

LANGWATHBY PARISH COUNCIL

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Chairman: Cllr Ian Harrington

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Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday 17th November 2022
in the Back Room, Langwathby Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

51/22 Apologies

Cllrs D Banks, C Eland, M Holiday

Unapproved

52/22 Present

Cllrs I Harrington, C Merrie, K Little, C Wilson, J Corbishley,
C Henderson, J Hodgson, County Councillor C Driver and J Fleming (Parish Clerk)

53/22 Minutes

The Chairman was authorized to sign the minutes of the 22nd September 2022 meeting, as a true record
Proposed by Cllr K Little. Seconded by Cllr J Corbishley.

54/22 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs K Little and I Harrington, declared their positions on the Langwathby Village Hall Committee
Cllrs I Harrington declared his position on the Langwathby Village Hall Renovation Committee.

55/22 Public Participation

There was none.

56/22 County Councillor Report

1. Presentation by care leavers: We had an excellent presentation by two of our care leavers at the full Council recently, talking about the work they have been doing to refresh the promise all Councillors make to our looked after children in our roles as corporate parents. Strengthening and highlighting this crucial role is timely as we move into the new Unitary Authorities next year.

2. Cuts in local radio: The Leader of the Council made a statement and wrote to the Government in opposition to the proposed cuts to local radio which Councillors may be aware of, and which would mean the end of Radio Cumbria and any specific local coverage.

3. Postponement of the decision on the coal mine in West Cumbria: Once again this has been kicked into the long grass by the government at the eleventh hour. An impassioned plea was made by the local member to hasten the decision, and out and end to the uncertainty for the local and wider communities in Cumbria.

4. Cost of living crisis support: A new coordination group has been formed (chaired by Colin Cox), bringing together local gov, NHS, 3rd sector, local resilience groups. This group will be in existence throughout the coming winter to make the best use of available resources, and try and avoid duplication. Information and advice can be found on the County Council website at: <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/costofliving/>

5. Care sector: Huge concerns about the care sector and its ability to cope through the coming winter. We're already working in crisis mode trying to fill vacancies across Cumbria Care, which is already under incredible strain. The closure of a care provider at incredibly short notice placed additional pressure on Cumbria Care, as yet again local government had to step in and prop up the private sector. Although recent announcements by central government seem to suggest that they have

allocated funds to support the failing health and care sector, we have yet to see even a penny of this funding distributed.

6. Cost of children's care packages continues to increase, a recent care package for example is costing the council £10k p/w, which is not unusual now. This is a complex topic so for any councillor wishing to find more detail, please refer to page 26 of this month's full council papers, CLA (children Looked After) placements sufficiency Strategy.

7. Financial Strategy - half yearly review: In spite of the relentless financial pressures that the County Council is operating under, we continue to delivery within our financial strategy, thanks in no small part to our excellent finance team. At last week's council meeting the council unanimously agreed to note the successful delivery of the half year financial strategy review. A great deal of previously allocated funding has had to be ring-fenced or re-profiled in light of LGR, meaning that some previously identified projects may not be delivered within this financial year. I have no fine detail on what this might mean for our area, other than to say that the likelihood of getting any new projects identified and delivered is slim to none, unless they are required from a safety point of view.

Cllr. Claire Driver
Cumbria County Councillor, Alston & East Fellside

57/22 District Councillor Report

There was none.

58/22 Finance

58.1	The Following Balances were noted, as at : -	11/11/2022
		£
	Penrith Building Society	4061.84
	Barclays	9247.11
	Sundry Debtor – Village Hall	11285.54
	Sundry Debtor - VAT	<u>5207.56</u>
	Total Cash as at 11/11/2022	<u>29802.05</u>

58.2 To approve the Interim Accounts from 16th Sept – 11th November 2022

Proposer Cllr I Harrington
Seconder Cllr C Merrie

58.3 The Following Accounts Were Ratified.

Clerks Fee September/October 2022	498.34
Clerks Office Provision – September/October 2022	50.00
Opus Energy VH	157.42
Opus Energy VH	88.25
D Tec Norton Printer + Toner	149.00
Field View Electrical – VH	431.18
Cleanspec VH	73.86
Cleanspec VH	42.60
Frank Whittle Partnership. Architects VH	7860.00
Frank Whittle Partnership. Architects VH	2400.00
M Miceli – Plumber Village Hall Leak	575.00
M Miceli – Plumber Village Hall Leak	705.00
J Dulosn Cemetery Mower Service	132.00
N Preston – Grass Cutting	570.00
Beacon Fire protection. VH	46.80
Rachel Hacking. Bat Survey VH	864.00
RB Asbestos Consultants	1014.00
Carrs Billington VH Oil	461.90
T A Hodgson New Water Pipe VH	4246.80

58.4 The Following Payment was Approved.
Clerks Expenses 22nd September – 17th November 2022 14.40

58.5 To Approve 58.3 and 58.4
Proposer Cllr K Little
Seconder Cllr C Merrie

58.6 The Following Receipts were Noted:

Village Hall Reimbursements	11285.54
A J Richardson Cemetery Fee	200.00
A J Robertson. Cemetery Headstone	150.00

58.7 Budget and Precept for 2023/2024

58.7.1 A 2023/2024 Budget was presented to the meeting, following discussion the budget was unanimously agreed, this involved raising the Precept by £1200 to £18,000.

This increase was to enable the Council to cover the cost of a possible Parish Council election in May 2023, the estimated cost being in the region of, up to, £2000 and also to provide for inflationary increase in expenses; a very conservative 6.5% being budgeted for, however this could be as high as £10%.

This budget was still predicting a £560 deficit in the year.
A copy of the budget being on file.

Acceptance of the 2023 – 2024 Budget

Proposed Cllr I Harrington
Seconded Cllr J Corbishley.

Acceptance of Setting the 2023 – 2024 Precept at £18000.

Proposed Cllr C Merrie
Seconded Cllr C Henderson.

58.7.2 This £1200 increase in the Precept will result in an approximate £3.64 annual increase in Council Tax for a Band D property owner.

58.7.3 Tennis Court Refurbishment. It was noted that the tennis court surface was in need of refurbishment.

Action: - Agreed to seek quotes, with a view to cover the cost by grant aid.

59/22 Langwathby Village Hall Renovation Project -

59.1 A public consultation was held in the Village Hall on Friday, 14th October, between 3pm and 8pm.

59.2 Following feedback some changes were made to the plans.

59.3 Following confirmation of the acceptance of the plans **Local Authority planning permission** was to be sought.

59.4 It was confirmed that **Asbestos, Bat and drainage surveys** had been commissioned.

59.5 Financial Responsibility and Credibility. A Councillor expressed concern that whilst, to date, all the projects, substantial, architects' fees, had been covered by the Village Hall Management Committee's reserve funds; to complete the project funds in excess of £850, 000 would be required. It was essential that at no time, in the future, were the Council's financial reputation and credibility to be but in jeopardy.

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer stated to the Council that he would not agree to any to building work to be authorised unless there was sufficient grant funding available to cover the account in full. It being

absolutely essential that progress, at the earliest opportunity, be made to secure the grant funding required to complete the project.

60/22 Planning Matters

22/0709 – Luham Farm, Edenhall, Penrith - Erection of ground mounted solar panels.

Supported

22/0824 – The Lost Cabins, Udford Rise, Edenhall. Penrith - Lawful Development Certificate for the continued use of 3no foresters' huts as holiday let accommodation

Supported

61/22 Highways and Land Matters

61.1 Edenhall Roadside Drainage Issues. –

Action :- Following further monitoring to report, again, to Highways.

61.2 Ladies Walk – Broken, wooden, footpath sign. Reported not rectified.

Action :- To report again to Highways; also to suggest that a new sign is provided which the Parish Council can arrange to be installed.

61.3 Low Mill, Langwathby – Reported that the road sign requested of EDC still had not been installed.

Action :- To report again to again.

61.4 Tennis Court – Surface refurbishment. Agreed to seek quotes with a view to funding with grant aid.

61.5 Langwathby Village Hall – Water leak. Reported that the problem had been resolved, eventually, by installing a new main water pipe from the meter to the building, along with associated plumbing, at a total cost of £5526.80 incl. Vat.

The Clerk was in negotiation with the insurers over whether the costs involved were eligible to make a claim on the Councils policy.

61.6 Back Lane Light – Langwathby. – Failed light by junction with Coxen Lane.

Reported that the light was still not functioning.

Action :- To report again to EDC..

61.7 Traffic Speed issues in Langwathby

Following contact with Highways, it was reported that the concerns raised would be reported to the 'Collision Reduction Officer' with a view for the issue to be raised at the next 'CRASH' meeting. From there a speed indication device could be installed to gather data on vehicle speeds, which can then be used to assess what further action needs to be taken; traffic calming measures being a possibility to consider.

Another possibility is to set up a 'Community Speed Watch Group' which is where volunteers get trained by the police to use a speed laser gun; warning letters then being sent to offending vehicles.

62/22 Councillor Matters

An opportunity for Councillors to raise issues on behalf of residents.

Note: no decisions can be made on these matters but they may be placed on a future agenda of the Council.

62.1 Footway Langwathby Bridge Lights.

Reported that a number had failed.

Action :- To report to Highways.

62.2 Self Seeded Ash Trees – Gas House Lane, Edenhall. – on the roadside verge, opposite the entrance to St Cuthberts Place. It was reported that, at the very least, heavy pruning or ideally, complete felling of these, self-sown, Ash trees, was required. They are now damaging the field wall and are possibly also impeding drainage. The overhanging boughs are resulting in pedestrians having to walk in the road, which is creating a safety issue.

Action :- To raise the issue with Highways.

62.3 Entrance to Eden Straits – Inappropriate vehicle parking was reported.

Action: - To monitor the situation with a view to taking action if appropriate.

63/22 Correspondence, Notices and Publications

The following had been received since the last meeting.

63.1 38 Emails forwarded to Councillors since the last meeting. On file for a year

63.2 A 'Settlement Study', being conducted by EDC, was reported to the meeting.

63.3 LGA's Cost-of-Living Network Webinars and Support Hub.

This 'Warm Spot' initiative, was reported to the meeting

63.4 Electricity NW Tree Pruning Langwathby.

ENW had requested that permission be granted for essential tree pruning be undertaken on the trees opposite the shop/bus shelter, on the village green as boughs were now touching the electricity cables. Being essential work, it was reported that the Chairman had granted permission, on behalf of the Council.

64/22 Dates of Forthcoming Meeting

Venue Langwathby Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm

Thursday 20th January 2022

Signed

Date
