmed that a general document of over-arching principles had not been produced as few parishes had used 2007 Charter, so a short action plan format had been chosen instead. It was suggested that a SLDC monthly e-newsletter to parish clerks would make parishes more aware of SLDC issues and policies that impact on them. District councillors need to commit to attending at least one meeting a year of each parish in their ward. Windermere town council had seen an improvement in district council input and letting town council know about things. ACTION: SLDC Simon Blyth to add web links (eg. for grants) and send the draft Parish Charter to all parish clerks. ACTION: On receiving the draft Parish Charter, parishes to consider: (i) if it reflects their idea of partnership working with SLDC (ii) any additions and (iii) actions for parish councils (Post meeting note: the email from Simon simply asks for “any comments” by 5th August 2016).

Flooding in South Lakeland – David Sykes, SLDC Director of People & Places, and John Davies, SLDC Performance & Risk Officer

They presented on the flooding in South Lakeland, starting with some rainfall background to the December events before listing the widespread impact to homes and business. They explained what has been happening in the current recovery period, including water catchment plans as part of the Cumbria Floods Strategic Partnership Group (chaired by Floods Minister and Eden MP, Rory Stewart). They stated that CCC (as Lead Local Flood Authority with responsibility for ordinary watercourses, plus ground and surface water) and the Environment Agency (responsible for main rivers, sea and reservoirs) are developing multiple investigation reports into the floods. ACTION: Amanda McCleery to obtain digital copy of presentation and send to all parish clerks.

Environment Agency’s Response to the Floods – Jonathan Coates, EA Flood & Coastal Risk Management Adviser

Jonathan Coates, talked about his organisation’s response to the December floods. EA has a major programme to repair its own assets (eg. walls, embankments) damaged last year. There are inspections of walls and underground water courses, plus the removal of blockages (eg. gravel, trees). There have been community drop-in sessions in order to gather local information and public meetings are being planned to present the aforementioned investigation reports (which will be on CCC website 1 week before). Hydrological models and flood risk mapping are being updated in order to improve flood forecasting models. Newly appointed Catchment Directors are co-ordinating the production of catchment plans

this summer for 3 main rivers in Cumbria. He felt that natural flood management (eg. tree planting, water storage areas, flooding of meadows) is part of the answer but there will still be a place for engineered solutions. Any proposal has to undergo cost-benefit analysis to ensure technological sustainability and economic viability, passing a Treasury-created points system.

SLDC is arranging a workshop on the floods this autumn, where key organisations that were involved (eg. EA, CCC) will feed back to the Local Area Partnerships on progress.

Part 2 Association Business

9/16 Present

David Peters (Chairman & Natland); Amanda McCleery (Secretary & CALC); Peter Smillie (Arnside); Jim Shaw (Arnside); Ken Dean (Colton); Janette Jenkinson (Ulverston); Giles Archibald (Kendal & SLDC); Lorraine Thompson (Pennington); Angela Scrogam (Pennington); Leith Hallatsch (Windermere); John Saunders (Windermere); Lyn Prescott (Lower Holker); John Poole (Hawkshead); Lesley Smyth (Broughton East).

10/16 Apologies for absence

Heversham parish council; Richard Sutton (Kendal); Enid Hastings (Casterton); Ken Humphris (Casterton); Andy Blackman (Kendal); Helen Irving (Ulverston); Jill Byrne (Kirkby Ireleth).

11/16 Minutes

Minutes of 167th meeting, held on 4th February 2016, were approved as a true record of the meeting.

12/16 Matters arising from the minutes

- (i) *Northern Fells Group – as an example of communities being pro-active around health.* www.northernfellsgroup.org.uk Co-ordinator (016974) 78094 Services/activities include: minibus; benefits help; lend-a-hand (to ill or disabled); lunch groups in various parishes; youth initiatives in the school holidays; Men in Sheds; coffee mornings; fitness classes. There are paid staff and volunteers. Membership is £5 per annum. The company is registered as a charity and managed by a committee (which includes reps from the 7 parish councils). It is supported by various grants. A booklet of local services and organisations is produced.
- (ii) *Draft recommendations of Local Government Boundary Commission England (LGBCE) re. SLDC wards*

The consultation is open until 18th July 2016. LGBCE feels that there needs to be greater electoral equality within the district council. It has proposed retaining 51 district councillors but reducing the number of wards to 17 and making them all 3-member. Some wards are now extremely large in area because of low populations (eg. Broughton and Coniston; Holker and Lyth Valley; Kendal Rural; Sedbergh and Kirkby Lonsdale). Windermere has been split in half. Elections every year will be expensive. Those present were unclear how the work will be divided between the 3 members in each ward. They felt that the Boundary Commission England had solely considered the criteria “electoral equality” at the expense of other criteria on “community identity” and “effective and convenient local government.” Many parishes were going to respond to the consultation with multiple concerns.

13/16 Items of Interest from Parishes, CALC and LAPs

- (a) *LAPs* – LDNPA is looking with High Furness LAP at housing intelligence. A meeting is due between CCC Highways and the LAP Highways working group.
- (b) *Windermere* – decided against a financial contribution to Age UK South Lakeland as it would be 25% of town's available budget, felt they would end up contributing for several years and unclear if a percentage would go to Age UK nationally, when the precept should be spent locally in the town.
- (c) *Ulverston* – Business Improvement District (BID) using a percentage of business rates to support the town (eg. Christmas lights, cheap parking). Ulverston Community Enterprises still negotiating (with SLDC) to run the Coronation Hall and indoor and outdoor markets.
- (d) *Natland* – SLDC assigned a housing development in the parish to Kendal town council for 2 years so that both had errors in their tax base which is now being rectified. Parishes should keep an eye out for this, especially if new development is on a parish boundary.
- (e) *Housing needs surveys* – Cumbria Rural Housing Trust closed in March 2016 so unclear which organisation will deliver housing needs surveys. Parishes found the survey template did not reflect housing demand reality in their communities. Some (eg. Colton) have used Coniston's survey form with more success. Coniston also went door-to-door with theirs.
- (f) *Gulley audit by CCC Highways* – CCC Peter Hosking informed SLDC Simon Blyth that a google-type vehicle is driving the whole network by the end of May to establish an inventory of assets (including drainage) and condition data since the floods. These assets will then be put onto maps which will be shared with parishes so that they can share their knowledge on gulleys, soak-aways etc.
- (g) *Broadband* – Phase 1 ran into the current financial year due to flood delays. Plans for Phase 2 are still being finalised. Homes/business with less than 2Mbps (and no plans for super-fast broadband) can apply (through Connecting Cumbria website) for a voucher towards the cost of satellite. There are several variables in dictating speed but you need to be within 1 km of an enabled cabinet for super-fast speeds of more than 24 Mbps and speeds can drop to 2Mbps if you are more than 2km away. Villages are being encouraged to hold digital information workshops to help residents. BT Openreach does not let residents know when a cabinet has been enabled and the onus is on residents to contact internet service providers to purchase super-fast.
- (h) *Change of CCC Highways hotline number* – the new number is (0300) 303 2992 and calls will be cheaper than to previous 0845 number. Callers are still encouraged to report highways issues online to: www.cumbria.gov.uk/highwayshotline Parishes are finding that drains are now only cleared annually due to a lack of resources. If no action taken (eg. pothole, gulley) from notifying hotline, then let local county councillor know.
- (i) *National Grid North West Coast Connections & NuGen Moorside nuclear power station* – the former will transmit the power generated by the latter (via 50m high pylons down the west coast of Cumbria and across Furness Peninsula and a tunnel across Morecambe Bay) to the electricity distribution network which supplies our homes. National Grid's consultation has been delayed again to autumn 2016. NuGen's current consultation runs to 30th July 2016: www.nugenconsultation.com Some parishes are objecting on the basis that NuGen is not financially supporting National Grid to transport the electricity off-shore to Heysham or to underground the lines through and close by the Lake District National Park.

- (j) *National Park extensions* – these will come into effect for the Lake District (on east and south-east borders of 27 square miles) and the Yorkshire Dales (on west and north borders of 161 square miles) on 1st August 2016. There will be transitional planning arrangements for the next 3 years.
- (k) *May 2016 parish elections* – Lowick was inquorate so district councillor, Anne Hall, has been appointed in the short term whilst Lowick co-opts someone from its community. Satterthwaite is re-running the election in June as the nomination forms were not delivered by hand to SLDC.
- (l) *CALC training* – Code of Conduct course on 20th June at Penrith run by a former Head of Democratic Services. Asset transfer course on 5th July (from 12.30pm) at Penrith looking at procurement and management of assets.
- (m) *CCC consultation on changes to library opening hours* – with 17th June deadline. It is about lunch time closures and fewer evenings for Ambleside, Kendal, Milnthorpe, Ulverston, Grange-over-Sands and Windermere to reflect the reduced staffing. It will be discussed at the July meeting of CCC South Lakeland Local Committee.

14/16 Reports from Representatives to Other Bodies

CALC Executive Committee – David Peters

Housing Advisory Group – David Peters

SLDC Standards Committee – David Peters

Morecambe Bay Partnership – Amanda McCleery

See attached papers on all the reports above. Amanda McCleery read out Allan Muirhead's report on CCC South Lakeland Local Committee (which is attached to these minutes). The meeting clarified that on-street traffic wardens are employed by CCC whilst SLDC manages car park traffic wardens. Leith Hallatsch said that Barrow and South Lakeland Community Safety Partnership is looking for a new chairman.

15/16 Dates, Venues and Times for Future Meetings

Thursday 8th September 2016 AGM. Gilpin Bridge Inn, near Levens 7pm start.

ACTION: Amanda McCleery to contact new Police and Crime Commissioner as speaker.

Thursday 24th November 2016 CCC hosted meeting Gilpin Bridge Inn, near Levens 7pm start. **ACTION:** Amanda McCleery to organise agenda with CCC Karen Johnson.

Parish suggestions include: Highways; localism (“people and places”) and adult social care.