

Tuesday 6th February 2024

13602. UNCONFIRMED minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Silverdale Parish Council (PC) held on Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 7pm at the Silverdale Village Institute, Spring Bank, Silverdale.

13603. Present:

Chairman: T. Bond (Terry)
Vice-Chairman: J. Bennett (John)
Parish Councillors (Cllrs): S. Fishwick (Sarah), A. Houghton (Tony), K. Reed (Keith),
I Fisher (Ian), E. Unsworth (Liz)
Lancaster City Cllr: A. Greenwell (Alan)
Police Sergeant (PS):
(Lancaster & Morecambe) L. Brown (Lindsay)
Clerk: L.D Challenor (Denise)
Members of the Public: 1

13604. A Minute's Silence – following the news of the passing of Peter Roberts, a former Cllr and Chairman of the Silverdale PC, a minute's silence was respectfully observed before the commencement of the meeting.

13605. Apologies for Absence – County Cllr P. Williamson due to work commitments and Deputy Clerk K. Lambert due to family obligations.

13606. Declarations of Members' Interests – Cllr Bond declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning item **13616 a) iii**.

13607. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Silverdale PC Meeting – the minutes of the ordinary PC meeting held at the Silverdale Village Institute on Tuesday 6th January 2024 were **APPROVED** by Cllrs and passed to the Chairman for signing.

13608. Matters arising from the Minutes of Previous Meetings, not Covered by the Agenda:

- a) **13544 f) i. Cllr Houghton's emails** – still not functioning consistently.
- b) **13548 required actions following changes to the parking management at The Shore** – Cllr Greenwell is looking into the planning application.
- c) **13549 d) damaged pillar at the entrance to Spring Bank** – after referring to the Conservation Team at Lancaster CC, Cllr Bond was instructed to make an enforcement complaint to Building Control to move the matter forward as considered to be a dangerous structure.
- d) **13564 d item of correspondence re Challan Hall railway crossing** – a response has now been received from Network Rail, Cllr Bond to discuss with L. Baron from AONB before circulating to Cllrs for discussion.
- e) **13565 Location of the donated funds for the Silverdale First Responders** – the matter is still with Cllr Bennett. Update on this plus discussion as to where the spare kit should be placed to be an agenda item at the next meeting.
- f) **13566 c) heritage assets** – Cllr Bond has submitted a request to Lancaster CC for inclusion of the following sites on their list – The Royal hotel, 22 Emesgate Lane, the 'spite wall' on Stankelt Road, the post box by the church on Emesgate Lane, the lime kiln at Jack Scout, the Silverdale Village Institute, the Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial, known locally as the 'pepper pot' and the waiting room at Silverdale railway station.

13609. Report of Relevant Matters from Police Sergeant (PS) L. Brown – thanks given to PS Brown for his attendance at the meeting to give the following verbal report on matters affecting Silverdale since the 6th January:

- a) **6 reported incidents (of which 2 crimes)** – 1 of road rage, 1 minor assault, 1 theft, 1 mental health concern, 1 abandoned vehicle and 1 fallen tree.

13610. Matters Raised by Members of the Public for Future Consideration – a member of the public was in attendance and raised the following:

- a) **Flooding on Lindeth Road** – still appears to be an issue two years on since the issue was first raised. 36a and 36b have now installed a soakaway but the problem remains by Rock Villas.

- b) *Tarmac surrounding the Gaskell Hall* – some holes have been missed when repaired. **Cllrs advised for residents to report the matter on the ‘Love Clean Streets’ app which has been found to be the most efficient way to report such problems to Lancashire CC. Cllr Reed has himself reported some already.**

13611. Report of Relevant Matters from Lancaster City Council (CC) from City Cllr Alan Greenwell – thanks given to City Cllr Greenwell for his attendance at the meeting to give the following verbal report:

- a) *Lancaster CC’s finances* – these have now been fixed for the coming financial year and will involve a 2.99% increase, which equates to £7.45pa for a band D property. For every £1 collected, 73p goes to Lancashire CC, 11p goes to Lancaster CC and approximately 3p to the Silverdale PC with the remainder going to the police and fire services. Cllr Greenwell voted in favour of this necessary rise to avoid the extreme financial difficulties faced by councils such as the cases recently reported in Birmingham, Woking, Nottingham and Thurrock in Essex. There has been a decrease in funding from central Government of nearly 30% over the last decade which has forced councils to focus on those services which they are obliged to fulfil by law, such as social care and homelessness, where demands have increased significantly. For more information search ‘Budget FAQ’s’ on Lancaster CC’s website, which City Cllr Greenwell has found to be very informative.
- b) *Lindeth Close* – South Lakes Housing, who act for the Lune Valley Housing Association, have now completely rebuilt the sewage unit and surrounded it with a large, metal enclosure. Thanks given to D. Wain and the PC for arranging some strimming.
- c) *Planning enforcement* – pleased to report that the Lancaster Planning Department has recently made two new appointments, now making a team of five in Planning Enforcement. They have tightened up the initial assessment of cases to give priority to major offenders and have sharpened up the subsequent processing.

13612. Report of Relevant Matters from Lancashire County Council (CC) from Cllr Phillippa Williamson – whilst Cllr Williamson was unable to attend the meeting in person, she did email through the following report ahead of the meeting:

- a) *Lancashire CC 2024/25 budget* – talks are about to commence and as in previous years, and unlike many other councils locally and across the country, they are in a sound financial position. The overall budget for 2023/24 is £1.9 billion and they expect only a very small overspend at end of year of around £2 million. They will be proposing a Council Tax increase of 2.99% with an additional 2% ring fenced for Adult Social Care giving a total increase for 2024/25 of 4.99%. This is a decision made annually and Lancashire's position reflects the same approach being taken by most other County Councils across the country however there are a significant number who have approached the Government to increase council tax even more. Lancashire CC, as in previous years, intends to set a balanced budget for the coming four years and also to maintain significant levels of reserves.
- b) *Devolution* – there has been a fantastic response to the Consultation on forming a Combined County Authority for Lancashire which closed on the 26th January. The responses came from full range of residents, businesses, education, NHS and other stakeholders from across the county. Over fifty-five face-to-face events were held and attended by almost 2,000 people/businesses. The results from the Consultation are now being analysed by Ipsos Mori and will be presented to Lancashire, Blackburn and Blackpool Councils in mid-March for consideration.

13613. Verbal Reports from any Meetings of Relevance Attended by Members, or the Clerk, Circulated Before the Meeting and Not Listed Elsewhere in the Agenda:

- a) *01/02 – meeting with County Cllr R Swarbrick, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport* – Cllr Bond, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Fishwick, Cllr Houghton, Cllr Reed and Cllr Unsworth were in attendance, together with representatives from the Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape Trust, RSPB Morecambe Bay and Leighton Moss and various Operations Managers at Lancashire CC. Minutes from the meeting have been circulated to all Cllrs. Items discussed included verge clearing, white line markings, speed limits and EV charging points.

13614. Update on the Improvement to the Mobile Phone Signal in Silverdale – a consultant from Clarke Telecom together with representatives from the Signal Engineering Team at Vodaphone carried out a general assessment of signal coverage in the area on 23/01. Whilst the initiative is being led by Vodaphone, any proposed new mast is likely to be shared with other network operators.

One site has been selected for more detailed assessment which, if found to be suitable, a design plan for consideration will then be prepared. The team will be revisiting Silverdale in the first half of February with drones to map out and assess its potential coverage. Cllr Bennett will continue to monitor progress and update Cllrs when any new information is made available.

13615. Correspondence - receipt of the following items of correspondence were noted:

- a) LALC News (*emailed 30/01*)
- b) Parish & Town Council Newsletter (*emailed 08/01*).
- c) Confirmation from New Brooms that they will continue to clean the toilets until building work commences (*emailed 08/01*).
- d) The Rural Network Bulletin (*emailed 16/01 & 06/02*).
- e) Invitation from our insurance broker Gallagher's to a one-day virtual conference on 08/02 for the Public Sector, Education, Housing and Community organisations together with a wide variety of risk and insurance professionals on how to navigate the changing risk landscape (*emailed 09/01*).
- f) A resident writes to suggest training for residents on how to use a defibrillator (*emailed 10/01*). **The defibs 'talk' and instruct the user on how to use, however Cllrs do feel there is some merit in familiarising residents with the appliance.**
- g) Parish Online newsletter (*emailed 11/01*).
- h) Clerk & Council's Direct publication.
- i) Lancashire Fire & Rescue Hot Topics newsletter (*emailed 19/01*).
- j) Network Rail have investigated the comments made regarding the level crossing reference: 240117-000492 and are satisfied of its safety and consider the matter now closed (*received 25/01*).

13616. Planning Matters:

- a) The following planning applications were dealt with under the provisions of Standing Order 25:
 - i. 23/01485/FUL: 5 Emesgate Lane (*emailed 27/12*) - demolition of existing attached garage, erection of single storey lean-to/side extension, erection of replacement front porch, installation of replacement front window, installation of replacement roof and doors to existing garage/workshop, installation of Juliette balcony to the rear, alterations to rear windows and reordering of existing driveway. **Support with concerns.**
 - ii. 23/0197/TPO: 31 Spring Bank (*emailed 07/01*) - fell T1 and T2 Ash. **Support**
 - iii. 24/00026/FUL: Silverdale Village Institute, Spring Bank (*emailed 10/01 & 22/01*) - erection of a single storey side extension. **Support**
 - iv. 23/01334/FUL: 4 The Quillet, Red Bridge Lane (*emailed 10/01*) - amendments to erection of a single storey side and rear extension. **Support**
 - v. 23/01165/FUL: 2A St John's Avenue (*emailed 11/01*) - demolition of existing porch and erection of a single storey rear infill extension and replacement porch with associated landscaping works and erection of boundary fencing. **Support**
 - vi. 23/01069/FUL: Silver Sapling Camp Site, Park Road (*emailed 10/11*) - erection of a single storey bunkhouse and side extension to existing amenity block. **Support with concerns**
 - vii. 23/00695/FUL: Willodene, Shore Road (*emailed 12/01 & 19/01*) – amendment to construction of new access and dropped kerb and rebuilding of boundary wall. **Support**
 - viii. 24/00009/FUL: Greywalls Bungalow, Lindeth Road (*emailed 19/01*) - demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a new dwelling with associated package treatment plant and widening of existing access. **Oppose**
- b) The following planning applications were considered – none.

13617. Clerk's Report of any Action Taken Under the Provisions of Standing Order 25 (other than consideration of Planning Applications) - Echo Shield contacted regarding the possibility of rats near the public toilets. The area seems to have been treated and is under observation.

13618. Finance:

- a) For the monthly check of monies, a bank statement was given to Cllr Fishwick who verified the following receipts into and balance on the Current Account:
- i. Wayleaves - £129.35
 - ii. VAT rebate - £3,912.13
 - iii. £56,489.72 to be the balance on the Current Account on 25/01/24
- b) The payments to the following accounts were approved and required cheques signed:
- i. EDF Energy (*toilets*) - £10.00 **BACS**
 - ii. EDF Energy (*clock*) - £18.00 **BACS**
 - iii. Water Plus (*toilets*) - £59.69 **BACS**
 - iv. Silverdale Village Institute (*room hire*) - £192.00 **CHQ:622551**
 - v. S. Lamb (*annual fee for IT support*) - £50.00 **CHQ:622552**
 - vi. Lancaster CC (*137 donation for the Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape Trust*) - £700.00 **CHQ:622553**
 - vii. New Brooms (*cleaning of public toilets*) - £816.00 **CHQ:622554**
 - viii. Thomas Graham (*cleaning sundries*) - £53.77 **CHQ:622555**
 - ix. D. Bold (*tree survey for new toilet's planning*) - £295.00 **CHQ:622556**
 - x. J. Bennett (*reimbursement of meeting costs*) £13.00 **CHQ:622557**
 - xi. D. Challenor (*reimbursement for anti-viral software on PC's laptop*) - £15.99 **CHQ:622558**
 - xii. Great Oaks Tree Services Ltd (*playground contractor*) £1,038.00 **chq:622559**
 - xiii. **CANCELLED** D. Wain (*parish contractor - £730.50+£649.99+£736*) - £2,116.49 **CHQ:622560**
 - xiv. D. Wain (*parish contractor - £730.50+£736*) - £1,466.50 **CHQ:622561**

13619. Working Groups (WGs) and Streetscape Matters:

- a) **Net Zero:**
- i. *Feasibility of a community electric shuttlebus* – Cllr Unsworth has submitted a pre-application expression of interest to the NW Community Energy Fund which can offer up to £40K per project to community groups and eligible third-party organisations to develop potential projects. Whilst not a capital investment, these grants are for consultants' fees to develop a plan that enables groups to consider options, design schemes and overcome barriers to investment. A meeting is being planned with the Centre for Sustainable Energy to discuss the group's eligibility and the technical aspects for a full application.
 - ii. *Ground source heat pumps at Rock Villas/Lindeth Close* – in principle, Lancaster CC would be interested in putting this location forward as a pilot to install a central bore hole to serve a cluster of homes with ground source heating. 30% of the houses must agree to the scheme and a minimum of 10 households would be required to join. The cost of the infrastructure would be recouped through the standing charge, but the overall energy costs would be cheaper.
- b) **Transport and Access** – currently looking at footpaths and missing links on the Lancashire Coastal Way.
- c) **Public Toilets – refurbishment project:**
- i. *Refurbish or rebuild* – the existing communal sewer pipework passing directly underneath the building has now been inspected and found to be in very poor condition, which will necessitate renewal or rerouting. Given this significant cost and the extent of the works required to refurbish what is already in place, the WG instructed the Architect to develop a plan with estimated costing to demolish and rebuild, which has been circulated to Cllrs for consideration. An indicative cost of £67,000+VAT based on RIBA standard costing guidelines has been given for the full rebuild to completion. The money that is committed to the PC in the REPF Levelling Up Grant for the construction works is £42,000+VAT giving a difference of circa £25,000, prior to further negotiations. With monies having already been factored into the 2024/25 precept request, Cllrs unanimously **AGREED** to proceed with a new build proposal.
 - ii. *Wastewater system operated by Lancaster CC* – no response has yet been received to the letter sent on 14/12/23 to their Estates Manager. Thanks to the assistance of G. Wood, a retired Chartered Civil Engineer, the letter raised concerns with the validity of the Environment Agency permit which the Lancaster CC believes applies to the system and its discharge, a permit which is required to complete the transfer of ownership. The WG are very concerned that if not satisfactorily resolved, this may prevent the project from going ahead as the ramifications of operating an inadequate system would be catastrophic. City Cllr Greenwell has made contact with the department early in January and received an initial holding response but will now press the matter further and request for an urgent meeting on the matter.

13620. Playground Matters – Cllr Bennett circulated a report to Cllrs ahead of the meeting which detailed the following points:

- a) *Urgent actions taken* – none
- b) *New issues noted on the Parish Contractor’s weekly inspections or City Council reports* – none. Due to the continuing inclement weather, use of the Playground is at a low level.
- c) *Ongoing issues* – there has been continued worsening of the decay of the wooden access steps on the toddler multiunit. Cllr Bennett has an initial quote from Playdale to replace the steps for £1,890+VAT which appears excessive. Cllr Bennett will try to get a competitive price to replicate the set from local joinery shops to see how this compares and circulate their prices to Cllrs for consideration.

13621. Woodland Matters:

- a) *Tree works tenders* – of the four tenders received circulated and considered for the works, D. Wain was chosen as the preferred contractor.
- b) *Replacement trees* – Cllrs **AGREED** to the purchase of two silver Birch trees, one for the playground and one for St John’s Avenue at an approximate cost of £120 plus associated costs to plant.

13622. Potential Speakers for the Annual Assembly on Thursday 21st March:

- a) S. Dent and D. King on Climate Change.
- b) L. Baron on the rebranding of the AONB to the Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape Trust.
- c) In addition, Cllr Houghton on how to use the various defibrillators located around Silverdale.

13623. Meeting for the Public on ‘Avoiding Being Scammed’ on Tuesday 13th February – a meeting has been planned at the Silverdale Village Institute with guest speaker A. Taylor. Doors open at 6:45pm for a prompt start at 7pm.

13624. Review of Works to be Carried Out by the PC Contractor in the Coming Month:

- a) Finish the public footpath by The Chase.
- b) Check the grit bins.

13625. Items for Information:

- a) The new PC website is due to be launched this month.
- b) Item of correspondence received after the agenda was published concerning the obstruction of a pathway on Emesgate Lane by an ivy-covered wall will be investigated.

13626. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items:

- a) Co-option for Cllr vacancy
- b) Where to locate the spare defibs
- c) Update on the Ash Tree’s plans for the continual provision of a surgery in Silverdale.

13627. Date and Time of Next Parish Council Meeting – date of the next meeting of the Parish Council is to be **Tuesday 5th of March 2024**. Items for the agenda and copies of reports to be with the Clerk **by 8am on Friday the 23rd of February 2024**.