

Minutes of the Rockcliffe Parish Council Meeting
held 16th September 2019
in Rockcliffe Community Centre

Apologies for absence:

Present:

Cllr J Twentyman (Chairman), Cllr G Percival, Cllr S Barbour, Cllr R Park, Cllr S Edwards, Cllr G Moss, Cllr H Graham, Cllr S Sidwick and Mrs Lesley Faulder (clerk)

260/09/19 Declarations of Interest and Request for Dispensations

As per Declaration of Interest register and no request for dispensations

261/09/19 Attendees

none

262/09/19 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 15th July 2019

263/09/19 Public Participation

none

264/09/19 Feedback from representatives

- Beckburn Windfarm - there is no money available until next year, a meeting will be held Oct/Nov 2019 to discuss what to do now. **Cllr J Twentyman**
- Northern Resource Park (Hespin Wood)/Cumbria Waste Management - nothing to report **Cllr S Sidwick**

- Longtown & Bewcastle Grants Forum - no meeting held **Cllr J Twentyman**

265/09/19 Flooding - Cllr Park

It was decided at the meeting that the **clerk** should find out who the city or county councillor lead is and write and explain the situation within the parish. It is the intention of the parish council to try and get the same financial help that was available to city residents and others directly affected by Storm Desmond

266/09/19 Highways

- W1980964084 Speed indicator PC Norman Black informed the clerk that Rockcliffe & Cargo are next in line for the Speed Indicator Device (SID). We can then ask for the results under the freedom of information act to get the information we need to pursue the warning signs at the entrance to Rockcliffe.

- W1980973852 Footpath from Redhills to the Church it has come to light that a water leak has been found, so the **CLERK** will re report it.
- W198068448 No parking markings Blencarn Park, no update, **CLERK** will follow up
- A letter from Heathlands this is to be referred to Castletown Estates

267/09/19 Clerks report

To note

- Training, the clerk circulated the training schedule from CALC, Cllr Edwards expressed a wish to attend 'new councillor' training, this was **APPROVED**
- Financial Regulations Council **APPROVED** and accepted the updated regulations.

268/09/19 Correspondence

RESOLVED to note the correspondence received

269/09/19 Financial matters

- **RESOLVED** to note no outstanding cheques
- **RESOLVED** to approve and accept the bank reconciliation and cheques for payment

ROCKCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL			
BANK RECONCILIATION AT 1st September 2019			
Opening balance cash book as at 1/4/2019		6423.81	
	Receipts	11725.23	Payments 5077.31
			Balance £13,071.73
Bank Balance as at 01/09/2019		£13,598.48	
Deduct payments made in August and September not on statement			
		August pay on statement	363.28
		On statement 207	381.66
		208	35.47
		209	128
		Septemer pay	363.28
			526.75

Cheques for payment September 2019			
Cheque No	Payee	Description	Amount £
DD	L Faulder	Clerk Salary August	363.28
DD	L Faulder	Clerk Salary September	363.28
	208 L Faulder	Clerks expenses	35.47
	209 B Graham	Notice board repairs	128

- **RESOLVED** to accept the clerk's expenses
- **RESOLVED** to approve to release cheque to GILL for summer playscheme

270/09/19 Beckburn Fund

- **RESOLVED** to note the current position

20/05/2019	Heathlands	chicken coop	515
20/05/2019	St Marys Church	grass cutting	500
15/07/2019	County Council	Grit Bin	332.5
15/07/2019	Mrs Little	Flowers	40
16/09/2019	Brian Graham	Notice board repairs	128
			1515.5

This gives a balance of **£6777.27** minus the **£5211.23** which was received this year leaves **£1566.04** which needs to be allocated.

- **RESOLVED** to approve village grass cutting, footpath and village green rent to be claimed from the Beckburn Fund
- ii) **RESOLVED** the summer playscheme is to come from the Beckburn fund on a yearly basis
- iii) **RESOLVED** to purchase two seats for Rockcliffe, the 'Elwood' seat was approved, the current price is £609.97 ex vat and £731.96 inc vat. This will be put on the November 2019 agenda to confirm where the seats will be situated.
- iv) **RESOLVED** to put the grass cutting out to tender in January, the contract needs will be discussed and the costs of putting to tender will be funded from the Beckburn fund
- v) No invoice from Community Payback for grass cutting has been received, it will be shown on the agenda when payment is due. **RESOLVED**
- vi) **RESOLVED** not to continue with the signage on the village green at this moment but to monitor the situation and if problems arise this will be discussed again

271/09/19 Planning

RESOLVED to planning application decisions and new applications

- Planning application 19/0556 - council supports the planning application
- Planning application 1/17/9019 - permanently extended hours NWR, permission granted
- Planning application 1/17/9018 - permanently extended hours NWR, permission granted
- Planning application 19/0627 - kitchen extension council support the planning application
- Planning application 19/0624 - single storey extension, council supports the planning application

272/09/19 Forestry Investment Zone (FIZ) Cllr G Moss

RESOLVED to remove from agenda no further interest

273/09/19 Lifebelts

RESOLVED to remove from agenda no further input is required from the parish council

274/09/19 VE Day

RESOLVED Cllr Twentyman has agreed to go on the group working to put this event in place, remove from the agenda until a later date

275/09/19 Removal of BT Telephone Boxes

RESOLVED to support BT in the removal of boxes from Todhills and Blackford, this is due to reduced use over time with most people having mobile phones **CLERK** to write

276/09/19 HGV's Through Todhills

RESOLVED to remove until more evidence is available

277/09/19 ANOB update Cllr Park

Cllr Park attended a meeting at Mawbray in July of this year. Questions were taken from the parish councils who had representative there and they were answered ANOB Deputy Manager Chris Spencer. The meeting was quite involved; therefore, the questions and answers are attached at the end of these minutes. Please read **APPENIX 1**. As a result of this meeting Rockcliffe Parish Council has been invited to a meeting at Beaumont to discuss more local issues within this project.

278/09/19 Agenda Items for the next scheduled meeting

No items were identified, all agenda items reach the Clerk by Friday 8th November 2019

279/09/19 Date and time of next meeting

18th November 2019 at 7.30pm

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website**

www.rockcliffeparishcouncil.co.uk

Appendix 1

Parish Council Consultation Meeting Notes

Mawbray Village Hall
7pm - 9pm 23rd July 2019

The following questions were asked by the Parish Councils (PCs) and answered by AONB Deputy Manager Chris Spencer:

What relationship does the Environment Agency (EA) have with the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB)?

- EA is represented on the AONB's Joint Advisory Committee (JAC).
- The JAC has representatives from Cumbria County Council, ACTion with Communities in Cumbria (ACT), Natural England, Environment Agency,

Allerdale Borough Council, Carlisle City Council, Town Councils, most PCs (some have not been attending), RSPB, Friends of the Lake District, etc.

Can AONB boundaries be changed alongside the ongoing Glover review?

- Process currently goes through DEFRA and is lengthy and expensive. Glover review may have some impact on this, but there are no firm proposals. It was noted that Rockcliffe PC are keen for the boundary to be extended to include Kingmoor. AONB already aware of this and will take this away.

Are there plans to extend existing cycle paths?

- This has been included in the Coastal Communities plan, which is separate to the AONB.

What progress has been made on extending the England Coast Path beyond Allonby?

- Next portion to be approved is through to Gretna, there have been delays following 'People Over Wind' case, but it is hoped that submission to Secretary of State will be made in the Autumn.

Did the AONB have any input into the decision to route the England Coast Path through Burgh-by-Sands?

- That decision followed the brief that the path should be in sight of the sea wherever possible.

The following questions were asked by ACT and answered by the PCs (no AONB staff were present in the room):

Do you have a relationship with the AONB? Have you ever discussed any issues (positive or negative) with the AONB before? If so what?

- It is a standing item on at least one PC agenda.
- Some PCs felt that they don't know what the AONB are doing; ACT highlighted that there is room for representation on the JAC.
- ACT emphasized that the AONB would like to have a better relationship with PCs.
- PCs were unanimous in their desire to improve two-way communication between themselves and the AONB.
- Biannual, or perhaps even quarterly, reporting or a newsletter by the AONB to the Parish Councils was suggested as a possible way of keeping the PCs better informed. Equally it was stressed that Parish Councils could approach the AONB if they need advice or support on issues, they might not be able to directly help, but indirectly they might be able to lever support or signpost to an organisation that can.

- The general theme of the conversation was that Parish Councils would like to be consulted more, rather than feel like ‘things are done to them’ without forewarning. They have felt like they are “kept in the dark”, though it was noted that “things seem better since management at the AONB changed”.

Do you engage with the AONB on planning issues?

- Would consider it if something major came up (e.g. pylons)
- Two PCs reported doing so in the past, for example, Rockcliffe got in touch regarding the Sellafield pylons.
- One PC questioned “does AONB’s support add weight to a planning decision?”
- One PC advised that the “AONB must have impact on wind turbines” - Belief held by some PCs that the AONB have a big influence on wind turbines, other PCs disagreed.

Do you engage with the AONB on any maintenance issues?

- Yes, the AONB have supported one PC in clearing of overgrown plants. Community are hoping to take over management of dunes and greens. Worked with Allerdale BC, the partnership has worked. Hope to work more closely on grass cutting too.
- Residents have asked one PC if boardwalks can be replaced, appreciate it is expensive, question whether the AONB could help?
- Discussion around the relationship between the AONB and the Highways Agency
- Sometimes, it’s not always the AONB that are best placed to offer advice. For example, issues around becks, rivers, tarns and lakes are best directed at your local Rivers Trust (West Cumbria Rivers Trust or Eden Rivers Trust in this area) or the Environment Agency, but remember the Rivers Trusts are locally based. For example, Rockcliffe got practical advice on Himalayan Balsam removal from Eden Rivers Trust.
- Some becks reportedly choked with vegetation and Environment Agency no longer regularly dredge them like they used to, just cut once late in the year. Could the community doing anything to help clean out the ditches? ACT advised it was worth contacting West Cumbria Rivers Trust
Website: <https://westcumbriariverstrust.org/>
Tel: 017687 75429
Email: info@westcumbriariverstrust.org

Have there been any environmental improvements relating to the AONB?

- Erosion of riverbanks at Beaumont is not being addressed. Dangerous for Hadrian’s Wall walkers. A meeting was held May 2018 but nothing has happened since. It’s located behind the village hall and is eroding away

the riverbank. The PC have photos. Can the AONB do anything? Another PC suggested that a plan needs to be made, by the PC and/or community?

Funding can then be applied for, there are lots of opportunities out there.

- What is going on with the unused gate stoops? There's a few dotted about – Bowness Hall road to Brackenrigg been in 2 years but no sign of any gates, two near Drumburgh too, which also look out of place. Why are they there? Were they free?

Have you any ideas for developments you would like to work with the AONB on? And any other issues not already covered?

- Hadrian's Wall is a World Heritage Site, but Natural England want to route their National Coast Path through it, how is this allowed?
- ACT encouraged the Parish Councils to write Parish Plans and noted that Gareth Douglas-Brown is the West Cumbria Development Officer for ACT that can support them with this.
- ACT advised that Cumbria County Council have launched a new 'Working Together' scheme that aims to support communities to work on local improvement and maintenance tasks focusing on low-medium risk highways activities (e.g. sweeping, verge maintenance) and other services in time will be incorporated to improve and further enhance local communities across the county. Website: <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/yourcommunitysupport/workingtogether.asp>
Email: workingtogether@cumbria.gov.uk
- The 'Cumbria Exchange' is another fairly new initiative for community organisations and businesses to connect with each other to offer free or inkind support for mutual benefit. Website: <https://cumbriaexchange.co.uk/>
- One Parish Councillor noted "[The AONB] do a good job, transformed [the area] over the years. Lots of visitors are impressed. Everyone is doing lots of little bits, AONB, Parish Councils, Cumbria County Council".