

Minutes of a meeting held in the Lower Market Hall, Hawkshead on Tuesday 18 October 2016
commencing at
7.30 pm.

present

Councillors

Ian Moulton, (Chairman); Andrew Brown; Kenneth Fordham; Lynn Larkin; David Spedding; Charlotte Wood. Clerk – John Poole.

Members of the public

Mr D Vaughan; Mrs C Dobson; Mrs B M Brown; Mr J Coggan; Mr R M Woodhouse and Cllr D Fletcher.

Apologies

299 All present.

Minutes

300 Following three corrections, the Chairman was authorised to sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 20 September 2016.

Requests for dispensations

301 **Resolved** that it be noted that no requests had been received since the last meeting for dispensations to speak or vote on any matter where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Declarations of interest

302 **Resolved** that it be noted that no declarations of members' disclosable pecuniary and other registrable interests were made in respect of items on this Agenda. Members were reminded that, in accordance with the revised Code of Conduct, it is a criminal offence not to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest either in the Register or at the meeting.

Councillor vacancy

303 No requests for an election had been received by SLDC, within the statutory 14 day period, to fill a casual vacancy on Fieldhead Ward. Therefore, the Parish Council could co-opt. Three names had been submitted for consideration - Alistair Kirk, Malcolm Maclennan and Richard Michael Woodhouse. Council confirmed that all three were suitable candidates and a secret ballot resulted in votes cast as follows: Alistair Kirk – 0; Malcolm Maclennan – 1; Richard Michael Woodhouse - 5. Therefore, Richard Michael Woodhouse was duly co-opted.

304 In the presence of the Clerk, Mr. Woodhouse completed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office. He is required to complete a Registration of Financial and Other Interests form which he must return to SLDC within 28 days. **Action** – Cllr Woodhouse.

305 The new Councillor was handed a copy of the Council's Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Accounts.

306 Mr A Kirk and Mr M Maclennan were to be notified of the result and thanked for their interest in the process. **Action** – The Clerk.

307 The Clerk then addressed the meeting as follows:-

'In a council meeting two years ago, Mr Woodhouse and his wife interrupted proceedings and verbally attacked me in connection with their planning application for an agricultural worker's dwelling at Roger Ground.

This was followed by an official letter of complaint from their solicitor setting out a string of allegations, including a veiled suggestion that I was corrupt. My immediate dismissal was sought. Serving Councillors were subsequently given a copy of the letter together with a copy of my response challenging every detail.

The decision to convene a special hearing of the Parish Council was mine. For the sake of openness, I chose a hearing. I volunteered for scrutiny. By doing so, I would have an opportunity to question my accuser about the 16-points raised in that letter. Mr Woodhouse and his solicitor declined to attend. I wanted to send a copy of my response to the solicitor but the Council over-ruled me.

Given all these circumstances, and the fact that Mr Woodhouse has even been considered for co-option, is enough reason for me to reassess my position. Therefore, I resign.'

308 Decisions about future administration were discussed by Councillors only at the close of this meeting. **Action** – Chairman.

Police and public participation

309 The Police Report was read and PCSO Forrester's interest in having a surgery in Hawkshead was noted. **Action** – Clerk to advise that this would be welcome.

310 David Vaughan asked why the 'Code of Conduct' was not on the website or available to the public. The Clerk advised that before the Code was adopted, it was displayed on the Notice Board. The website is currently under construction and the Code will be shown in due course. This was a task being undertaken by Cllr Fordham who added that he was working with a website designer to obtain the best result. It was expected that the process would cost a little over £400 but he was exploring the possibility of grant funding.

Action results

311 The Clerk had closed the Safe Deposit Box at the bank and made a Schedule of Deeds and Documents relating to Hawkshead Recreation Ground. These had been handed, against signature, to Barry Wilson. An old Lease relating to the old school playground (now Main Street car park) was retained by the Clerk. This land belongs to the Parish Council but the Title Deeds were not at the bank.

312 Hedge trimming had not been done on LDNPA car park. **Action** – Clerk to chase up.

313 The Property Services Manager for LDNPA had advised that the shop opposite the bus shelter was not allowed to display goods on the pavement. **Action** – All to monitor.

314 It was decided to have repairs carried out to the 'gritter box trailer' and possibly sell it because it was not compatible with the contractor's tractor. He was using his own equipment. **Action** – Cllr Brown to discuss with contractor and resolve what ploughing, if any, was agreed with Satterthwaite Parish Council.

Correspondence

315 High Furness LAP meeting – Wednesday 19/10/16 at Rusland Reading Room. **Action** – Cllr Wood may be able to attend.

- 316 Old Police Station Car Park re Ivy growth. This was discussed again when it was reiterated that ultimately, responsibility rested with the residents of the old police station apartments. **Action** – Clerk to reply.
- 317 A member of public had requested a copy of the Code of Conduct and Standing Order re excluding the public. These documents were handed to him in the meeting.
- 318 LDNP – Local Plan Review. (Sent to Cllrs 11/10/16) Comments were invited by 4.00 pm 5 December 2016. There will be a presentation on this subject at the LAP meeting on 19 October 2016. (See 315)
- 319 Proposed removal of BT telephone boxes. (Sent to Cllrs 12/10/16) The one in The Square was earmarked to house a defibrillator but there may be another use for the one at Hawkshead Hill. In this way, the 999 service would remain. **Action** – Clerk to arrange circulation via Mr J Bond.
- 320 Valedictory from Colin Barr who is standing down as Parish Member for LDNPA. (To Cllrs 13/10/16)
- 321 SLDC – Keep Britain Tidy initiative. (Sent to Cllrs 15/10/16)
- 322 Blawith & Subberthwaite Parish Council – seeking support to object to the proposed National Pylon Route. If anybody wishes further information about this, please contact Cllr Lynn Larkin.

Nomination of representative to serve on the Recreation Ground Trust

- 323 Four people are nominated by the Parish Council to serve as Trustees. A fourth person is needed to join Charlotte Wood, Ian Moulton and Ken Fordham. Cllr Spedding volunteered and was duly nominated.

Better highways

- 324 Several issues described previously (See Minute Numbers 224, 225, 259, 277, 278 & 279) had been notified to Cllr Fletcher who had liaised with County Highways Engineer Dave Huck to have them actioned as soon as possible.
- 325 On the approach to Hawkshead, the village name sign at Gallowbarrow was bent and in need of repair. **Action** – Cllr Fletcher.
- 326 Cllr Wood asked if there was support for village sponsors to site a ‘welcome to Hawkshead’ sign, near to the entrance of the old police car park. This was **approved**.
- 327 It was asked if all the village grit bins, including Hawksgarth, could be filled before winter. **Action** – Cllr Fletcher.
- 328 There was a large pothole in the road opposite the turning for Field Head and Knipe Fold near Waterson Ground. **Action** – The Clerk.

Finance

- 329 Cllr Spedding had yet to call at the bank and produce completed documentary identity to enable him to be a signatory to the accounts. **Action** – Cllr Spedding.
- 330 The Clerk had sent a letter of thanks to Ruth Barr for donating £2,163.40, given in Bill’s memory, to the Hawkshead Squares Project.
- 331 The Clerk reported his correspondence with SLDC and their agreement to issue a further purchase order for £500 to enable the Shop Front Grant Scheme to continue.
- 332 The Clerk had previously circulated accounts for the period 1 July to 30 September 2016 to members and the auditor, Mrs B M Brown. An internal audit of the Second Quarter was conducted satisfactorily.
- 333 No budget suggestions had been received during the public consultation period which ended today. Part completed draft budgets for 2017/18 had previously been circulated by the Clerk. There was agreement that the Old Police Station car parking permits should, if possible, be kept at £25. Further thought needs to be given to items on the main budget. **Action** – Clerk to check business rates liability. Discussions will continue.
- 334 The following accounts were approved for payment: Clerk’s September salary - £298.60; Post Office Ltd - £74.60; Clerk’s reimbursements - £28.60; S Taylforth - £105.00p.

Hawkshead project

- 335 The first stage of inviting tenders to produce an Economic Development Survey was in progress. It is anticipated that this will cost in the region of £15,000.00p.

Planning

- 336 Result: Creation of local occupancy dwelling by sub-division and extension at Old Bark House, Hawkshead Hill, has been granted.
- 337 Result: A new roof, interior alterations and roof lights to the rear of Jessamin Cottage, Red Lion Yard, has been granted listed building consent.
- 338 Application T/2016/0120 – To raise the crown of a sycamore and beech tree at Hawkshead Field was supported. **Action** – Clerk to write.
- 339 Application T/2016/0138 – To remove one magnolia at rear of Main Street, Hawkshead was supported. **Action** – Clerk to write.
- 340 Application T/2016/0139 – To reduce one rowan at Croftside, Kings Yard, Hawkshead, was supported. **Action** – Clerk to write.
- 341 Application 7/2016/5666 – Proposed single storey extension at rear of Yew Bank, Roger Ground. This was supported if the south elevation window was replaced by a roof-light so as to avoid overlooking a neighbouring property. **Action** – Clerk to write.
- 342 Application 7/2016/5673 – Replacement front & rear porches and new bifold doors at Rough Close, Hawkshead. This application was supported. **Action** – Clerk to write.

Items for inclusion in next agenda

- 343 Election of Chairman.

Date of next meeting

- 344 Tuesday 15 November 2016.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.