

ROCKCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Rockcliffe Parish Council held on Monday 18th November 2013 in Rockcliffe Community Centre at 7:30 p.m.

RO 16/11/13 Apologies for absence

None.

RO 17/11/13 Present

The Chairman, Cllr J Harper, Cllrs I Alecock, C Graham, H Graham, M Irving, J McCormick, G Mounsey-Heysham, R Park & J Shaw.

RO 18/11/13 In Attendance

Four members of the public.

County Cllr V Tarbitt & City Cllr R Bloxam. County Cllr J Mallinson had sent his apologies.

RO 19/11/13 Declarations of Interest

Cllr G Mounsey-Heysham declared an interest in item 6.1 Planning Applications No's 13/0776, 13/0793, 13/0794 & 13/0872 due to being the landowner of the sites;

Cllr J Shaw declared an interest in item 6.1 Planning Application No.s 13/0823 due to being the landowner of the site.

RO 20/11/13 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th September 2013

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on the 16th September were approved and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendments:-

- Item 10.2 - Carlisle District Local Plan Site RO001. To delete '*This being for approximately thirty dwellings on the north and south side of the road*' & '*Advised that the Highways Department had expressed reservations and may require the road junction to be re-aligned*'.
- Item 8/9/13 - Matters Arising - Lady Lonning Footpath. To insert Cllr *McCormick* enquired as to who is the owner ...

RO 21/11/13 Public Participation

Mr P Slegg, Investment & Policy Manager, Carlisle City Council attended the meeting to advise and answer questions on the Carlisle District Local Plan 2015-30. Mr Slegg began by advising the PC on the following:-

- The recent plan replaces the last plan produced in 2008;
- consultation process is now on-going before its submission to the Planning Inspectorate to ultimately approve or reject it;
- appreciates that it is a large document for Parish Council's (PC's) to consider. Carlisle City Council (CCC) is requirement to produce a plan that is neither too broad or narrow and that is fit for purpose. Acknowledges that this is hard to achieve;
- key areas to be identified through the production of the plan is designated sites for housing, employment and other essential infrastructure i.e. highways. The Government expects CCC to achieve growth in these areas, where their is proven need. Advised that the housing figures had been increased since the plan had been produced;
- CCC has received over two hundred responses to date, with amendments being implemented in light of issues raised e.g. highways and education infrastructure and additional gypsy site provision. The amended plan will be re-issued in March 2014.
- also drew the PC's attention to the recently issued City Centre Masterplan Consultation which is open for comments until the 9th December.

The Chairman then opened a questions and answers session between Mr Slegg, Cllrs and members of the public. Items raised included:-

It was queried how the recently distributed Rockcliffe Rural Masterplan document would be fed-in to the Local Plan?

Mr Slegg advised that comments received would be used to influence the Local Plan and that residents were being given the opportunity to say what they think should be preserved in the village or what is required to make the village sustainable in the future. Twenty two settlements in the Carlisle area have or are in the process of completing Masterplans.

It was asked how sites included in the Local Plan have been identified?

Mr Slegg advised that this had been done via the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). This document contains sites that have been submitted that are considered suitable for development. Submitted sites are then scored on their suitability for development and the highest scoring sites are then included in the Local Plan. Rockcliffe village is considered to have services available that could facilitate growth.

It was queried if Rockcliffe is considered in isolation in the Local Plan or alongside other adjacent Parishes?

This item was raised, due to large scale developments currently being undertaken bordering the Parish. Also considered to apply to the allocation of further gypsy sites. Mr P Slegg advised that a study was currently being undertaken on this item and he would forward the results of this study to the Clerk.

Who decided on the three sites included for development in Rockcliffe in the Local Plan?

Mr Slegg advised that these are selected by CCCI through the previously described SHLAA process.

Confusion exist, on the exact number of future properties, due to the accumulation of sites included in the Local Plan and also other planning applications currently submitted and outstanding?

Resident expressed his feelings that the area is being in-undated with housing options. Also commented that all possible housing in area should be shelved, pending the completion of the Crindledyke development.

How many planning applications are currently outstanding in the Carlisle area?

Cllr Bloxham advised that this was thought to be in the region of 2-3,000. Stated that Developers are not building at the moment, for economic reasons.

Mr Slegg commented that sites approved have to demonstrate that they are deliverable and it is recognised that there is no point producing a document that is not deliverable or achievable.

Other comments made for consideration included:-

- Recent developments included the reduction in the size of military activity at the MOD site and that this area may be included for industrial use in future;
- new road junction to M6 needed;
- Primary schools in the area are all full to capacity and this issue needed to be addressed by the County Council;
- PC had previously commented that it considered that a 10% growth rate was sustainable and acceptable. Sites identified in Local Plan indicate a growth rate of nearer 20%;
- Rockcliffe is a rural village and this needs to be maintained;

A Cllr advised on the public consultation event to be held on the 28th November concerning the Lonning Foot development, advising that the development was for six properties.

Mr P Slegg was thanked for his presentation and left at 8:15 p.m. **Agreed:** letter of thanks

PS

AM

to be sent to Mr P Slegg.
RO 22/11/13 Clerks Report

The Clerk advised on the inclusion of the Clerks Report, circulated alongside the agenda. The report is intended to replace Matters Arising and to inform Cllrs of matters progressed since the last meeting.

Appointment of Clerk

Contract of Employment agreed and signed.

Carlisle District Local Plan 2015/2030 - Preferred Options Consultation

Comments submitted 27th September 2013.

Highway Matters Raised

The Clerk reported that no update on highway items was available as no feedback had been obtained from Highways, this being a recurrent problem. Cllr V Tarbitt advised that she would progress these items on behalf of the PC if these were forwarded to her.

Agreed: Clerk to forward all outstanding highway issues to Cllr V Tarbitt.

VT

Pollution of Stream

Clerk contacted Carlisle City Council Environmental Health Officer. Advised that they have been working alongside the Environment Agency on issues including flies and pollution and these items are due to be discussed in a joint meeting to be held in the near future.

Environment Agency also contacted. Advised that routine monitoring of the beck is not being undertaken at the moment but they have been working with Brampton Skips on issues concerning surface water run-off. If further problems are experienced asked to report this through the telephone hotline number of 0800 807060.

A member of the public advised that a drain appeared to be blocked that bordered the Hespian Wood site boundary.

Agreed: Cllr V Tarbitt to progress this issue.

A Cllr advised that he believed that pollution was caused after heavy rain and is thought to originate from the Marshalling Yard. Cllr R Bloxham advised that he was aware that tests had been undertaken, but nothing conclusive had been found.

VT

Rockcliffe Rural Masterplan

Leaflets distributed, responses to be received by the 30th November. Leaflets distributed to Rockcliffe properties only as this is the area to which the plan referred. Carlisle City Council will then compile the responses.

Rockcliffe Village - Introduction of 7.5 Tonne Weight Limit

Chairman had determined that no weight restriction was incorporated in the original planning permission notice for BSW timber. This had also been confirmed by the Transport and Infrastructure Manager at Cumbria County Council.

Clerk contacted Kingmoor Parish Council Clerk and been advised that they are not currently pursuing any issues with BSW.

Cllr V Tarbitt has contacted the Transport Manager at Cumbria County Council on this matter and is pursuing it on behalf of the Parish Council.

Agreed: Cllr V Tarbitt to pursue the introduction of a weight limit through the village.

VT

Payroll Administration

Now contracted out to D Malley.

Financial Statement

Clerk advised that she had checked and balanced the petty cash. Total of £3.50 paid as rent for the Lady Lonning footpath and the cashbook had been balanced accordingly.

Rockcliffe Parish Council Website

Clerk advised that the web site was in the progress of being developed, and should be operational in next couple of weeks. Successfully applied and awarded a grant of £350 from the Longtown Neighbourhood Forum towards costs. Cllr V Tarbitt was thanked for the grant and advised that further funds for community projects may be available and that the PC should think about applying for further funding.

RO 23/11/13 Planning Matters

23.1 Applications

13/0776 Land north of Rockcliffe School, Rockcliffe - Residential development (outline).

Due to the expiration of the 21 day consultation period, an interim response had been submitted to Planning Officers. A copy of this draft response having been included alongside the agenda and approval for it's submission requested.

Resolved: to comment that :-

- Highway Access - It is considered that the proposed access location presents a potential danger to motorists; pedestrians and cyclists using the highway or entering/exiting the proposed development site. In particular, the proposed 'turn right' into the site as it is on a blind bend.
- Flooding of the Site - this area has historically suffered from flooding during heavy rainfall and has experienced well documented drainage issues. These emanating from the beck situated up and downstream of the site. It is considered to be an area of concern to local residents that these problems may be exacerbated by future development on this site. At the very least, mitigating features would need to be incorporated so that existing properties are not further adversely affected, if the development was to go ahead.
- Highway Footpaths - there is no provision on the current application for the inclusion of a highway footpath and/or cycle path into the village. Safety concerns have been raised highlighting that pedestrians and cyclists (children in particular) would be in danger when accessing the village - if no adequate footpath/cycle path provision is to be included in the development. The site is also immediately adjacent to the primary school which already experiences problems with parked cars and increased traffic volume at the start and finish times of the school day.
- Education - Rockcliffe primary school is currently at full capacity. Additional places would need to be provided by the Local Education Authority if the village is subject to further development.
- Additional Traffic - Development on this site, together with the adjacent field could be far greater than the five houses suggested in this application. The village is already considered to have traffic issues and the identified site (being beyond the northern extent of the village) means that any additional traffic - in terms of the connection to Carlisle, has to pass through the entire length of the village and past the school. Large sections of the road through the village have no pavement provision and at certain points the road is too narrow for two cars to pass resulting in the exacerbation of problems already being experienced.
- Visual Impact on the Surrounding Area - The site is in open countryside and visible from the wider area. Development of the site would be considered as

detrimental.

RB

Cllr R Bloxham advised that he would request that a Planning Committee site visit is to take place, prior to its determination by the Committee.

Four members of the public left at 8:40 p.m.

13/0793 Castletown Estate Yard, Rockcliffe - Erection of farm implement store.

Resolved: to submit 'no observations'.

13/0794 The Fauld Farm, Rockcliffe - Formation of enclosed horse exercise area.

Resolved: to submit 'no observations'

13/0823 Crookdyke Farm, Harker - Erection of agricultural building.

Resolved: to submit 'no observations'

13/0872 All purpose road at Todhills Junction adjacent M6 - Proposed access on to all purpose road.

Resolved: to submit 'no observations'

Permissions

1/13/0591 Land Adjacent to Ghyll Bank Caravan Site, Low Harker - variation of condition 2 (approved documents) of previously approved application 12/0722 - approved.

23.2 Draft Carlisle City Centre Masterplan Consultation

Cllrs were advised on the consultation, the closing date for responses being the 9th December.

RO 24/11/13 Schedule of Correspondence, notices and publications

A schedule of correspondence, notices and publications received since the last meeting was received and noted. This included:-

- Letter of thanks from Julie Little regarding the receipt of £30 towards plants for the village green.
- Cumbria Community Foundation - Annual review 2013
- Allerdale Borough Council - Local Plan, call for sites notification.
- Cumbria Police - Notification of a call for volunteers for the independent custody visiting scheme.
- War Memorials Trust - information on war memorials and their maintenance.
- Cumbria County Council - Budget consultation 2014/15.
- Great North Air Ambulance - donation request letter. **Agreed:** no donation to be made.

RO 25/11/13 Financial Matters

25.1 Resolved that the following payments be approved:-

Envirocare - Ground Maintenance Sept 2013	72.00
A McCallum - Salary of £239.24 & re-imbursements of £57.70	296.94
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - Wreath	17.00
Cumbria County Council - De-fibrillator appeal donation	<u>100.00</u>
Total	<u>485.94</u>

25.2 Financial Statement

A financial statement for the period 1st April to 1st November 2013 was received and approved:-

Opening balance 1st April 2013	5045.15
Income to 1st November 2013	3210.24
Expenditure to 1st November 2013	<u>1843.33</u>

25.2 External Audit 2012/13

Clerk reported that no matters had been brought to the attention of the Council by the external auditors and the audit return had been approved and signed.

Resolved: that the audit return has been approved and accepted by the Council.

25.3 Cheque Signatories

The Clerk reported problems experienced in trying to change contact details for the account. The bank having written to request that the list of signatories is updated and all signatories being required to complete new Personal Details Forms. The Clerk advised on other problems experienced in contacting relevant staff who were able to give advice or willing to help at the branch.

Agreed: Clerk to investigate the transfer of funds to a local building society with improved customer service levels.

AM

RO 26/11/13 Administration Matters**26.1 Cumbria Association of Local Council Membership**

Membership of the Cumbria Association of Local Councils at a cost of £202 was considered.

Resolved: Approved.

AM

26.2 Model Standing Orders 2013

Clerk advised on the issue of new Standing Orders by the National Association of Local Councils, their adoption being recognised as good practice.

Agreed: Clerk to draft suitable Standing Orders, these to be presented to the January meeting for consideration.

AM

26.3 Parish Council Meeting Dates

Due to difficulties being experienced by City and County Councillors in attending Rockcliffe meetings, the movement to an alternative night was considered. It was also advised that the availability of the Rockcliffe Community Centre should also be taken into consideration, availability being sparse. City and County Cllrs reported that three other PC's hold their meetings on the third Monday of the month and this was making attendance at Rockcliffe difficult. In particular, Longtown Parish Council having moved it's meeting day to the third Monday.

Agreed: Clerk to write to Longtown PC to advise on the difficulties being experienced due to the change in their meeting date and politely request that they consider reverting back to the last Monday of the month. To also write to Bewcastle Parish Council to inform them of future meeting dates.

AM

RO 27/11/13 Village Matters**27.1 Rockcliffe School - Govenor Vacancy**

Consideration was given to the nomination of a Parish Council representative onto the board of Govenors of Rockcliffe School, as per a suggestion by the Headmaster.

Resolved: Cllr V Tarbitt to be nominated, given her wide experience in this area, Chairman to inform the school.

JH

Consideration was also given to the nomination of a PC representative onto the Rockcliffe Community Centre Committee, the AGM to be held on Thursday 21st November.

Resolved: Cllr H Graham nominated.

27.2 Grass Cutting Contract 2014/15

Consideration was given to the extension of the contract to October 2014. The Chairman having contacted the current provider and having indicated their willingness to extend the contract, a small increase in cost per cut being agreed.

Resolved: Current contract and arrangements to be extended to October 2014.

AM

27.3 Lady Lonning Footpath

Deferred to after Cllr Matters item.

RO 28/11/13 Councillor Matters

Cllr J Shaw reported on side erosion being witnessed on the Shapwath road entering the village.

Agreed: Cllr V Tarbitt to progress through Highways.

VT

Cllr H Graham reported that the road at Todhills required sweeping due to leaves on the road.

Agreed: Clerk to request this area is road swept by Highways Department.

AM

Also advised that when Metcalfe's sweep the road at Hespian Wood, a manhole cover is often left open and considered to be a safety hazard.

Agreed: Clerk to write to Metcalfe's on this issue.

AM

Cllrs R Bloxham, V Tarbitt and G Mounsey-Heysham left the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

RO 28/11/13 Village Matters Cont.

27.3 Lady Lonning Footpath

Discussion was undertaken as to the footpaths inclusion on the map of definitive footpaths. Mr A Nicholson, Cumbria County Council having forwarded maps that indicate that it is not. Advised by Chair that as there was no evidence of it not being on the map in 1976 and no evidence that it had ever been included on the definitive map, the County Council cannot include it, unless proved otherwise.

Suggested by Cllr J McCormick that ownership of the area needed to be determined.

Resolved: Clerk to contact Land Registry and obtain land ownership maps for the area in which the footpath is situated.

AM

RO 29/11/13 Date of Next Meeting The next meeting will be held on Monday 20th January 2013 at 7.30pm in Rockcliffe Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 9:40 p.m.