

CLIFTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk: Ms Becx Carter, 40 Windebrowe Avenue, Keswick, CA12 4JA – cliftonpc@outlook.com; 077866 78283

Minutes of the Clifton Community Council Meeting held in the Abbott Lodge on Monday 10th July 2023 at 18:30

Community Councillors Present: Jonathan Davies, Sarah Davies & Claire Bland, Sharon Blaylock

Others: Becx Carter,

57/23	Apologies Resolved by all present that apologies be accepted and approved from Cllr P Clarke due to family commitments. Cllr N Hughes (WaF) had also sent his apologies
58/23	Minutes of last Clifton Community Council meeting The Chair was authorised to sign, as a correct record with one minor amendment that the minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on 18 th May 2023 (<i>previously circulated</i>)
59/23	Declarations of Interest/requests for dispensation None
60/23	Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960) None
61/23	Public Participation Apologies were sent from the headteacher at Clifton School. No other updates were received, and no members of the public were present.
62/23	Community Councillor Vacancies. No applications for the 2 co-option vacancies have been received.
63/23	Chair's Report Cllr J Davies gave a short chair's report which is noted below <i>"Since our last meeting Clifton Community council' work on the creating of the Clifton Info pod has commenced along with the establishing of the Clifton community book exchange.</i> <i>I have been amazed at the generous donations of books by the community and would like to extend a word of thanks to all for supporting this community project.</i> <i>Work will continue with some new permanent shelving for the book exchange fitted in the pod along with the solar mobile charge point and digital info points</i>

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in coming months.

Last month I attended Westmorland and Furness Councils cabinet meeting held at Barrow Town Hall on behalf of Clifton Community Council as chair to ask a series of questions on issues the council required answers to; one around the subject of devolution of assets the second regarding our streetlight issues and the contract for maintenance.

We have received confirmation from Westmorland and Furness Council now that the streetlight maintenance contract has been transferred to them from Eden council and that the issues with the light reconnection are now been progressed to resolution.

On devolution we will discuss this later in this meeting. Recognition of the long efforts by this council to progress devolution with Eden Council were recognized and assurance that the new council will have a devolution policy established by September to enable asset devolution to be progressed with Clifton and other communities who wish to take on assets.

Around devolution a meeting was held between Westmorland & Furness Council officers and myself in Clifton last month this is on the agenda later in this meeting. Wider conversations were had around Clifton been included in the route for the mobile library service.

In addition, Westmorland and Furness Council officers are keen to work with us to evolve active travel routes we have looked at in the past to link Clifton with Penrith and other communities with cycle and walking routes including with potential funding.

The last month has also been a hectic one in preparation for the Clifton Cumbria in bloom judging that took place this morning. I had the pleasure of showing our community to the judges who had a full tour of the community and its various assets and details about the community and plans we have in development and progression.

I would like to give a big thanks to all who have helped in making Clifton sparkle for today's judging and it was noted how clean the community is and the lack of things like litter and dog mess. We will have to await the results of the Cumbria in Bloom judging that I believe will be known in September. However, we have gained a lot of insight and tips to take forward for next year where we can build on the lessons and experience of our first entry.

Finally, just to say this coming Saturday will see the return of Penrith Show that despite the name is held each year in the parish of Clifton and our neighboring parish of Brougham. I would like on behalf of the council to wish Penrith Show committee and all attending a successful show and hope all have a great day."

Cllr J Davies raised at his discretion due to the short timescales of this consultation with all present that there is a consultation open on the closure of the ticket office at Penrith Train Station.

Resolved by all present that an objection to this be submitted on the grounds that it will disadvantage those that require accessibility support, and the reduction in the service provision.

Action: Clerk to draft a response and circulate to all for approval.

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64/23

Correspondence received

Unless otherwise minuted below the following items of correspondence were noted as received.

- i. CALC Special General meeting revised date

Resolved by all present that delegated authority be passed to Cllr J Davies and Cllr S Blaylock to attend this meeting.

Action: Cllr J Davies & Cllr S Blaylock to take this forward

- ii. Old Village Hall Charity Commission Update

The Clerk updated all present that there had been ongoing issues with this to do with the lack of action by the current trustees of the Village Hall Charity meaning the charity returns etc. had not been filed. With Clifton Community Council being ultimately responsible as Custodian Trustee Cllr J Davies has filed a request with the Charity Commission to have the charity dissolved.

The Clerk reported that as of the 7th July 2023 one of the remaining trustees of the old VH charity has made contact with the council and shared a copy of the dissolution notice that had been submitted to the Charity Commission.

- iii. Cumbria Local Nature Partnership BEE pledge

Information this had been circulated to all via email prior to the meeting.

Resolved by all present that Clifton Community Council to adopt this and recognize the importance of biodiversity in the Parish.

Action: Clerk to complete this.

All other correspondence was noted as received.

65/23

Community Hub/Community Space

Cllr J Davies confirmed he had taken part in a long discussion with Network Rail, WaF (Highways) and the WaF Planning team and all have expressed various concerns about a number of issues with the site that Clifton Community Council has been considering as a possible site for a new village hall including:

- Highways access to the site
- Network Rail have also expressed concerns about having a proposed structure so close to the West Coast Mainline.

It was noted that the footpath linkage across the bottom of this site is not viable due to landownership issues.

Cllr J Davies has noted that there has been a historic demand for allotments in the Parish and this maybe something that needs to be considered as part of the wider development plan.

If a strong enough need and demand could be identified there is an option for a Compulsory Purchase open to the Parish Council, with funding via a Public works loan.

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	Resolved by all present that a formal dialogue be opened with Lowther Estates over the second choice option for the Village Hall/Community Space site. Action: Cllr J Davies to start formal discussions to be started with Lowther on the alternative site.
66/23	Clifton Community Council Business Plan No updates received Action: Clerk & Cllr Davies to work on this during August with a view to approval of this at the September 2023 meeting.
67/23	Neighbourhood Plan Update A decision on funding from central government for grants for communities for the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans is awaited, but reassurance has been provided from the Secretary of State to Clifton Community Council that this is being progressed in an expedient manner. Action: Clerk & Cllr Davies to continue working on this prior to the September 2023 meeting.
68/23	Highways & Parish Maintenance Update <i>i. To receive updates on any Highways related matters within the Parish</i> • There has been a recent issue with the A6 flooding in the recent torrential rains, as a result of a report to the Police, the drains were cleared by Westmorland & Furness in the middle of the night. • A highways walkaround is going to happen in the coming weeks to pick up all the various minor ongoing issues within the Parish. • It was noted that the footpath on the approach in to Clifton (from the North) is the responsibility to Westmorland & Furness to maintain. It is in a very poor condition between the Parish boundary and Clifton Cross. Action: Clerk to raise a complaint with WaF about their lack of maintenance of this stretch of footpath, and to request that all vegetation be cleared by WaF and that the surface of the footpath be repaired (damage has been caused by the roots of the vegetation that has not been cleared by WaF for many years). <i>ii. Lengths man/Parish Maintenance</i> It was noted that an agreement needs to be in place with Westmorland & Furness for funding transfer for items that the Community Council is paying for that Westmorland & Furness are also taking council tax for. The Clerk confirmed that she had raised this question with WaF and the response received from them was that <i>'this is not a matter that Westmorland & Furness Council are able to deal with....'</i> The response from Westmorland and Furness was noted by Clifton Community Councillors with frustration and disappointment as it is known that a lengthsman agreement with devolved budget is in place between Eden (now WaF) and Shap

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Parish Council.

Action: Cllr J Davies to obtain a copy of the agreement that Shap have in place.

Action: Clerk to raise this issue with Kellie Bradburn Sims as Community Liaison officer once the copy of the Shap agreement has been obtained.

iii. Autospeed watch update

Cllr J Davies has circulated to all an Auto Speed watch report prior to the meeting.

Northbound (1st May 2023-10th July 2023)

- 770 vehicles traveling at more than 30mph
- The fastest recorded speed was 69mph
- 103 vehicles were moving at 40mph or above
- 25 were noted as SORN/Not Taxed or without MOT

Southbound (1st May 2023-10th July 2023)

- 927 vehicles travelling at more than 30mph
- The fastest recorded speed was 69mph
- 286 vehicles were moving at 40mph or above
- 41 were noted as SORN/Not Taxed or without MOT

Cllr J Davies noted that he has a meeting with the PCC and a senior police operative to discuss this, and to encourage Cumbria Police to follow through with Auto Speedwatch.

Action: Cllr J Davies to continue pushing Cumbria Police for action on this.

The Clerk noted the time that was involved in the Autospeed watch validation is significant (circa 6 hours a month at the moment).

Action: Clerk to include information on repeat offenders in future minute reports.

Action: Clerk to add all councillors to the autospeed watch validation system.

The Clerk confirmed that Jonathan Brook (Leader of WaF) had responded to an email confirming that WaF are developing a policy on the introduction of 20mph limits in villages/settlements and that the policy is likely to be ready in early September. Once this is adopted then the request of Clifton Community Council can be considered.

iv. Saturday Bus Service

Cllr J Davies updated that the 106-bus tendered for someone to run a Saturday bus service but no responses were received.

A request has now been put into the Transport Commissioner by Fellrunner for approval to run a trial (6 month) Saturday bus service on the A6 which will

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	include a service through Clifton on Saturdays. Resolved by all present that this news was positively received, and that Clifton Community Council are keen to support this in any way they can e.g., with publicity etc.
69/23	Clifton Community Council Actions Tracker Resolved by all present that an Actions Tracker be formed for Clifton Community Council actions showing progress against actions. Action: Cllr J Davies to develop this for completion.
70/23	Devolution of Assets Cllr J Davies updated all on a positive site meeting he had held with officers from WAF to discuss this matter. A formal request for devolution needs to be submitted, but the officers have confirmed if we submit it, they will approve it in September when the devolution policy is approved. Resolved by all present that a submission be made for complete and absolute devolution of the below parcels of land including ownership, with the parcels being in a suitable and satisfactory state prior to devolution. -Play-park (with equipment being bought up to spec & the wall repairs being made) -Parcel of land in Cumberland Way (in the middle) -Parcel of land as you come into Clifton near the vicarage with the shrubs in -Verge running down Valley road Action: Devolution request to be sent with an overarching on what improvements Clifton Community Council may want to make to these areas ready for consideration by WaF in September.
71/23	Footway Lighting i. To receive an update on the damaged light and its reconnection Cllr J Davies noted that because of a question he raised at full council meeting that the reconnection of this light is being progressed as a matter of urgency. ii. To consider the ongoing contract for footway lighting devolution Cllr J Davies has confirmed that this has been novated to Westmorland & Furness and this agreement continues with them.
72/23	Utilities i. To discuss issues with Utilities within the Parish and to agree on next steps. It was noted that there has been some recent issues with power surges within the Parish in certain areas. Resolved that Clifton Community Council invite an ENW Community liaison officer to attend the September meeting of Clifton Community Council to discuss this matter.

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Action: Clerk to issue this invitation.

It was also noted that the Sewage Pumping station at Lowther has allowed raw sewage to be released into the River Lowther for 10's of hours in 2022. Concerns were noted by Clifton Community Council that it was understood that when recent housing developments were approved conditions were imposed that capacity was to be added to this treatment works prior to the developments being occupied to prevent sewage over capacity issues but it is not clear if this expanded capacity was every delivered.

Resolved that Clifton Community Council engage with UU on if capacity has been added to this pumping station and if not why not?

Action: Clerk to submit this request to UU.

73/23

Planning

i. Planning applications received for consultation.

Ref: 23/0329

Location: 1 Town End Farm Cottages, Clifton

Proposal: Consent for the replacement of single glazed timber windows with double glazed timber windows in the same style

Resolved that Clifton Community Council have no objections or comments on this application.

Action: Clerk to submit this response.

Ref: 23/0407

Location: George & Dragon, Clifton

Proposal: Retrospective application for replacement kitchen extractors, air supply units & flues

Resolved by all present that Clifton Community Council object to this application on the grounds:

- That there are no details about the odour abatement included in the application(or cleaning regime for these units which if not diligently and regularly undertaken leads to fire safety implications)
- The noise survey relied on this application was done when the pub was not operational (prior to its re-opening date), it also only shows information on the noise records for 2 hours not over a 24 hour period)
- There is also no attempt suggested in the application to mask/screen the new units
- Also no detail is provided within the application/supporting documents on the air flow monitoring of this new unit.

Clifton Community Council formally request as part of their objection that this application be called in and considered by full committee.

Clifton Community Council request that if WaF is minded to consider approval of this application then planning conditions should be imposed to:

- Restrict the operating hours of this new extractor/air supply unit to attempt to mitigate the impact on neighbours

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-That the applicant must screen/mask this new extractor/flue system ASAP to again mitigate the negative impact of these proposals on the neighbouring residential properties.

Action: Clerk to submit this objection and copy in Cllr N Hughes.

Action: Clifton Community Council request that Westmorland & Furness Environmental Health to undertake a noise assessment on this site to validate the information given in the noise assessment report, and to provide a baseline of monitoring for health purposes of local residents.

ii. Planning decisions

Resolved by all present that the below decisions be noted as received:

Ref	Location	Proposal	Decision
23.0229	Midtown Farm, Clifton	Change of use of agricultural paddock to equestrian etc	Approved with conditions
23.0193	4 Kiln Heights, Clifton Dykes	Proposed detached car part/garage	Approved with conditions

74/23

Financial Matters

i. To authorise the below payments.

Resolved by all present that the below payments were authorised/ratified for payment:

Date	PAYEE	Budget line	Value	Action
10.7.23	Becx Carter	Expenses	£121.93	Approve
10.7.23	Gareth Davidson/GCA Garden Services	Cutting of Clifton Pocket Park	£160.00	Approve
10.7.23	S.106 Bus	Annual Contribution	£500.00	Approve
30.7.23	Becx Carter	Salary (Via So)	£244.30	Ratify
30.7.23	HMRC	PAYE (Via SO)	£162.40	Ratify
10.7.23	Penrith Posters	Phone Box inserts	£279.00	Approve

Action: Cllr J Davies to obtain quotes for the preparation of bespoke shelving in the Clifton Info Pod.

ii. To receive and approve the bank reconciliation and spend against budget report.

Resolved by all present that these be recorded as a true and accurate record.

iii. To consider allocation of funding for all councillors & the clerk to have a DBS Check

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	Resolved by all present that this be deferred until the Playarea is devolved to the Parish Council
56/23	Date of next meeting Resolved by all present that the next meeting be scheduled for 11 th September 2023 at 18:30 in the Abbott Lodge Conference Room.

The meeting was closed at 20:15