

## Minutes of the Bewcastle Parish Council Meeting Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.30 pm in Roadhead Hall

**Present:** Barbara Smith (Chairman), Brian Carruthers, Pam Copeland, Malcolm Dodd, Ann Holt-Thomas, Steven Pattinson, Pat Renwick, Michelle Thorpe, Frank Waugh

Item No	
19.65	<b>Apologies</b> were received from County Councillor Val Tarbitt
19.66	<b>A Declaration of Interest</b> was received from Ann Holt-Thomas in respect of item 19.68 together with a request for dispensation to move this item. The request was put to the Council which <b>RESOLVED</b> to allow the request.
19.67	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019</b> were agreed and it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to authorise the Chairman to sign them as a true record.
19.68	<p><b>Proposed woodland creation at Crookgate</b> The Chairman welcomed Ms Rachel Sparks, the Woodland Creation Officer for the Forestry Commission.</p> <p>Ann Holt-Thomas proposed that the Parish Council should adopt Keith Thomas's submission together with any additions deemed appropriate. The Chairman said she thought the submission was comprehensive and then opened the meeting to questions from Councillors and members of the public.</p> <p>The objections were as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The loss of the traditional farming occupation in the area together with the ancillary loss of work at livestock auctions, agricultural engineering and feed merchants.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">It was felt that the area would become less attractive to newcomers and the knock-on effect of this together with young people moving away to seek work elsewhere would lead to the closure of the primary school and the eventual depopulation of the parish.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The bird survey was considered inadequate being carried out by the agent for the applicant as judge and jury. No migrant bird survey had been done it being recommended by the Forestry Commission in their EIA Scoping Guidance. Ms Sparks said that the Forestry Commission would decide whether another survey was needed.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Roadside verges would be overshadowed by trees right up to the edge of the road and the wildflower habitat destroyed.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The removal of this land from grazing would exacerbate the decline of endangered native cattle, such as the Blue Grey and Whitebred Shorthorn.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">There was a lack of clarity over the timber extraction route leading to concern over the water main running adjacent to the site.</p>

	<p>There was concern over the property known as Bank Head which would be entirely surrounded by forest under this proposal.</p> <p>It was felt that the agent showed little interest in local concerns or sensitivity for the feelings of residents and that communication needed to be better.</p> <p>The Chairman said that the Heritage Society had evidence of archaeological features not shown on the plan.</p> <p>Pat Renwick said that Crookgate Barn, on the opposite side of the road from the proposed planting, was not shown on the plan.</p> <p>Ms Sparks noted the comments and said that she was meeting with the agents, Pryor &amp; Rickett later in the week and would let the Council know the outcome. She also stated that there would be no decisions taken until the Parish Council had seen the 'concept plan' and that a minimum of 28 days would be given for stakeholders to reply. It was pointed out that the agents had had many months to prepare their plan and to allow only four weeks for consultation was unfair and only served to confirm the suspicion that this was really a 'done deal'.</p> <p>The motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously. It was therefore <b>RESOLVED</b> to adopt the submission with any additions deemed necessary.</p> <p><b>19.69 Financial report</b> After all cheques and receipts have been cleared the total bank balances will stand at £7666.97 including the deposit account balance of £1351.12. The full report is attached.</p> <p><b>19.70 Budget for 20/21</b> After consideration of the budget forecast the Clerk had prepared the Council agreed that since the reserves were adequate to cover unexpected expenditure it was not necessary to increase the precept. It was therefore <b>RESOLVED</b> to request a precept of £4,500. The budget for 20/21 is attached. Cllr Thorpe said the noticeboard at Sleetbeck was unreadable due to condensation and asked that it be repaired or replaced.</p> <p><b>19.71 Highways</b> The Clerk had contacted the landowners at the Saughs and at Greenholme about the overhanging hedges. All the potholes had been recorded on the County Council's site and most had been filled.</p> <p>Water from a burst main on the B6318 above the Sleetbeck crossroads was freezing and causing a hazard for drivers. Ice on the road to Blackpool Gate caused by blocked drains was a similar problem. The Clerk had reported to Impact Housing that raw sewage was flowing down the road again from Whitberry Court. They had cleared the immediate problem but a more permanent solution needed to be found since it is now happening every few months.</p> <p><b>19.72 Meeting list for 20/21</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept the list of meetings for the next year and the list is attached.</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.</p>
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