

TEMPLE SOWERBY PARISH COUNCIL

Green Head Barn Great Asby Appleby Cumbria CA16 6EX

Clerk: Caroline Fancott-Beynon Tel: 07842 585612

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A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 30 January at 7pm in the Victory Hall

Present were councillors: Kevin Overs (KO), Caryl Varty (CV), Andi Sambrook (AS), Lisa Robinson (LR) and Chris Williamson (CW). Also present were Lorna Baker (incoming Westmoreland & Furness councillor) and parishioner Mr Bill Smith

1. Apologies

Caroline Fancott-Beynon, clerk, due to sickness.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 December, having been previously distributed to and read by councillors were signed by the Vice Chair as an accurate record of the meeting

3. Declarations of interest

AS and CV have declared an interest in planning applications 22/0955, 22/0962, 22/0970 & 22/0971, AS being the applicant.

4. Adjournment of meeting

It was decided to bring forward discussion of item 10, email from Mr Bill Smith re HGVs in the village and to combine this with item 5a

5. Chairman to report on matters from the last minutes not listed on the agenda

a) HGVs/Speeding

Mr Smith described that HGVs driving through the village were becoming considerably more numerous and drove during the night as well as the day. He said the earliest time he had recorded one had been about 3.30am and the latest around 10.30pm. He had noted down some of the times and livery of the HGVs. Councillors reminded the meeting that the issue had been discussed previously many times and letters had frequently been sent to the companies involved, with mixed results. One issue was the frequent rotation of drivers, who followed satnav which guided them through the village. Mr Smith suggested that since the village was listed as having a Conservation Area, surely the nuisance of HGVs transiting had a negative effect on this listing.

It was agreed that the council would continue to write to the companies involved and that attempts would be made to canvass Highways England, who was believed to be the regulatory authority in control of the road, in an attempt to petition for weight restrictions, time limitations or some way of limiting the nuisance. It was also suggested that incoming cllr Baker would be approached when she took office after 1 April to assist. CV also mentioned the importance of TS Speedwatch, which had reformed with new volunteers after a covid absence and training was to take place shortly. She said this group had the benefit of showing to the police that TS took the issue seriously, collecting data and providing access for discussion about other potential police avenues

to help with the issue. KO said that the SID device was still being used regularly to monitor the traffic. CV suggested that we ask the police speedwatch officers whether they could access the data and whether this would be of any use, although CW suspected that it would not link speed to specific vehicles. Mr Smith said he would be happy to volunteer for Speedwatch and CV said she would be delighted to add him to the group.

CW also noted during the meeting that Wandsworth Borough Council had become the 1st in the UK to install speed cameras. It was speculated that perhaps Westmoreland & Furness council might also have this power in the future, which would be something we could request.

- b) Lighting by the school. The Clerk had reported that there had been no response from Highways, who are believed to be responsible for the lit triangular warning signs, whose lights have failed. It was agreed that we would ask the clerk to write again to Highways and also write to the school, suggesting that they could consider installing an external light in their grounds/building.

6. Parish houses & land

Update regarding boiler servicing. KO said he thought the servicing would have been done by now, but had heard nothing and would chase the engineer and report back.

7. Village Greens, Play area, Trees etc

- Tree management plan.

We have now received 2 written quotes for the tree works: £5040 and £3816 (inc VAT) from James Watson, recommended by John Hiscox, the Eden tree officer. We agreed to work with Mr Watson and to ask the Clerk to contact him to schedule the work for February if possible.

We also discussed Tree planting, the Coronation tree and a tree sub-group. CV reported that despite advertising in the TS newsletter and on WhatsApp only Andrew Stables had volunteered to help. We suggested we schedule a meeting with him to discuss a plan for replacing felled trees and planting a Coronation Tree on the Drying Green. Previously we had agreed that a specimen oak placed centrally would be preferred. CV said, however, that planting would of course depend on council funds, which as the budget would show might be limited for the next year. She said it might be necessary to pursue funding from other sources or raise them ourselves. We agreed to carry the matter forward to the next meeting.

- United Utilities

The Clerk updated us that UU had been in contact to say work was still taking place, exploring the sewerage issues along the lane towards the SSSI.

- St James – request for donation

The clerk had told us that there had been no further communication from the church treasurer, Mr Ralph Liddle, re the request for £1000 towards graveyard mowing. It was recalled that in previous years the pc had donated £250 every 2yrs to the church for this purpose and then a further £600 last year. We were awaiting feedback from the church re our suggestion that they seek volunteers, alternative quotes or focussed some of their fund raising activity towards this. The issue of the legality of the pc contributing funds to a religious body was discussed. It was agreed

with CW that the appearance of the church might be regarded as a community benefit. However, there was a requirement that they show in their accounts that the funds had been spent for the stated purpose. We agreed to carry the matter forward until we heard further. It was recognised that in any case, owing to the pc's desire to keep the precept within reasonable limits, we were not in a position to provide further funds for the timebeing.

- Wayside

CV read out an email from our solicitor which stated that the area of village green which had been tarmacked needed to be returned to Village Green. A Deed of Easement, making provision for access across the Green, was being prepared which would specify details.

- Insurance Update

The clerk had updated us that we had not yet had payment for the Maypole Green damage claim. She had feared this might have an impact on 2023's insurance premium. It was agreed we would ask her to chase, if she had not heard before the insurance renewal was due.

8. Planning Matters

22/0537 – The Works. No response to Heritage Statement issued by EDC.

22/0331 – Briar Croft. No decision had yet been reached. No further observations

22/0955, 0970, 0962 & 0971 – Temple Sowerby House Hotel. No objections or observations. AS explained the plans and stated that whilst these had been submitted for "consent for variation", full applications might be required

22/0724 – The Lodge. Granted

22/0787 – 1 Pumpkin House, Linden Park. Granted

22/0866 – Temple Sowerby House Hotel. Granted

22/0817 – Acorn Bank. Granted.

9. Accounts and Financial Report including budget update

Bank reconciliation.

CA: £9184.34

MM: £4826.12

Maypole: £1204.61

Parish Houses: £21,312.16

Budget/Precept for the coming year

CV confirmed that all councillors had read the budget spreadsheets provided by the clerk and that AS, CW and CV had attended a Zoom briefing meeting with the clerk the previous day, since the clerk had been unable to attend the pc meeting in person.

CV tried to summarise the discussions held with the clerk, which showed that costs were rising owing to inflation, notably grass cutting, insurance and CALC fees, whereas income had not risen. The council had tried to keep land and property rents affordable but it was clear that these would have to be raised this year. The council had also kept the precept at the same level for several years to help parishioners with living costs. But this year that was not an option, since it would result in a negative CA balance.

After discussion, the clerk's preferred option was agreed, namely to raise the precept from £7500 to £8500, ie from £37.66 to £42.69pa for an average (Band D) property. This would

also necessitate halving the usual payment into the parish houses sinking fund account and halving the tree maintenance/planting budget. It was noted that the council had obligations to ensure the correct maintenance of the parish houses, as well as the requirement for them to meet future costly environmental standards. CW noted that by 2025/28 all rental properties had to meet the EPC C energy standard.

CV stated that after the meeting she would email the decision to the clerk for submission by her to EDC the following day.

Payments to authorise

30 01 2023	Clerks expenses	£30.06
30 01 2023	Clerks backpay	£381.26 (including amount agreed in the previous month)
Standing Order	Countrywide Jan/Fen	£700
Standing Order	Clerks salary Jan/Feb	£1022.66

10. Correspondence

- Westmoreland & Furness Council – council tax survey
It was agreed that we did not have unanimity of opinion regarding this and that we would therefore respond, or not, as private individuals
- W&F consultation event – 8 February 2023 – Microsoft Teams
Councillors to let the clerk know if they wish to attend this virtual update
- Mr & Mrs Smith’s email re HGVs – addressed under point 5
- AS updated the meeting re the A66 Dualling. There are consultations at Kirkby Thore Village Hall 3-7pm on 31 January and in Penrith on 6 Feb. The change which is nearest to us concerns Priests Lane, where the route has been amended to exclude an underpass and to include a longer walking route

Meeting closed at 8.05pm. The next meeting will be held on 7 March 2023 in the Victory Hall.

Signed

Date