

Tuesday 2nd April 2024

13665. UNCONFIRMED minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Silverdale Parish Council (PC) held on Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 7pm at the Silverdale Village Institute, Spring Bank, Silverdale.

13666. Present:

Chairman: T. Bond (Terry)
Vice-Chairman: J. Bennett (John)
Parish Councillors (Cllrs): I. Fisher (Ian), S. Fishwick (Sarah), A. Houghton (Tony), K. Reed (Keith)
E. Unsworth (Liz), J. Webster (Jenny)
Leader of Lancashire County Council (CC) &
County Cllr for Lancaster Rural North: P. Williamson (Phillippa)
Lancaster City Cllr: A. Greenwell (Alan)
Clerk: L.D. Challenor (Denise)
Deputy Clerk: K. Lambert (Katie)
Members of the Public: 0

13667. Apologies for Absence –Police Sergeant L. Brown due to annual leave.

13668. Declarations of Members' Interests – All Cllrs declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 24/00216/FUL: Silverdale Parish Council, Public Conveniences, **13676 a) i.** and Cllr Houghton also declared a pecuniary interest in planning application 24/00113/FUL: the Shore Car Park, Shore Road, minute item **13676 b) ii.**

13669. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Silverdale PC Meeting – Cllr Bennett raised an amendment needed to minute item **13642 a) i.** as the space for an Amazon/iPost box was not removed from the Planning Application as stated in the minutes. The remaining minute items of the ordinary PC meeting held at the Silverdale Village Institute on Tuesday 5th March 2024 were then **APPROVED** by Cllrs and passed to the Chairman for signing.

13670. Matters arising from the Minutes of Previous Meetings, not Covered by the Agenda:

- a) **13544 f) i. Cllr Houghton's emails** –still not receiving all the emails, Cllr Unsworth to contact N. Ribbons who set up the emails initially for advice.
- b) **13637 c) Bleasdale School becoming part of an Academy Trust** – Cllr Fishwick raised concerns that this matter ought to be followed up by the PC given that it involves a 125-year lease from Lancashire CC for the buildings, and the potential implication of this for Silverdale if the Trust were to be unsuccessful.

13671. Report of Relevant Matters from Police Sergeant (PS) L. Brown – none available.

13672. Matters Raised by Members of the Public for Future Consideration – no members of the public were in attendance to raise any matters.

13673. 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) *'Sick Society' a book by Silverdale resident, Dr Andy Knox* – having led the Healthy Village project in Silverdale a few years ago, from which several initiatives are still active, Cllr Greenwell has been reading this quite substantial book and is finding it inspiring as it urges us all to strive for a more kind and caring society.
- b) *Second homes and holiday lets* – pleased to report that at a recent planning committee meeting, a request for a certificate for the use of a Silverdale property as a holiday let was refused. Cllr Greenwell to work with Cllr Reed to compile a list of the current number of second homes/holiday lets in Silverdale to compare with the list compiled by Cllr Reed a few years ago to see the current trend.
- c) *Attendance at the quarterly meeting of the Furness Line Community Rail Partnership* – whilst there was much preoccupation over the derailment at Grange-over-Sands and its consequences, Northern Rail did confirm that their overall performance was poor and that this has been largely caused by sickness absences. They reported that an Occupational Health Adviser has now been appointed and that they have introduced new attendance and wellbeing policies to address the issues.

13674. Report of Relevant Matters from Lancashire County Council (CC) from Cllr Philippa Williamson – thanks given to County Cllr Williamson for her attendance at the meeting to give the following verbal report:

- a) *Pre-consultation for a new mobile mast in Silverdale* – Cllr Williamson has responded positively to the pre-consultation request for a new mobile mast in Silverdale.
- b) *Silver Saplings campsite* – Cllr Williamson has been receiving a number of enquires regarding the site and its commercial activities. Their recent planning application for a new building on the site has been refused.
- c) *Questions from Cllrs:*
 - i. *19 Acre Lane* – Cllr Bennett thanked Cllr Williamson for the guidance on completing the form for the Local Deterioration Fund which will significantly help areas of 19 Acre Lane. He also asked if another submission for assistance from the Highways Deterioration Fund, could be requested for Storrs Lane between Yealand Storrs and the Leighton Moss RSPB centre due to it being a principle route into the village, particularly for large vehicles, and its rapidly deteriorating state. Cllr Williamson happy to give further guidance and to push for the whole lane to be looked at as certain ‘triggers’ need to be met first to get the works done.
 - ii. *51 Bus Route* – Cllr Unsworth asked Cllr Williamson to keep a watching brief over the recent request by the PC Transport Working Group (WG) to review the timetable.
 - iii. *Cancelled Trains at Silverdale Station* – due to the derailment of a train at Grange-over-Sands, trains will be ceasing at Lancaster until 22nd April with a rail-replacement service to the subsequent stations. Can Cllr Williamson contact Northern Rail to find out why they cannot cease at Arnside as this is a huge inconvenience for Silverdale residents and those wanting to visit the area.

13675. 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) *Bi-annual meeting of the Trowbarrow Advisory Group* – Cllr Fisher was in attendance where they were discussing how they are managing to balance the variety of activities which take place at the site (climbing, walking, mountain bikes) alongside its conservation. Cllr Fisher was impressed with their ‘hands-off’ approach together with the promotion of visitor responsibilities which appears to be working. Also discussed was making the fascinating recordings of the nests and birdlife at the reserve made by K. Briggs more publicly accessible.

13676. Planning Matters:

- a) The following planning applications were dealt with under the provisions of Standing Order 25:
 - i. *24/00216/FUL: Silverdale Parish Council, Public Conveniences (emailed 04/03)* - demolition of existing public toilets and erection of a replacement public toilet and storage building, creation of a parking space and siting of postage lockers. **No comments made.**
 - ii. *24/00144/FUL (Amendment): 22 Emesgate Lane, (emailed 04/03)* – demolition of existing detached garage, erection of a two-storey detached garage with ancillary living accommodation above, porch to side elevation, single-storey rear extension and a two-storey rear extension. **No drainage plans submitted; support with concerns.**
 - iii. *24/00173/FUL (Amendment): Land to the rear of 25 Townsfield (emailed 14/03)* - erection of a two-storey dwelling and erection of detached garage. **Amendments relate to a change in ownership and the location plan and so no need for further comment. Cllr Bennett raised the issue of whether the location plan should include all the land up to the public highway on Cove Road. Cllr Reed AGREED that this should be the case and the planners’ attention should be drawn to this.**
 - iv. *24/00276/FUL: 30 Wallings Lane (emailed 14/03)* - erection of a first-floor extension including hip to gable extension of existing roof and dormer extensions to the front, side and rear elevations and a single storey side and rear extension incorporating a balcony. **Support with concerns.**
- b) The following planning applications were considered:
 - i. Cllr Houghton left the room before the following item was considered and did not return to the meeting.
 - ii. *24/00113/FUL: The Shore Car Park, Shore Road (emailed 25/03)* - retrospective application for a pole mounted light/camera and associated cabinet. **Oppose – material inaccuracies and omissions in the application together with a 5m pole being obtrusive and is more fitting within an urban setting.**

- iii. Cllrs **AGREED** to follow up formally on the deposit of rocks and other waste materials on The Shore and whether this has been raised officially with Lancaster CC Planning as a concern.

13677. Clerk's Report of any Action Taken Under the Provisions of Standing Order 25 (other than consideration of Planning Applications) – a tree was reported to have fallen at Bank Well. The matter was passed to and dealt with by Cllr Bond.

13678. Correspondence - receipt of the following items of correspondence were noted:

- a) Lancashire Consumer Alerts from Trading Standards
- b) The Rural Services Network bulletin (*emailed 07/03 & 20/03*)
- c) Flag Magazine
- d) County Cllr. Williamsons newsletter (*emailed 14/03*).
- e) Clerk & Council's Direct.
- f) Invitation to a North Lancashire Mapping Nature & Communities roadshow on Monday 25th March at Lancaster Town Hall (*emailed 19/03*). **Cllr Webster attended the meeting.**
- g) A pre-application consultation letter and proposed plans from Clarke Telecom Ltd for a new telecommunications installation at Silverhelme Scout Camp (*emailed 20/03*).
- h) Advanced notice of B4RN share interest being awarded on 2nd April 2024 with a chance to draw it out (*emailed 25/03*).
- i) Cllr H. Mills, Chair of Lancaster City Standards Committee, writes to suggest the PC considers adopting The Civility and Respect Pledge explained in his letter (*emailed 25/03*) – **Cllrs need time to fully consider the pledge, to be an agenda item at the next meeting.**

13679. Working Groups (WGs) and Streetscape Matters:

- a) *Public toilets – refurbishment project:*
 - i. **Plan submission 24/00216/FUL** – comments have been received from Lancashire CC as the Highways authority, and from The National Trust. Unless the planning authority agree a deferral with the PC, the 'Determination Deadline is Friday 19th April.
 - ii. **Funding deadline for professional services** – an agreement has been reached with the project officers at Lancaster City Council for the sum to be fully carried over to the new financial year.
 - iii. **Wastewater system operated by Lancaster CC** – with help from Cllr Greenwell, a response has finally been received from Lancaster CC to the concerns raised by the PC some 10 months ago. It transpires that they do not have a valid permitting certificate for the scale of the communal wastewater system. They advised that they requested a suitable certificate some time ago, but the Environment Agency refused to provide one because it deems the system to be polluting. Lancaster CC has denied this is the case and has challenged the Environment Agency to provide evidence of the alleged pollution. It is now some years since this exchange took place and Lancaster CC are not intending to move forward with any actions until they are provided with evidence. Given the current stalemate by the Environment Agency and Lancaster CC, Cllrs **AGREED** to explore viable alternative arrangements with Lancaster CC before agreeing to the purchase of the land, given the substantial financial implications for all residents should the system fail.
 - iv. **Next stages of work** – HM Architecture have now submitted to the PC a proposal for the drawing up of the Building Regulation specification for the project, at a cost of £1,445.00+VAT. This specification will be sent to suitable organisations who will be invited to propose a cost for both the initial assessment/approval of the proposed building regulation matters. They would then be responsible for inspecting and approving the work at various stages of completion, and finally the issuing of a formal Completion Certificate.

- b) *Defibrillators*:
 - i. **Spare defibrillators** - one has now been placed at the Woodlands Hotel (Woodies) and one inside the Silverdale Village Institute, who are now looking into funding for an external box. Cllr Bond has also been in discussions with a resident on The Green for the possible siting of a third, nothing confirmed as yet.
 - ii. **Monies from Silverdale First Responders** – matter is still ongoing; a new contact name has been given for the PC to follow up with.
- c) *PC Tender Documents 2024-25* – to note that these have now been finalised and are available to view on the PC website and noticeboard.
- d) *Improvements to Mobile phone signal* – as yet no formal planning application has been made however, Cllr Bennett has written an extensive response to the pre-application consultation letter received by Clarke Telecoms for the siting of a new mast at Silverhelme campsite as he believes the current application will be thrown out by planning based on its visual impact. He has advised and sent evidence of a smaller mast, currently in operation at Ambleside, which has less of a visual impact on the landscape. He also stressed the importance of submitting technical evidence to Lancaster planning as to the current lack of signal coverage in Silverdale and how the proposed site at Silverhelme would cover an extensive range including Gait Barrows, the 51-bus route, the train station and parts of the coastal footpath.
- e) *Net Zero Carbon* – a meeting of the WG was held on 18th March, minutes have been circulated to Cllrs for consideration. A pre- application 'Expression of Interest' was made to the Northwest Net Zero Hub in February for support from the Community Energy Fund for an electric shuttle bus. Silverdale was shortlisted but asked to resubmit the Expression of Interest taking a wider view. Rather than the funding going towards investigating the feasibility of a specific option for community transport, this second Expression of Interest is being made for funding for consultants to carry out a staged options analysis to explore different options for the area and compare the cases for each of them. This would include further community consultation and business case development. Cllrs **AGREED** for Cllr Unsworth to work alongside Lancaster CC Climate Change team to push ahead with the application.
- f) for the 2nd round of funding for the shuttle bus.
- g) *Transport* – a meeting was held on the 5th March with Lancashire CC on the options for the 51 bus service. Minutes have been circulated to Cllrs for consideration, no further comments were raised at the meeting. One of the main actions was that Lancashire CC have agreed to look into the timetable of the 51 service to see if amendments could be made to coincide with the trains more frequently.

13680. Finance:

- a) For the monthly check of monies, a bank statement was given to Cllr Fisher who verified the following receipts into and balance on the Current Account:
 - i. £463.31 (*interest*) on 03/02
 - ii. £50,670.86 to be the balance on the Current Account on 05/03/24
- 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*) - £42.50 **BACS**
 - iv. Imperative Training Ltd (*batteries + pads for defibs*) - £273.60 **CHQ:622569**
 - v. FLAG (*annual membership*) - £10.00 **CHQ:622571**
 - vi. HM Revenue & Customs (*PAYE for LDC*) £523.12 **CHQ:622574**
 - vii. Great Oaks Tree Services Ltd (*playground contractor*) £1,038 **CHQ:622575**
 - viii. L.D Challenor (reimbursement for 1yr Microsoft subscription) £59.99 **CHQ:622576**
 - ix. BWP Creative Ltd (new PC website) £1,145.82 **CHQ:622577**
 - x. L D Challenor (x3mths salary + holiday pay & expenses) £2,208.13 **CHQ:622578**
 - xi. K. Lambert (x3mths salary + holiday pay & expenses) £656.15 **CHQ:622579**
 - xii. HM Revenue & Customs (*PAYE for KL*) £15.00 **CHQ:622580**
- c) To note that the public toilets have been granted Small Business Rates Relief for 2024-25 and therefore the liability will be nil.

13681. 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.
- c) *Ongoing issues* – J. Dixon & Son will be manufacturing the replacement steps for the toddler multi-unit with an estimated fitting of shortly before the Whit week bank holiday.

13682. Improvement of Service Provision in Silverdale by Ash Trees Surgery – with help from a family member who is a GP, Cllr Reed has researched that Ash Trees have approximately 25,000 people on their practise register, if all 1,500 Silverdale residents were registered this would equate to 6%. From data published in August 2023, they do approximately 7,000 face-to-face consultations per month, 6% of this figure would be 420 per month which equates to 97 per week. Based on a 10minute appointment allocation, these figures would suggest a 2/2.5-day allocation would be equitable in Silverdale. Whilst these figures would suggest that the provision could be improved, Cllrs also **AGREED** that there seems to be discord with the management of these current appointments and that a meeting with the practise would help to resolve the issues reported by residents and visitors and to confirm the findings of Cllr Reed. A letter to be drafted to request a face-to-face meeting.

13683. Retention of Post Office Ltd Services in Silverdale Should the Current Provider Close – conversations with Post Office Ltd have confirmed that the business is viable in Silverdale and should the franchise become available then they would look to promote the opportunity on their website to find an alternative Post Master. Until they have been given formal notice there is nothing further they or the PC can do at this stage.

13684. Dog Waste Bag Provision – the biodegradable bags start to biodegrade when damp, the current dispensers are not waterproof which results in bags becoming stuck together frequently and not fit for purpose, they also allow ‘clumps’ of bags to be taken easily at a time. The Clerk to discuss non-biodegradable bags options with the current supplier and also alternative holders for further discussion.

13685. Should the PC Accept Participation in a Beta Project with Electricity North West to Supply a Cluster of Homes with Heat from a Community Ground-Source Heat Pump System – following extensive research by the Net Zero Carbon WG and in collaboration with Lancaster CC Climate Change team, Silverdale has been suggested as a potential participant in a beta project with Electricity North West called the Zero Carbon Terrace Fast Follower Project to provide proof of the concept of shared ambient ground loops to clusters of homes that do not have the space or capacity to pay for new green energy technology. This community approach is based on no upfront costs to the home occupier (or landlord) and includes any retrofit required to enable the system to work efficiently. Once the system was in place, home occupiers would then pay a standing charge to repay the commercial investment. Involvement in the project could be a huge opportunity for Silverdale as it would involve a potential enhancement of the electricity supply into the village as the current electricity supply cannot support EV fast charging points or an increase in demand on the system. The PC would not need to choose potential sites, they would be chosen by the project itself following extensive geographical surveys. Cllrs unanimously **AGREED** that Silverdale be put forward as a potential site for this beta project.

13686. Review of Works to be Carried Out by the PC Contractor in the Coming Month – strim the area around the benches and clean down ready for use.

13687. Items for Information:

- a) The bones found washed up at ‘the dip’ have been confirmed as human and appear to have been in the sea for a prolonged period. Enquiries are ongoing.

13688. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items:

- a) Adopting The Civility and Respect Pledge.
- b) Alternative dog waste bags/dispensers.

13689. Date and Time of Next Parish Council Meeting – the next meeting is the Annual meeting of the Parish Council on **Tuesday 7th of May 2024**. Items for the agenda and copies of reports to be with the Clerk **before 8am on Monday 29th April 2024**.