Caton with Littledale Parish Council

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on

Tuesday 11th July 2023 at 7pm at the Victoria Institute, Caton.

**Present**: Cllr Heywood (chair), Cllr Walmsley (vice-chair), Cllr Carter, Cllr Boland, Cllr Wright, Cllr Powell, Cllr Gibbons.

Gill Mason – clerk.

**92/23 To receive apologies for absence.**

None.

**93/23 To consider and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th June 2023.**

It was resolved that the minutes be approved and signed by the chair.

Proposed by Cllr Walmsley.

Seconded by Cllr Wright.

**94/23 To receive declarations of interests and dispensations.**

Cllr Walmsley declared an interest in any item regarding Caton St Paul’s School.

Cllr Wright declared an interest in any item regarding Caton Primary School.

Cllr Gibbons declared an interest in any item regarding the Victoria Institute as a trustee.

**95/23 To consider planning application and matters.**

The Station Hotel / Bowling Club update – the planning officer has informed the parish council that a planning application is required for change of use. The brewery’s planning agent will be liaising with the officer at Lancaster City Council.

The clerk has written twice to the licensing department to enquire whether an additional license is needed for the new beer garden.

**96/23 Accounts and finance.**

**Payments**

Victoria Institute, administration grant (S/O) £800.00

Victoria Institute room hire £18.00

Gill Mason clerk’s expenses £44.26

Victoria Institute expenses outstanding £37.70

War memorial garden maintenance £263.92

JH Tree Surgeon – Sycamore tree stump removal £360.00

S and A Talbot – Oak tree stump removal £400.00

J Gott play park decking replacement £600.00

J Gott – material £999.99

R Griffiths – Internal audit fee £150.00

It was resolved that the payments be made.

Proposed by Cllr Walmsley.

Seconded by Cllr Heywood.

**97/23 To consider the update on the Fell View repair and maintenance.**

***Update on the progress of repair and maintenance***

The decking has been replaced and the playpark ground has been weeded and tidied. Thank you to Cllr Powell for completing many voluntary hours to tidy the area.

A quote of £8000.00 has been received for a new toddler hut which would include removal and disposal of the old hut. Cllr Gibbons will also look and see if the hut can be removed as soon as possible.

The picnic tables are beyond repair and need replacing.

***Cushion fall purchase update***

The clerk was asked to get more quotes from suppliers for cushion fall.

***LEF grant expression of interest form***

It was resolved that the clerk complete and send the expression of interest. The total cost of refurbishment would be £18,000 plus vat and the parish council may be able to secure 75% of this amount from the LEF grant.

Proposed by Cllr Wright.

Seconded by Cllr Gibbons.

***Proposal for additional fundraising for the playpark***

Cllr Walmsley will look into different funding sites, including LCC crowdfunding and Go Fund Me. The Cottam Trust will also be contacted to see if a grant can be applied for to replace the picnic benches.

**98/23 To consider any highways and/or footpath matters.**

***Updates following on from the annual parish meeting***

The review from the parish council regarding the cyclists was sent to Tim Blythe who forwarded the information to the Sustrans Group.

***To review the current battery operated SpIDS and consider the purchase of a solar powered replacement***

Cllr Heywood and Cllr Gibbons will review models and costs of a new solar SpID.

***Strimming of the land between Langdale and Fell View***

It was resolved that the parish council authorise the strimming of the land.

Proposed by Cllr Walmsley.

Seconded by Cllr Wright.

**99/23 To consider any parish management & maintenance matters.**

The parish council has had no reply from the residents regarding the ‘no loitering’ signs so they will be taken down.

Cllr Boland will clean the easel on the Greenway.

Cllr Heywood will liaise with the Caton Sports Association regarding the offer of a bench to replace the broken one outside the Black Bull pub.

The clerk will liaise with LCC Highways regarding the sighting of a bench at the bus stop on Quernmore Road.

**100/23 To consider the report from the Greenway working group.**

***LEF funded improvements update***

The project is still struggling to obtain contractor’s quotes for the works. The Environment Working Group will enquire whether the contractors for the Sustrans would be able to complete some of the groundworks.

***Sustrans proposal for the Greenway***

Sustrans are developing proposals for route improvement along the Caton stretch of the Greenway.

There are three main areas of work:

Access Ramp at Bull Beck

The intention is to upgrade the access ramp with width and gradient to comply with nationally agreed specifications. The necessary earthworks will be extensive and involves tree removal. Identified as Italian Alders, these would be replaced with a variety of native species with complementary shrub underplanting.

Route Adjustment West of Station Road

Seen as a bottle neck where the route splits into two narrow paths, the idea is to divert cyclists along the parallel farm track which would be brought up to specification. The diversion has been agreed provisionally with County Council as landowner and the farmer concerned. Signage improvements to direct cyclists away from Ball Lane an on to the route continuation.

Patch Resurfacing

Areas identified with doming tree roots and potholes will be resurfaced – mostly in the stretch Holme Lane to Bull Beck but also at the rear of Moor Platt.

Supplementary Improvements

The poor behaviour of some cyclists was raised, and Sustrans are drafting designs for ‘share with care’ markings for the path surface where feasible.

Replacement of bollards and some fencing.

Improved signage at Ellers Farm access.

Timing of the Works and Route Closure

Provisional date for works commencement is August, and they envisage that the route from Station Road to Greenway end will be closed for two months.

The clerk will contact Sustrans and ask that it liaise with the Environment Working Group and the Greenway Project so that the existing plans can be implemented with the Sustrans proposal.

**101/23 To consider the renewal of the LALC subscription.**

It was resolved that the subscription be renewed.

Proposed by Cllr Walmsley.

Seconded by Cllr Heywood.

**102/23 To consider the proposal to update the financial regulations to authorise payments to contractors in between full council meetings.**

It was resolved that the regulations are updated to allow payments to be made in between meetings if the works and budget have already been authorised. The clerk will update the regulations and circulate to all councillors for approval.

Proposed by Cllr Walmsley.

Seconded by Cllr Heywood.

**103/23 To consider the review and update of the emergency plan.**

Cllr Walmsley will work on the update of the plan.

**104/23 Reports and correspondence (information only).**

Churchyard grant accounts received.

**105/23 Date and time of the next parish council meeting.**

Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm. **Signed …………………………………………… Date………………......**