

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Distington Club for Young People, 14th April 2014.

Members Present

Cllrs Mr J Bowman, Mrs J Bowman, Mrs C Pattinson, Mr P Kelly,
Mr R Gallacher, Mrs J Williams, Mr C Beattie, Mrs K Sharpe.

Apologies.

Cllrs. Mr R Lister, Mr B Pattinson, Mrs E Wilkinson, Mrs R Robinson,
Mrs K Hodgson, Mrs M Slater, Mrs M Smart.
Cllr Mr B Dixon, Copeland Borough Council,
PCSO Kelsey Neen, PCSO Mark Fishpool.

Also Present.

Cllr. Mrs Sue Hayman, (Cumbria CC).
Susan Smallwood (Pica Residents Secretary).

Membership.

Members were reminded that there was no vacancies on the Parish Council at the moment but as there were two Members who had failed to attend any meetings for a period of time there would be vacancies to be agreed at the AGM. It was reported that two people from the Parish had already expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council, and they would be considered at that meeting, after the existing members had been informed of their position regarding membership.

Minutes of last Meeting.

There were some discrepancies with regards to the list of members attending and apologies which it was agreed would be noted and corrected on the next set of minutes.

Other than the attendance and apologies the minutes of the last meeting of the Council were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Declaration of Interests.

Mrs C Pattinson declared an interest in the correspondence regarding a request for funding from the Distington in Bloom Group as she is a member of the group. Otherwise none of the other members had any interests to declare on any specific item on the agenda.

Arrangements for the AGM and Annual Parish Meeting.

It was agreed that both meetings should be held on Monday 12th May 2014, commencing at 6.30pm and 7.00pm respectively.

Police Matters.

The police representatives had both tendered their apologies for the meeting but a copy the latest crime figures had been submitted via e-mail. The report was read out to the members and its contents commented on.

Karl Melville.

It was agreed that Mr Karl Melville (County Highways) should be invited to attend next months Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr S Hayman agreed to make the arrangements with Mr Melville.

Pica Community Group – Feedback.

It was reported that two bush-cutters had been purchased and were now in use by the group. Concerns were expressed with regards to the lack of progress being made on the demolition of the Welfare Hall, a concern which had been passed on to Copeland BC and members were informed that a limit of time had been placed on the owners.

A copy of the latest inspection report on the play area was passed to the clerk and an update on the position regarding the possible take over of responsibility requested. It was reported that progress was being made and documents expected shortly outlining the proposed agreement.

Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present who expressed a wish to address the meeting.

Councillors Questions.

Concerns were again raised about the wall between the Club for Young People and the Scholars Green development. The clerk had had a word with an officer (Mr David Wright) from Copeland Borough Council building control department and was assured he would look into the matter and that as Mr Karl Melville was expected to attend the next meeting, the problem with visibility onto the Main Street could be raised with him then.

A request for an update on the position with regards to the ownership of the clock tower was requested. The clerk stated that he would contact the present owners to see where we were in this matter.

There were concerns raised about the service bus not stopping at the ramp which had been provided to assist with people getting on and off the high steps on the bus.

It was reported that a sign indicating the locality of a school was still positioned on the Main Street despite the fact that the school had been closed for over 12 years and was now demolished – the matter was to be reported.

Cllr Hayman reported that negotiations were in progress with regard to the possibility of a plot of land adjacent to Victoria Hall being set aside and developed as extra parking for

the doctor's surgery. She also reported on changes to the library opening time being implemented by Cumbria County Council.

Correspondence.

A booklet was received from the TOMA Fund outlining the progress they have made in providing facilities for the young people they care for.

CALC wrote to the Parish council requesting the annual subscriptions to membership. It was agreed that these should be paid.

The clerk reported that he had received notification from DBO with regards to the timing for the annual audit to be submitted. The annual accounts were to be agreed at this meeting and the audit would come to the May meeting.

Distington in Bloom donation wrote to the Parish Council in request for a donation towards their plants for the coming year and also for a contribution towards the cost of prizes for the popular garden competition. It was agreed that a total of £750 should be donated.

The Prime Minister, Mr David Cameron, wrote to the Parish Council to inform them of a scheme in which a proportion of any National Insurance Contributions made can be claimed back to assist with employment. After reading out the letter, the Clerk reported that as no National Insurance was paid by Parish Councils the matter was not of concern to them.

Planning Applications.

There were no new planning applications to be considered at this meeting.

Financial Matters.

The Following accounts were passed for payment:-

Gates Tyres (mower service) £187.43. JS Holliday (salary, paper, ink) £215.50. CALC (subs) £273.00. Club for Young People (room hire) £75.00. J Bennett (memorial gardens) £700.00. J Norman (bush-cutters) £798.96. Distington in Bloom (donation) £750.00.

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual General meeting held in the Community Centre, Distington, 12th May 2014.

Members Present

Cllrs Mr J Bowman, Mrs J Bowman, Mrs C Pattinson, Mrs R Robinson, Mr P Kelly, Mr R Gallacher, Mrs J Williams, Mr C Beattie, Mrs K Hodgson, Mrs M Slater, Mrs M Smart, Mrs S Smallwood, Mrs M Nelson.

Apologies.

Cllrs. Mr B Pattinson, Mrs K Sharpe.

Cllr Mr B Dixon, Copeland Borough Council,
PCSO Kelsey Neen, PCSO Mark Fishpool.

Also Present.

Cllr. Mrs Sue Hayman, (Cumbria CC).

Minutes of last Meeting.

The minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Council were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Election of Chairman

Mr J Bowman was nominated to serve as Chairman for the year 2014-15.

As there were no other nominations Mr Bowman was elected as Chair of the Parish Council for 2013-14.

Mr Bowman signed the acceptance of office form.

Election of Vice Chair.

Mrs C Pattinson was nominated to serve as Vice Chair for the year 2014-15.

As there were no other nominations Mrs C Pattinson was elected as Vice Chair of the Parish Council for 2014-15.

Chairman's Report.

Cllr Mr Bowman presented a report on the past year to the members, recollecting the work of the council over the year and the sadness of losing two of the hard working members, Mr & Mrs Harding especially for the work they carried out with the Distington in Bloom group. He also talked about the future works which the Parish Council will be taking on in the coming year and thanked all the members for their efforts.

Agree dates for Monthly Meetings.

It was agreed that Parish Council meetings should be held on the second Monday of each month except during August when no meeting will be held. Each meeting will be held in the Club for Young People and commence at 7.00pm.

Membership.

The Clerk reported that there were now two vacancies on the Parish Council, and that there were already two residents of the parish who had expressed an interest in joining the council, Mrs Margaret Nelson and Mrs Susan Smallwood.

It was agreed by the members that both ladies should be co-opted onto the council. After signing the declaration of acceptance of office forms they joined the other members at the table.

The meeting was recommenced after the Annual Meeting.

Police Matters.

Apologies had been received from the police for this meeting but a copy of the previous months reports were sent to the clerk by e-mail. The clerk read out the report and there was a brief discussion on some of the incidents it contained.

Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had contacted Cumbria County Council to obtain an update on what was to be done about the restoration of the Keekle Head Open Cast site. The information received was that work was to be carried out but the timing and the decision on to the extent of the restoration but the site would be made safe and it was acknowledged that there was no site security in place now that the dump proposal was not ongoing.

The Clerk also reported that he had spoken to Victoria Torrence with regards to the timescale for the handover of the clock tower. She believed it was imminent and the clerk had given her the details of the council's solicitor.

A letter of thanks had been received from the members of the Distington in bloom group for the donation which the Parish Council had made to their funds.

The Toma Fund had written to the Parish Council inviting a member along to the opening of their new caravan which had been purchased from donations including Distington's. As the site for the caravan was in the North East no member felt they could travel for the event.

The Clerk reported that he had filled in the application for insurance from Zurich and it had been indicated that there would be quite a saving by switching to them. He reported that he had sent off all the details of the present cover so as to be sure we were getting like for like cover. It was agreed by the members that providing there were savings to be made the clerk should take up the offer, as the premiums had to be paid by 1st June.

Some more details had been received from Copeland Borough Council with regards to the handing over the play area at Pica to the Parish Council. It was agreed that this should proceed as previously agreed.

Planning Applications

Application to remove existing car port and erection of annex for elderly parent, Gilgarran House, Gilgarran, application number 4/14/2147/0F1.

Erection of two storey side extension 18 Ennerdale View, Distington, application number 4/14/2174/0F1.

Retrospective application to undertake works to fill an area of land to provide useable agricultural land and improve drainage of the area, application number 4/14/9002 (Cumbria CC).

After consideration, it was agreed that the Parish Council should have no objections to any of these proposals.

Financial Matters.

The Following accounts were passed for payment:-

L Foster (guttering) £300.00. L Foster (rent) £100.00. R Robinson (big local) £500.00. Cumbrian Newspapers (advert) £174.00. JS Holliday (salary, travel, telephone) £551.00. C McBride (padlock) £10.80. Zurich Municipal (insurance) £775.21.

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Parish meeting held in the Community Centre, Distington, 12th May 2014.

Members Present

Cllrs Mr J Bowman, Mrs J Bowman, Mrs C Pattinson, Mrs R Robinson, Mr P Kelly, Mr R Gallacher, Mrs J Williams, Mr C Beattie, Mrs K Hodgson, Mrs M Slater, Mrs M Smart.

Apologies.

Cllrs. Mr B Pattinson, Mrs K Sharpe.

Cllr Mr B Dixon, Copeland Borough Council,
PCSO Kelsey Neen, PCSO Mark Fishpool.

Also Present.

Cllr. Mrs Sue Hayman, (Cumbria CC).

There were no residents from the area in attendance; but several members had been approached by members of the public with issues they wished to have raised on their behalf.

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Distington Club for Young People, 9th June 2014.

Members Present

Cllrs Mr J Bowman, Mrs J Bowman, Mrs C Pattinson, Mr P Kelly,
Mrs J Williams, Mrs K Sharpe, Mrs R Robinson, Mrs K Hodgson, Mrs M Slater,
Mrs M Smart, Mrs Margaret Nelson, Mrs Susan Smallwood.

Apologies.

Cllrs. Mr B Pattinson, Mr C Beattie, Mr R Gallacher.
Cllr Mr B Dixon, Copeland Borough Council.
Cllr. Mrs Sue Hayman, (Cumbria CC).
PCSO Kelsey Neen, PCSO Mark Fishpool.

Minutes of last Meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Council were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Declaration of Interests.

None of the members had any interests to declare on any specific item on the agenda.

Police Matters.

The police representatives had both tendered their apologies for the meeting but a copy the latest crime figures had been submitted via e-mail. The report was read out to the members and its contents commented on.

Pica Community Group – Feedback.

It was reported that the new mower had been received and was now being used by the group.

Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present who expressed a wish to address the meeting.

Councillors Questions.

Concerns were raised about a variety of issues, mostly highways related. Overgrown hedges at Prospect View and Holly House, Main St, also a large number of Street lights unlit in Hinnings Road.

The condition of the War Memorial was raised and it was agreed that this year it was especially appropriate for some restoration work to be carried out. Cllr Mrs Robinson was making enquiries as to contractor's costs for cleaning and restoring the wording on the memorial and would report back. Cllr Mrs Bowman was to make enquiries to see if there were any funds which could be drawn down to assist with the costs.

A suggestion was raised as to the need for a direction sign to the Church, School and Community centre positioned at the junction with Main Street/Church Street. The need for a similar sign at the junction of Main Street/Hinnings Road directing towards the Surgery and Rugby Club, was also raised. It was pointed out that the highways authority were not too keen on a lot of these types of signs as they can be a distraction, but enquiries would be made about the feasibility of the ideas.

It was reported that the problems with the wall adjacent to the Club for Young People had not yet been resolved even though there had been visits made by the various authorities officers.

Correspondence

Information was received from Zurich Insurance confirming the terms of the policy which covered the council for 2014-15. A letter was also received from Allianz which cancelled the previous cover as agreed by members at the previous meeting. The clerk reported that this year's premium was £775.21 which was a considerable reduction on the £1180.00 for last year cover with Allianz for the same cover.

A leaflet was received from "Online Playgrounds" for information on equipment.

Planning applications.

There were no new planning applications to be considered at this meeting.

Financial Matters.

The Following accounts were passed for payment:-

JS Holliday (salary, ink) £206.00. Post Offices Ltd (income tax) £125.00.

M P Nelson (Kidz & Co - donation) £500.00.

The Clerk reported that £2,005.01 had been received from the VAT return claim.

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Distington Club for Young People, 14th July 2014.

Members Present

Cllrs Mr J Bowman, Mrs J Bowman, Mrs C Pattinson, Mr P Kelly,
Mrs J Williams, Mrs K Sharpe, Mrs R Robinson, Mrs K Hodgson, Mrs M Slater,
Mrs M Smart, Mrs Margaret Nelson, Mr C Beattie.

Apologies.

Cllrs. Mr B Pattinson, Mrs Susan Smallwood, Mr R Gallacher.
Cllr Mr B Dixon, Copeland Borough Council.
PCSO Kelsey Neen, PCSO Mark Fishpool.

Also Present.

Cllr. Mrs Sue Hayman, (Cumbria CC).

Minutes of last Meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Council were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Mrs J Bowman declared an interest in all planning matters. Otherwise none of the other members had any interests to declare on any specific item on the agenda.

Police Matters.

The police representatives had both tendered their apologies for the meeting but a copy the latest crime figures had been submitted via e-mail. The report was read out to the members and its contents commented on.

The report stated that there had been a large increase in Adult ASB and Domestic incidents in June, this was over a 2 week period and this was mainly due to the hot weather and the world cup, therefore people drink more and act stupidly. However over the past few weeks things have quietened down again. Also in the area there had been a few reports of horses and animals on the roads (highways disruptions).

There were some members who expressed concern about the use of a quad bike causing disturbance during the hours from 6.00pm to 11.00pm near to Hawthorns Close.

Pica Community Group – Feedback.

Cllr Beattie reported that all the planting was now complete and the grass was being cut twice per week.

Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present who expressed a wish to address the meeting.

At this point Mr Karl Melville, Cumbria County Council Highways Engineer, was presented to the members and first of all asked to express the thanks of the village to the workers who carried out the work on Main Street, it was stated that they worked very hard and did all they could to help the public who were affected.

Mr Melville gave a description of his role and the organisation he represents and went on to explain how the system works with regards to funding allocation and works programming, and when questioned, he stated that there was still land-filling taking place at Lillyhall.

He stated that there were seven gritters working from the Lillyhall Highways Depot and in response to a question he insisted that the road passed the crematorium was on the list of routes covered by these gritters. He also pointed out that these gritters were in addition to the ones which were operated by the Highways Agency and Connect Roads.

There followed a long discussion about various aspects of traffic management

Councillors Questions.

Concerns were raised about the area of land behind the bus shelter at the junction of Hinnings Road. It was stated that there were a lot of weeds in the area which made it very untidy. The land was now thought to be owned by Home Group as they would inherit it when they took over ownership of the housing on the estate so it was agreed that Tanya Pears should be contacted to look for a way forward and possibly transfer the land to the Parish council so that it can be looked after properly.

Estimates for the renovation of the War Memorial had been received and it was agreed by the members to proceed with the one for £1,100 by Cumbria Headstones, to be paid in two payments with one payment up front.

A question was put forward about a possible proposal to install Solar Panel's on the roof of the Community Centre and as to whether permission of the Parish Council was required before such work can be carried out. The Clerk stated that permission of the Parish Council would be required, as was the case when the extension was added for the library, and assurances to cover the insurance etc would be required.

Members were keen to congratulate the Old Folks Committee on the way in which the trip on Saturday 12th July 2014 was organised. It was stated that everything was superb with lunch in Carlisle and then a run down to Kendal.

Members were concerned about the closure of the Post Office and what a miss it will be for the community. It was stated that discussions were taking place to have one set up in the Community Centre and run from another local Post Office for a couple of days per week.

The condition of the former Chinese Takeaway on Main Street was raised and in particular the roof guttering which was sagging very badly and liable to fall on top of a passer by. The matter was to be passed to the appropriate officer at Copeland Borough Council.

Clock Tower & Play Area – Updates.

The Clerk reported that both these matters were with the solicitors and that the case of the Tower, the legal documents had been signed by both parties. He stated that the play area transfer was expected to take a bit longer as full land searches would be needed and there was a patch of land within the boundary which is not owned by Copeland at present.

Big Local – Accountable Body.

The Clerk reported that a meeting had taken place and it was now suggested that another body be appointed to carry out the work of the Accountable Body instead of the Parish Council. It was pointed out that when the Parish Council volunteered to take on the role it was understood that it would cost up to 20% for this role to be covered by an independent group but now someone has come forward to carry out the work for just 1% so it was being put to the members that the Parish Council should withdraw from this duty.

It was agreed by the members that the Parish Council hand over the duty as and when appropriate.

Correspondence

Mosscliff Environment (wind energy), wrote as the first stage of the consultation on their proposal to install a 250kw wind turbine at Moor House Farm, near High Harrington.

AON sent a reminder that they had not received the annual premium for the Parish Council's Insurance. The Parish Council have switched provider of this service.

A letter of thanks was received from Kidz & Co for the donation of £500 made by the Parish Council towards their fund raising efforts.

Planning applications

Alterations and Extensions incorporating small family annex Fell View Cottage, Pica, application number CH/4/14/2225/0F1.

Rear dining room extension, decked terrace and repositioning of conservatory, Calabar, Pica. (Resubmission of out of date approval), application number CH/4/14/2243/0F1.

After consideration, it was agreed that the Parish Council should have no objections to either of these proposals.

Financial Matters.The Following accounts were passed for payment:-

Henry Armer (mower parts) £45.76. JS Holliday (salary, paper, postage) £240.50.
R Robinson (big local) £87.04. Distington Community Centre (rent – big local) £1,000.
Clarity Voice Data Communications Ltd (IT equipment – big local) £420.00.
D Smith (CVS Membership – big local) £90.00. J Norman (mower & tyre) £2,982.28.
J Bennett (plants) £657.00. Cumbria Headstones (war memorial) £550.00.
Cumbria Headstones (war memorial) £550.00. Brockbanks (legal fees) £283.00.
Carole Carr Associates (big local) £6,660.00. D Smith (big local) £925.39.
Whitehaven Credit Union (big local) £4,000.00.

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Distington Club for Young People, 8th September 2014.

Members Present

Cllrs Mr J Bowman, Mrs C Pattinson, Mrs J Williams, Mrs K Sharpe, Mrs Susan Smallwood, Mr R Gallacher, Mrs R Robinson, Mrs K Hodgson, Mrs Margaret Nelson.

Apologies.

Cllrs. Mrs J Bowman, Mr B Pattinson, Mr C Beattie Mrs M Smart,
Mrs M Slater, Mr P Kelly.
Cllr Mr B Dixon, Copeland Borough Council.
Cllr. Mrs Sue Hayman, (Cumbria CC).

Membership.

Members were informed that, because of work commitments, Mrs M Slater had decided to stand down from her position on the Parish Council. This now means that there is one vacancy on the Council which can be filled by co-option or left vacant as there will be election to be held in May 2015.

Also Present.

PCSO Sarah Marshall

Minutes of last Meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Council were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Declaration of Interests.

None of the members had any interests to declare on any specific item on the agenda.

Police Matters.

PCSO Sarah Marshall attended the meeting and introduced herself as the regular officer the area as a replacement for Kelsey Neen who had become a full time police officer. Sarah went on to report on all the issues which had occurred over the past month which included an increase in Anti Social Behaviour which was put down to the fine weather and extra consumption of alcohol during the world cup. Most of the problems were attributed to noise.

There had been a spillage of slurry on the highway which was eventually cleaned up by the farmer concerned and a car parked on a footway was moved on. There had been criminal damage to a cycle which had been removed and then returned damaged.

Pica Community Group – Feedback.

It was reported that the group were keeping everything nice and tidy and the one of the residents had made two seats which had been put in position.

The AGM of the group is to be held at the end of the month, and normal meetings are held on the first Monday of each month. After a discussion as to where was suitable to hold the AGM, it was agreed that the Rugby Club should be approached as it was normally quiet during the week.

A member of the group asked if it was possible for residents of Pica to participate in the activities of the Distington Old Peoples Group and she was given the names of the persons who she should approach to get some clarification.

It was pointed out that there were other members of the group who could operate the mowing machine if the regular operator was unavailable.

Public Participation.

Mr M Pritt was allowed to put some proposals to the members for which he thought there was some need. He was concerned about the state of the entrance to the village from the north and the poor condition of some properties in that area adding that Mr Pete Duncan was involved in a group where he lives which organises restoration project, taking over derelict buildings and improving them. Mr Pritt suggested that the Parish Council might take on such a scheme.

He also raised concerns about a wind turbine which had mysteriously appeared near the village which there did not appear to have been any consultation. He also raised concerns about the lack of a public notice board in the village where anyone could use to advertise their activities.

Mr Pritt was informed that the items he had raised would be considered where possible.

Mr Paul Gaitskell was asked by the chairman if he wished to speak at this point. Mr Gaitskell said he was happy to refrain from speaking as the matter he was concerned with was to be presented by the Clerk later on the agenda.

Councillors Questions.

Litter and large items of fly tipping were reported to be on the cycle track, some of which had been there for a considerable length of time. The Clerk was to attempt to contact Sustrans to inform them of the problem. There were also concerns about the amount of dog fouling which was taking place without the owners cleaning it up.

A request was made for a seat to be provided in the bus shelter at Hinnings Road as there were said to be two nearby which appeared to not be being used.

An update on the position regarding the clock tower was requested and the clerk pointed out that the matter was in the hands of the solicitors and that the transfer documents had already been signed by the appropriate Parish Council representatives, the Clerk and Chairman.

A member from Pica raised the issue of having village greens registered and if it was possible to have some of the areas in Pica registered. The Clerk stated that there was to be a training session on the subject for members of Cumbria County Council planning committee and as a member of the committee he would be attending and would report back on what was said.

British Legion.

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by Mrs Una Bell, a representative of the Royal British Legion, who had stated that the Distington Branch standard should not be paraded by the Parish Council as the branch no longer exists. The Clerk had informed Mrs Bell that it was not the Parish Council who paraded the standard but a member of the Royal British Legion and that no member of the Parish Council had ever paraded the standard and when she was informed of the name of the standard bearer and that the matter would be placed on the agenda for the members to discuss she was satisfied.

A long discussion took place in which Mr Gaitskell persistently interrupted and insisted that the standard had been wrongly paraded and, despite being informed that the standard was not paraded by the Parish Council and given assurances that it would not be paraded at this years Remembrance Sunday Parade, he accused members of being disrespectful towards the standard.

The Clerk went on to inform members that he was also informed by Mrs Bell that the standard should be laid up, either in the local church or at the Royal British Legion headquarters. After a discussion about this issue it was decided that the Clerk should contact Mr Bell to suggest that the standard should be laid up at the beginning of this years service but not paraded to the memorial to give the people who have followed this standard over the years to observe the service of laying up.

Correspondence

Copeland Borough Council sent a list of the review of polling districts in the borough. There was very little change within the district which included the Distington Parish.

A brochure was received from “Play practice” advertising various play equipment which they produce.

A letter was received from the Post Office updating members on their proposals for providing postal services in the village of Distington as a result of the sudden closure of the existing post office.

A brochure named “Project News” was received, which was a public consultation document on proposals for overhead power lines which would be required if the proposed nuclear power station was to be built at Sellafield. This brochure had been widely distributed around the parish.

Planning applications

Installation of Auto-sliding entrance, Cumbrian Coop, Main Street, application number CH/4/14/2296/0F1.

Internally Illuminated Fascias, Cumbrian Coop, Main Street, application number CH/4/14/2328/0A1.

Alterations to create a two storey property, 15 Gilgarran Park, application number CH/4/14/2372/0F1.

Conversion of former public house to provide three dwelling units together with new vehicular access, Globe Hotel, 84 Main Street, application number CH/4/14/2376/0F1.

After consideration, it was agreed that the Parish Council should have no objections to any of these proposals.

Financial Matters.

The Following accounts were passed for payment:-

JS Holliday (salary, travel, phone) £812.00. Post Office Ltd (tax) £125.00. Lakes College (big local) £1160.12. David Smith (big local) £148.92. Ian Telford (big local) £300.00. Cumbria Newspapers Ltd (big local) £129.74. R Robinson (memorial gardens) £17.00.

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Distington Club for Young People, 13th October 2014.

Members Present

Cllrs Mr J Bowman, Mrs J Bowman, Mrs Susan Smallwood, Mr R Gallacher,
Mrs R Robinson, Mrs K Hodgson, Mrs M Smart, Mrs Margaret Nelson.

Apologies.

Cllrs. Mrs C Pattinson, Mrs J Williams, Mrs K Sharpe, Mr B Pattinson,
Mr C Beattie, Mr P Kelly.

Cllr Mr B Dixon, Copeland Borough Council.
Cllr. Mrs Sue Hayman, (Cumbria CC).

Membership.

Members were informed that, because of work commitments, Mrs M Slater had decided to stand down from her position on the Parish Council. This now means that there is one vacancy on the Council which can be filled by co-option or left vacant as there will be election to be held in May 2015.

Also Present.

PCSO Sarah Marshall, Mr M Pritt.

Minutes of last Meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Council were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Mrs J Bowman declared an interest in all planning matters. Otherwise none of the other members had any interests to declare on any specific item on the agenda.

Police Matters.

PCSO Sarah Marshall was present at the meeting and she read out her report on incidents which had occurred over the past month which unfortunately had been a busy month but there had been a reduction in adult ASB call and only one was a noise complaint. There had been two calls to 999 from the call box on Barf's Road but no-one there when the police arrived, it was suspected that the calls were made by children.

She ended her report by saying that the public should not be alarmed by the increase in public order this month, the recording guidelines have changed and this is more a reflection on the change than the beginning of a problem within the area.

Library.

Mr Bruce Bennison, County Manager – Library Service Review, attended the meeting to update members of proposals to increase the hours of opening of the library in line with those of the post office which is now run from the Community Centre. He said that the library would be staffed by a variety of personnel and that post office staff would be helping out. The hours of opening was expected to be 10 – 2 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday.

Mr Bennison was thanked by the members for coming along to the meeting.

Parish Council Web-Site.

A proposal that the Parish Council should have its own Web Site was put forward for discussion. There were views for and against the idea and it was also suggested that use of the Big Local Web Site could be explored, as this was already in place.

The Clerk pointed out that it was ok to have a site but assurances that it will be kept up to date had to be made as there is nothing worse than going to a site where the information is well out of date and meaningless, as is often the case.

It was agreed that this should be included in the agenda for future meeting while the options are explored and details on by how, and who will the information be kept up to date.

Clock Tower.

The Clerk reported that the Tower was now in the ownership of Distington Parish Council and that he had received the keys to the door and arranged for some minor works to be carried out inside the base of the tower to make as dust free as possible in readiness of the clock being restarted, and CCTV being brought up to date. He had also received an application form for an electricity supply to be installed and had acquired a site drawing from the solicitors for this purpose.

Village Greens.

The Clerk reported that he had been on a seminar on Village Greens and the process of having them registered. The course was for County Councillors who were members of DC & R, but information gained was useful for the clerk to progress some of the areas which had been thought about over several years. The matter will be included in future agendas.

Pica Community Group – Feedback.

Mrs Smallwood, as member of the Pica Residents, gave a report on the activities of the group reporting that there was a member who was now operating the moving machine in the absence of Mr Beatie and that everything was nice and tidy. The group were in discussions about the possibility of having some fireworks and a bonfire. She was advised by

the chairman to have a word with Copeland about the bonfire as previously there had been concerns about who would tidy up afterwards and the Parish Council had been required to foot the bill.

Mrs Smallwood also stated that there were proposals for Christmas Trees and lights being erected in the village.

Public Participation.

Mr M Pritt put forward a proposal for a notice board to be erected in front of the Methodist Chapel pointing out that planning permission would not be required as there was already one there advertising times of services etc. The cost of the board was estimated to be around £1,000 and it was suggested the cost could be shared between the Parish Council and the Big Local.

It was agreed to put the matter on the next agenda in order that it can be debated properly by the members.

Councillors Questions.

It was reported that drains were blocked outside no's 1-6 Pica Cottages.

A suggestion was made that there was a need for the bus shelter to be reinstated outside the Queens Head. It was pointed out that the previous shelter had been removed by Copeland Council, in reply to complaints by residents, even though the shelter was the property of Distington Parish Council. It was also pointed out that it was highly likely that there would be strong opposition to it being reinstated.

Problems with drainage on Chapel Street and Church Road were reported and it was explained that the Mr D Harrison, County Highways Department, had these in his sights and was working on having them rectified.

It was reported that there was still a lot of fly tipping on the cycleway. This had been reported previously.

The footpath along Gilgarron Road towards the Crematorium was reported to be so narrow now (grass verge encroachment) it was now not possible for a push chair or mobility scooter to negotiate. The matter would again be passed to the highways department.

Remembrance Sunday Parade.

There was a short discussion about the final arrangements for the Remembrance Sunday Parade and it was stated that it had been agreed by the Royal British Legion that the parade could be led by the Distington Branch Standard this year but that it would be laid up in the church at an early date and would not be available for use in the future.

It was also agreed by members that funds would be provided for sheets of music and the cost of transport for the band, which it was pointed out were excitedly looking forward to the event.

Correspondence

Copeland BC wrote to the Parish Council explain about some funding which was available to replace street lights which were at the moment sited on Electricity poles. As there did not appear to be any such lights within the parish the matter did not concern them.

Costs for the Parish elections, to be held in May 2015, were received from Copeland BC.

A list of CALC training courses had been received and the clerk stated that he would be attending the one on the General Power of Competence as this was an addition to the CILCA financial qualification which he now holds. If this addition to the qualification was achieved it would allow the Parish Council more freedom on what duties they were allowed to finance, which was of importance with regards to the Big Local funds.

A request for assistance with their fund raising efforts was received from the Great North Air Ambulance, and after a short discussion it was agreed that £300 should be donated.

Planning applications

Cumbria County Council (construction of new car park, lay-by and surface water lagoon), application number 2/14/9014.

Copeland BC (replace flat roof with pitched roof) 14 Gilgarran Park, Gilgarran, application number CH/4/14/2387/0F1.

After consideration, it was agreed that the Parish Council should have no objections to either of these proposals.

Financial Matters

BDO External audit.

The Clerk stated that he had now received the audit back from the auditors clear of any adverse comments, pointing out that this was much later than usual because of queries based around the Big Local monies and what powers were being used to distribute them. They have accepted the explanations given and the Parish Council have a clean bill of health, and if the additional qualification is gained by the clerk, things will be clearer next year.

The Following accounts were passed for payment:-

Distington CASC (big local) £500.00. Distington Old Folks Reunion Club (big local) £500.00. Evergreens (big local) £400.00. Distington Knit and Natter (big local) £300.00. Carole Carr Associates (big local) £1,800.00. J Bennett (memorial gardens) £700.00. JS Holliday (salary & keys) £178.00. BDO LLP (audit) £240.00. Henry Armer & Son (battery) £99.30. Distington Community Sports Club (garage rent) £130.00. Great North Air Ambulance (donation) £300.00. The Trustees of the Old Chapel (big local) £500.00.

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Distington Club for Young People, 3th November 2014.

Members Present

Cllrs Mr J Bowman, Mrs J Bowman, Mr R Gallacher, Mrs R Robinson, Mrs K Hodgson, Mrs C Pattinson, Mrs J Williams, Mrs M Smart, Mrs P Nelson, Mr P Kelly.

Apologies.

Cllrs. Mrs K Sharpe, Mrs S Smallwood, Mr B Pattinson,
Cllr Mr B Dixon, Copeland Borough Council.
Cllr. Mrs Sue Hayman, (Cumbria CC).
PCSO Sarah Marshall.

Membership.

Members were informed that, there was uncertainty with regards to Mr C Beattie's position on the Parish Council, as no information had been forthcoming. This now means that there could be two vacancies on the Council which can be filled by co-option or left vacant as there will be elections to be held in May 2015.

Also Present.

Mrs J Baker (Harriets Home), Mr F Brown.

Minutes of last Meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Council were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Mrs J Bowman declared an interest in all planning matters. Otherwise none of the other members had any interests to declare on any specific item on the agenda.

Police Matters.

PCSO Sarah Marshall submitted her apologies for this meeting and sent in a report to the clerk. It was reported that there would be two officers assigned to be on duty for the Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday. She requested information on sites for the SID and persons willing to attend to it overnight at each site.

Parish Council Web-Site.

A discussion took place on whether the Parish Council should develop a web-site or look to the big local site for placing Parish Council information on. It was agreed that the way forward was to use the big local site and the clerk was to send the minutes by e-mail to Lauren Ridley each month. The Clerk was intending sending all the minutes since April 2014 as a starter.

Clock Tower.

The Clerk reported that arrangements had been made for an electricity supply to be installed into the Clock Tower. The Clock Company was to be contacted and the clock restarted as soon as possible. Moves to improve the CCTV would also be discussed at a later meeting when cost could be looked at.

Notice Board.

The provision of a village notice board had been discussed at the big local meeting and it was agreed that the best location would be on the front of the Methodist Chapel. It was agreed that the cost could be shared with the Parish Council and the Big Local when the estimates had been received.

Pica Community Group – Feedback.

The members of the Parish Council from Pica were not present at this meeting to give an update but it was understood that everything was progressing satisfactorily. The Clerk stated that the transfer of the play area was still in the hands of both sets of solicitors and hopefully the transfer would go ahead shortly.

Public Participation.

Mrs Janet Baker introduced herself to the members stating that her work entailed providing residents with activities, entertainment and trips off wherever it could be possible. She was speaking to various groups within the parish to ascertain where she could find suitable activities which would be suitable for the elderly residents. She was also in need of transport if the residents were to be taken off to other areas for such activities.

Members had a discussion with Mrs Baker with various ideas put forward and names of contacts provided and an assurance that if the Parish Council could help in some way she should return to speak to the members.

Mr Frank Brown addressed the meeting with concerns about various aspects of the Scholars Close development. He was concerned that changes had been made to some of the designs of the properties without consultation. He was assured by the clerk that the parish council had been consulted on several occasions with regards to changes such as provision of conservatories etc. and that it would be highly likely that the applications for these changes would appear in the press or on the web site.

One of his concerns was in regards to the wall adjacent to the Young Peoples Club and it was pointed out that assurances had been given to Christine that some changes would be made. Various officers of the Councils concerned were to be contacted to attempt to

rectify these problems including the visibility problems where traffic exits from the Young Peoples Club onto the highway.

Councillors Questions.

The problem with flooding in Chapel Street was again raised and it was stated that works were being carried out to resolve the problem but to date the works had not completely sorted things out.

A request had been made to have the bus shelter opposite the Co-op reinstated. It was pointed out that Copeland Borough Council had removed the previous shelter and it would be difficult to have it reinstated because of consultation etc. Members were reminded of the failed attempt to have the one on the other side moved along the street.

The position with regards to the lane near to where Grants Shop was situated and the right of access for delivery vehicles etc. was raised. It was assumed that this was an un-adopted lane therefore access was the responsibility of those residents who own the properties.

The possibility of acquiring a new grass cutter was raised and it was agreed that this could be a project which could be taken to the Big Local for consideration as the costs entailed were quite high.

Remembrance Sunday Parade.

A discussion took place regarding the final arrangements for the Remembrance Day parade. It was reported that everything was in place and that the problem which had been raised about some of those taking part still wishing to return to the Rugby Club after the parade and it was pointed out that there were no problems with this as refreshments would be available there as well as the Community Centre.

The positioning of crosses which had been obtained from the Royal British Legion was reported to members and it was agreed that it was a nice gesture at this special time.

A matter had been raised concerning the flag pole which was erected at the Rugby Club which cannot be used because of overhead wires and it had been suggested that the pole should be moved to another site. It was agreed that the matter should be discussed at another date as it was too late to do anything right now.

Correspondence.

There were no matters of correspondence received this month.

Planning applications.

Various extensions and alterations to create a dormer bungalow, 15 Gilgarran Park application number CH/4/14/2430/0F1.

After consideration, it was agreed that the Parish Council should have no objections to either of this proposal.

Members were informed that an appeal against the decision made by the planning authority had been lodged, rear of Woodlands, Haycastle Road, application number 4/14/2249/0F1.

Financial Matters.

The Following accounts were passed for payment:-

Distington Local History Group (big local) £350.00. Church of the Holy Spirit (big local) £370.00. Distington Art Group (big local) £250.00. JS Holliday (salary, meeting) £216.00. JS Holliday (clock tower) £60.00. B Bell (catering) £280.00. Egremont Band (donation) £250.00. Electricity North West 0Ltd (clock tower) £3052.21. Workington Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (wreaths & crosses) £220.00.

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Distington Club for Young People, 8th December 2014.

Members Present

Cllrs Mr J Bowman, Mrs J Bowman, Mrs K Hodgson,
Mrs C Pattinson, Mrs M Smart, Mrs P Nelson.

Apologies.

Cllrs. Mrs K Sharpe, Mr R Gallacher, Mrs S Smallwood, Mr B Pattinson,
Mrs J Williams, Mrs R Robinson, Mr P Kelly.
Cllr Mr B Dixon, Copeland Borough Council.
PCSO Sarah Marshall.

Also Present.

Cllr. Mrs Sue Hayman, (Cumbria CC).

Membership.

This now means that there could be two vacancies on the Council which can be filled by co-option or left vacant as there will be elections to be held in May 2015.

Minutes of last Meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Council were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Mrs J Bowman declared an interest in all planning matters. Otherwise none of the other members had any interests to declare on any specific item on the agenda.

Police Matters.

PCSO Sarah Marshall submitted her apologies for this meeting and sent in a report to the clerk. The report was read out to the members present and a discussion took place on matters arising from the report.

The speed of traffic on the old Main Road was of concern and the use of Swallow Hill by buses. There was also concerns raised about some of the fencing on the by-pass being down and that as a result a dog had been killed on the road.

Parish Council Web-Site.

The clerk reported that he had sent off all the minutes from April 2014 to the big local site but had not had any confirmation as to if they had been posted. It was stated that the big local web site was down at the moment but a check would be made regarding the minutes.

Clock Tower.

The clerk reported that he now had keys to the building and had arranged for an electricity supply to be installed. He was arranging a meeting with the CCTV company with regard to providing estimates, and also an electrician to wire the building out for CCTV & the Clock. An electricity provider would also need to be arranged. He had also been in touch with Cumbria Clock Company to discuss restarting the clock.

Notice Board.

A £500 donation had been provided from Big Local for the purchase and fitting of a notice board to be installed outside the Old Chapel.

Pica Community Group – Feedback.

There was no-one present from the group to give feedback but it was stated that yellow lines were to be provided as requested.

Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present who expressed a wish to address the meeting.

Councillors Questions.

It was reported that Lauren, Big Local, would be either setting up a stall or using facilities at the rugby club.

There were still concerns about the final position with regard to the development next door to the Young Peoples Club as Mr Swift had not arranged the required remedial works to be done.

The concerns over dog waste around the village was again raised and a member asked about signs on some lay-bys limiting waiting time to a maximum of two hours and others not.

Remembrance Sunday Parade – feed back.

Feed back on the Remembrance Day Parade was that all went very well and was the best day for many years. The display of crosses was commented on and the presentation in the Community Centre was said to be excellent.

There had been no information provided with regard to the laying up of the standard, it was agreed that contact be made to Len Purser, Rev Julia Powley or Una Bell (Royal British Legion).

Correspondence.

A letter was received from Cumbria Police inviting residents to volunteer to be members of the custody visiting scheme. Most of the members knew about the scheme and the posters/leaflets were passed on to be displayed in the parish.

Planning applications.

Change of use residential to estate agents, 71 Main St, Distington (retrospective), application number, CH/4/14/2448/0F1.

Erection of stables and all weather riding area, Beck Green, Distington, application number CH/4/14/2466/0F1.

After consideration, it was agreed that the Parish Council should have no objections to either of these proposals.

Financial Matters.

The Following accounts were passed for payment:-

Carole Carr (big local) £1,605.00. Carole Carr (big local) £679.93. Distington Club for Young People (big local) £300.00. Julia Powley (big local) £359.10. Cumbria CVS (big local) £10.00. Distington Club for Young People (donation) £1,000.00. JS Holliday (salary, meeting, paper) £241.00. Post Offices Ltd (income tax) £125.00. J Bennett (plants) £374.80. J Bowman (refreshments for remembrance day) £440.58. JS Holliday (training) £30.00. J Bowman (remembrance day) £63.15. MP Nelson (firpress) £100.00. Fids & Co (big local) £500.00. R Robinson (big local - musician) £80.00.

Precept 2015-16.

A short discussion took place regarding the proposed precept for 2015-16 but as notification had not yet been received for Copeland Borough Council, and that so many of the members had not been in a position to attend this meeting it was agreed that the decision be left over to next months meeting.

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Distington Club for Young People, 12th January 2015.

Members Present

Cllrs Mr J Bowman, Mrs J Bowman, Mrs K Hodgson, Mr R Gallacher, Mrs S Smallwood,
Mrs M Smart, Mrs P Nelson, Mrs J Williams, Mrs R Robinson,

Apologies.

Cllrs. Mrs K Sharpe, Mr B Pattinson, Mrs C Pattinson, Mr P Kelly.
Cllr Mr B Dixon, Copeland Borough Council.
PCSO Sarah Marshall, Cllr. Mrs Sue Hayman, (Cumbria CC).

Membership.

This now means that there could be two vacancies on the Council which can be filled by co-option or left vacant as there will be elections to be held in May 2015.

Minutes of last Meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Council were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Mrs J Bowman declared an interest in all planning matters. Otherwise none of the other members had any interests to declare on any specific item on the agenda.

Police Matters.

PCSO Sarah Marshall submitted her apologies for this meeting and sent in a report to the clerk. The report was read out to the members present and a discussion took place on matters arising from the report.

Poppy Appeal Award.

The Chairman brought the 'The George Coward Trophy' to the meeting. The trophy which is awarded by the Cumberland and Westmoreland British Legion each year to the town or village which contributed the most funds from the sale of poppies etc. without the support of a branch of the Royal British Legion had been awarded to the village of Distington which is to be held for the coming year. It was agreed by members that the trophy should be placed on display in various locations around the parish.

Clock Tower.

The Clerk reported that arrangements had been made for an electricity supply to be installed into the tower and the building wired up to enable the instalment of CCTV cameras and also to restart the clock. A discussion then took place about the possibility of additional cameras covering other parts of the village.

Pica Community Group – Feedback.

There was nothing additional to report from the group.

Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present who expressed a wish to address the meeting.

Councillors Questions.

Various items were raised as being of concern including a gully outside 49 Barfs Road, Gully cleansing around the parish in general. Fly tipping at the road to Pica and on the cycle path and also litter on the Millennium Green.

Letters had been sent with regard to the poor condition of some properties in the village to the owners requesting some remedial actions which would improve the general look of the village. It was reported that one of the owners had responded by telephone, which would be responded to, the others had not replied. It was agreed that further letters should be sent to the owners.

Correspondence

A letter was received from the Open Spaces Society requesting a donation towards their fundraising efforts. It was agreed that, as the Parish Council pay annual subscriptions to the organisation, no further donation should be made.

Copeland Borough Council wrote to the Parish Council with the offer of continuing with the landscape service delivery contract for 2015-16. The letter stated the cost of this contract would be no more than it was for 2014-15 and a list of the works carried out and the number of visits supplied.

It was agreed by the members that the contract as laid down should be continued for the year 2015-16.

Planning applications

Erection of a Single 30M Hub Wind Turbine, with a tip height of 48.01M, on land to south of Boonwood Farm, Distington, application number CH/4/14/2502/0F1. After a long discussion it was agreed that the council should object to this proposal on the following grounds.

There are known to be nesting buzzards in the area which use this land as there hunting grounds. The buzzards can be seen going about their business from the village of Distington.

There are Barn Owls which nest in the Gyll near to the quarry which also use the fields in this area as a hunting ground.

The turbine will be overbearing on the residents of Common Side who will be very close to the development and will almost certainly be affected by the noise and flickering effect of the blades.

There will be visual intrusion for the residents of Distington, especially on Hinnings Road and at the south end of the village, and also many other areas of the parish.

The members also requested a site meeting to be held in order that the application can be fully assessed.

Erection of an Agricultural Anaerobic Digestion Plant to comprise 3 storage clamps, digester tank, digester storage lagoon, operating building, substation, separator and dries and flare stack, Home Farm, Gilgarran, application number CH/4/14/2510/0F1.

After consideration, it was agreed that the Parish Council would like a site meeting for this proposal, on the grounds of the scale of the proposal is unclear and would be better understood on site.

Financial Matters

The Following accounts were passed for payment:-

Lauren Ridley (refreshments) £36.02. CALC (training) £29.50. Copeland BC (grass cutting) £1,664.11. Cumbria Newspapers (advert) £173.04. JS Holliday (salary, ink, paper) £223.00. Community Centre (room hire) £40.00.

Precept 2015-16.

After a long discussion it was agreed that the precept for 2015-16 should be raised to £16,000, in recognition of the proposals for this years increased responsibilities.

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Distington Club for Young People, 9th February 2015.

Members Present

Cllrs Mr J Bowman, Mrs J Bowman, Mrs K Hodgson, Mr R Gallacher, Mrs C Pattinson,
Mrs P Nelson, Mrs J Williams, Mrs R Robinson.

Apologies.

Cllrs. Mrs K Sharpe, Mrs M Smart, Mrs S Smallwood, Mr B Pattinson, Mr P Kelly.
Cllr Mr B Dixon, Copeland Borough Council.

Also Present.

PCSO Sarah Marshall, Cllr. Mrs Sue Hayman, (Cumbria CC).

Membership.

There are two vacancies on the Council which can be filled by co-option or left vacant as there will be elections to be held in May 2015.

Minutes of last Meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Council were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Mrs J Bowman declared an interest in all planning matters. Otherwise none of the other members had any interests to declare on any specific item on the agenda.

Police Matters.

PCSO Sarah Marshall submitted her report for this meeting having also sent in a copy to the clerk via e-mail. Sarah went on to report on all the issues which had occurred over the past month which included Anti Social Behaviour in the form of mud throwing, which had been reported to Home Group, adding that there had been no more problems with the previous group but so far the culprits had not been identified.

Sarah reported that the S.I.D. had been in use for a while now so a new suitable site was would be sought for it to be placed, members made various suggestions where the machine had been sited in the past. Enquiries were to be carried out with regards to buses which were travelling along the weight limit at Common Side and which buses were permitted to do so and what buses were abusing their rights.

Concerns were raised with regards to the youths who attended the training centre who were causing problems along Main Street, mainly litter. Cllr Hayman stated that she would make enquiries regarding Cumbria County Council's involvement in this establishment.

Clock Tower.

The clerk reported that the clock tower was now fully powered up with electricity and the CCTV cameras fitted and working, and already had been of assistance to the police on a matter which was of concern to them. He added that he was meeting with the Cumbria Clock Company on the next morning to allow their employee access to unwrap the clock and wire it up to be operational.

The Clerk also stated that he would call into the training centre while he was in the village to meet the clock engineer to see what the situation was.

Pica Community Group

There were no members of the group present to give any feedback.

Laying up of the standard.

The clerk reported that a date had been set for the laying up of the British Legion Standard, which everyone was invited to attend. The date and time of the laying up was to be 1st March 2015 at 9.15am.

Footway Loop Road.

The Clerk reported that he had been in discussion with the highways engineer about the possibility of the parish council employing a man with a machine to clean back the verges off the footpath along the Loop Road and that the cost for the hire had been stated as £150 per day and the work would take two days. The engineer's response was that the work could be carried out by the Parish Council and that he would reimburse the cost to the council, and also suggested that the work on the Crem Road should also be carried out. The clerk reported that he had requested that the engineer send an e-mail to that effect, but at the time of the meeting that had not yet been received.

Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present who expressed a wish to address the meeting.

Councillors Questions.

It was reported that street lights 138, 139 and 140 on Skiddaw Crescent had been unlit for quite a while, and there was a problem with a drain on Barfs Road opposite Cllr Gallacher's home. Overhanging briars on Loop Road were of concern, and the exit from the Club for Young People onto Main Street was still a problem which had been caused by the developer of Scholars Green.

Correspondence

A letter had been received from the Open Spaces Society requesting the annual subscriptions for the forthcoming year. The members agreed that subscriptions, £45.00. should be paid.

Planning applications

It was reported that Copeland planning department had arranged a site visit to land at south of Boonwood Farm where an application had been received to erect a wind turbine, the site meeting was arranged for 10.15am on 18th February 2015.

Financial Matters.

The Following accounts were passed for payment:-

Egremont and District Credit Union (big local) £701.37. JS Holliday (salary, meeting) £216.00. Open Spaces Society (subscriptions) £45.00.

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Distington Club for Young People, 9th March 2015.

Members Present

Cllrs Mr J Bowman, Mrs J Bowman, Mrs K Sharpe, Mrs M Smart,
Mrs C Pattinson, Mrs P Nelson, Mrs J Williams, Mrs R Robinson.

Apologies.

Cllrs. Mrs K Hodgson, Mr R Gallacher, Mrs S Smallwood, Mr B Pattinson, Mr P Kelly.
Cllrs. Mrs Sue Hayman, (Cumbria CC). Mr B Dixon, Copeland Borough Council.

Also Present.

PCSO Sarah Marshall, PCSO Mark Fishpool.

Membership.

There are two vacancies on the Council which can be filled by co-option or left vacant as there will be elections to be held in May 2015.

Minutes of last Meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Council were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Mrs J Bowman declared an interest in all planning matters. Otherwise none of the other members had any interests to declare on any specific item on the agenda.

Police Matters.

PCSO Sarah Marshall submitted her report for this meeting having also sent in a copy to the clerk via e-mail. Sarah went on to report on all the issues which had occurred over the past month also reported on the benefits of the new CCTV cameras and put the question of whether additional cameras could be erected to cover more of the village. A discussion took place on this matter and it was generally agreed by the members that funding should be sought and a meeting with the installers be arranged to see what could be provided, and at what cost. The clerk pointed out that he had already discussed this matter with the provider when the present arrangement was being agreed with various options discussed, and he would arrange a meeting with them on site at some future date when it was hoped that the police could also be present.

Mrs McGlasson.

Mrs Jo McGlasson, Senior Manager of the West Cumbria Achievement Zone, attended the meeting to give a presentation on what was the aims and reasons and history of the facility which is based in the village. She informed members that the facility was commissioned in 1999 by the head teachers of twelve secondary schools in Cumbria to provide alternative education for a number of students where it was felt that they would get greater benefit than in main stream school. She went on to point out this was a fresh start for these young people where they can gain accredited qualifications and be provided with a progression route into employment, training and further education.

Members were given the opportunity to put their concerns and those of residents to Mrs McGlasson to which she gave comprehensive answers. Among those, the main concerns were issues with litter, how the students are selected, how long on average do they attend and what hours do they attend. There were also concerns around the amount of time the students spend walking around the village to which Mrs McGlasson stated that they cannot stop them during their breaks but if they are not on time members of staff go looking for them.

The chairman thanked Mrs McGlasson for her frankness in answering the members concerns and offered the Parish Council's assistance in anyway open to them.

Clock Tower.

The Clerk reported that the Clock Tower was now fully wired up with the clock working and the CCTV installed. The only thing left to do was to place the plaque in a suitable position and possibly have some sort of unveiling event.

Pica Community Group – Feedback.

There were no members of the group present to give any feedback.

Footway – Loop Road.

Communication had been received from Mr Karl Melville (Cumbria Highways) confirming that he was willing to fund some of the cost of the proposed works to cut back the edges of the footway along the Loop Road. The Clerk was to invoice him when the cost of works was agreed.

Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present who expressed a wish to address the meeting.

Election May 2015.

Copies of all the relevant form needed for members to be nominated for election to the Parish Council on 7th May had been collected from Copeland Borough Council and each member who were present were given the opportunity to fill one in and have signed by other members. It was agreed that the Clerk would deliver copies of the forms to the members who were not present with some guidance on what was required.

Councillors Questions.

Concerns were raised about the evidence of fly tipping in several places around the village and also the amount of sand/gravel on the highway at Beck Green. There were also concerns about the condition of the steps onto the cyclepath from Church Road.

It was reported that two individual cases of dog fouling had been witnessed and were being dealt with by the warden Mr Richardson.

Correspondence

A letter was received for Distington Club for Young People, requesting support for a scheme 'Positive Action Programme'. It was agreed that this scheme should be supported by a donation of £1,000 but as it was the end of the financial year and that Parish funds were low the matter would be dealt with when the new precept was received.

Copeland Borough Council sent a quote for works to cut back the overhanging briars along the Loop Road. The quote was agreed by the members but it was also agreed that this work should be carried out after the footpath is cut back.

Planning applications.

Erection of 7 Wind Turbines, Dobies Business Park, Lillyhall. Erection of 4 Wind Turbines, Dobies Business Park, Lillyhall.

As these were consultation documents sent by the possible applicant a discussion took place but it was agreed that no comments should be made until a full application for planning permission was received. The Clerk agreed to meet with the planning officer at Allerdale Borough Council to discuss the way forward.

Change of use, Petrol Station etc to A1 & B1 use, application number CH/4/15/2044/0F1.

Erection of agricultural building, Wilson Park Farm, Pica, application number CH/4/15/2071/0F1.

After consideration, it was agreed that the Parish Council should have no objections to either of these proposals.

It was reported that Copeland planning department had arranged a site visit to the proposed Agricultural Anaerobic Digestion Plant, Home Farm, and also One Wind Turbine, Boonwood Farm, with the date being fixed for 10th March 2015.

Financial Matters.

The Following accounts were passed for payment:-

Pro-Tec Systems Ltd (CCTV installation) £4,938.59. Cumbria Clock Company (service and restart clock) £444.00. JS Holliday (salary) £166.00. Post Office Ltd (tax) £125.00. RK Electrical Ltd (exterior lighting Community Centre) £678.00.