

ULNES WALTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD 12 JULY 2004

In Attendance:

Cllr D Ormerod (Chairman), Cllr Mrs E Doran and Cllr D Williams

Also Present:

Mrs L Rowett (Clerk)

97/04 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mortimer who was at the Yorkshire Show, Cllr Todd who was on holiday and Cllr Ascroft who was engaged with family commitments.

Apologies were also given by Borough Cllr Dickinson.

Comment was made on the importance of advising the Clerk as soon as possible of apologies so as to ensure that meetings are in quorum. The reason for absence should always be given as it was a legal requirement that it be recorded in the minutes.

98/04 Presentation by Darren Wilson from the Environment Agency.

Mr Wilson is the Fisheries Officer for the Environment Agency he discussed the proposals to improve the water quality of the River Lostock with a view to encouraging fish stocks to return.

He is keen to involve the community with the project and would assist with the preparation of an action plan. The Agency could work with Action for Ulnes Walton to secure funding for improving the river habitat and it was agreed this should be given further thought.

99/04 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of a meeting held on 14 June 2004 were accepted and signed as a true record with a request that the following amendment be made to the final sentence of Para 82/04 – The Prison Authorities were pursuing the idea of opening a new station. Members felt perhaps there may be grounds for re-opening Midge Hall Station and providing a bus service.

100/04 Matters Arising on the Minutes (not elsewhere on the agenda)

a) Letter from the Green Centre (Item 81/04)

A meeting had been suggested towards the end of July the date to be confirmed.

b) Quality Parish Council Status (Item 87/04)

A letter received from the District Partnership Officer did not clarify what role they had to play in relationship to the parish councils.

c) Horse Issues (Item 88/04)

The resident had been invited to contribute to the newsletter, there had been no reply.

d) Wymott Park Maintenance (Item 89/04)

As a result of the recent lobbying Chorley Borough intended to resurface the grass area.

e) Public Address System (Item 94/04)

There are no rules covering public address systems and if individuals find the noise a disturbance they should report the matter to Environmental Services. Incident log sheets could be made available for individuals to record incidents. If this didn't reduce the problem the Parish Council could give support.

f) Countryside Agency Photographer (Item 94/04c)

The photographer had taken many shots of aspects of life in Ulnes Walton, the Agency had confirmed that some would be included in an article for a magazine.

101/04 Quality Parish Council Status (QPS)

The Parish Council is now in a very strong position to apply for QPS as the Clerk had passed the AQA Certificate in Local Council Administration. Members gave QPS consideration and it was agreed that an application should now be made.

It was felt there was a need to consider the future implications in detail, in particular the content of any Charters.

QPS should not mean complacency and the situation should be reviewed annually.

102/04 Road Safety Issues – Southport Road

A letter received from Lancashire County Council requested a meeting with representatives of the Parish Council to discuss proposals in more detail and the problems at the junction with New Lane. It was agreed the meeting should take place in September but there was a need to consult with the residents and the proposals put on display. It was felt that businesses should also be consulted. It was agreed that Cllr Ormerod draft a questionnaire and circulate to Members for consideration.

103/04 Multi User Track

It was resolved as this matter was of a legal nature it should be confidential with Members of the public excluded.

104/04 Prison Issues

The Clerk updated on progress regarding recent discussions over the screening. A plan had been provided outlining planting proposals, it was in line with Parish Council suggestions but concern was expressed at the idea of using corrugation on the fencing on Willow Road. It was agreed there should be some consultation with the residents and this would be arranged.

105/05 Parish Plan Action

The next stage of implementation involved official formation of Action for Ulnes Walton. Volunteers from the Parish Plan Steering Group had been identified to form part of the Executive Committee but it was now necessary to invite other members of the community to join. This will be done via the newsletter and a public meeting held to coincide with the September Parish Council meeting to formally appoint the Committee and the constitution.

The Parish Council and Action for Ulnes Walton had been invited to organise an event to coincide with the Mersey Basin week in October. The Mersey Basin Campaign had already offered a grant of £100 and further funding could be sought from the County Council. The day will include a willow weaving workshop; activities for children; refreshments and displays. It was agreed the painting competition be opened up to children in the parish. A newsletter item was required to advertise the event.

106/04 Parish Council Website

- Registration under the Data Protection Act
It was unclear whether registration was necessary. It was agreed to register anyway to be on the safe side.
- Lancashire County Council has developed a new website for Parish Councils, Members were asked to consider whether they wish to maintain the relevant page for Ulnes Walton, it was agreed this was not necessary and just a hyperlink be requested.

Concern was expressed that the Clerks details had appeared on the website without permission.

107/04 Wildflower Project

The Clerk briefed on discussions with the Countryside Officer. Prospects for the project were looking very good, but rather than just Southport Road it would probably be a parish wide project. Further discussions were to take place.

108/04 Horse Issues

The Clerk briefed on discussion with Anita Knagg of the British Horse Society regarding road safety issues. She had offered to provide some leaflets to be distributed with newsletters and it was agreed this should be done.

It was noted that road safety courses for riders are held at Eccleston Equestrian Centre.

Consideration was given to requesting the County Council as part of the business plan to improve the signage along Ulnes Walton Lane to warn drivers of the presence of horses, this was agreed but with the addition of pedestrian signs.

109/04 Planning Applications

Two new applications had been notified –

- Creation of a rubber riding arena and sand paddock at Lowe Farm, Leyland Lane
It was felt the proposals were obtrusive from the road unless well screened; the usage should be private only and access to the site was not clear, this could present a traffic hazard.
- Use of outbuildings for workshop relating to commercial vehicles at 645 Leyland Lane
The purpose of the application was not clear and the Clerk was asked to find out more information. There were no objections providing there was adequate screening and a traffic hazard was not presented.

110/04 Finance

- An amount of £50 has been set aside in the budget as donations, it was agreed this should be given to the Air Ambulance.
- Monitoring Statement. A statement was not presented as a revised budget was required.

- The following items of expenditure were given approval – NALC QPS £29.38; Midstream West Lancs Ltd notice boards £158.62; L Rowett salary £87.04; Inland Revenue clerks contributions £24.54.
- Parish Plan L Rowett expenses £75.79; L Rowett extra hours £95.70

111/04 Chorley Partnership

A letter of invitation to take part in a forum to discuss the future of Chorley Borough had been received. Concern was expressed that it had been arranged on the same evening as Parish Council and a request should be made that future meetings should not clash.

It was agreed that Cllr Ormerod and Cllr Williams should attend.

112/04 Matter Raised by Members

a) New Building

It was noted that a new building had appeared at property at the north end of Ulmes Walton Lane.

b) Prison Noise

It was noted that there had been a considerable increase in noise from the Prison, despite the resident having informed the gate house nothing had been done it was felt the Governor needed to be informed.

c) Fly tipping

It was noted that there had been a considerable increase in the amount of fly tipping along Pump House Lane.

d) Dog Waste Bin

The bin promised by the Borough had not materialised.

c) Parish Council Agenda

It was suggested that a few spare copies of the agenda be brought to meetings to circulate amongst members of the public.

113/04 Residents Surgery

The new Secretary of the Old School Trustees (John McKee) was present. He expressed a wish that the Trustees liaise with the Parish Council in order to determine the future of the Old School.

It was suggested that at some stage a joint working group be formed to consider the matter in more detail. The Secretary was advised to contact Community Futures to discuss the possibility of securing funding.

114/04 Date and Time of Next Meeting.

It was agreed the next meeting monthly meeting take place only if there were items of an urgent nature and the next definite meeting be scheduled for Monday 13 September 2004 at 7.30 pm. This would include the official launch of Action for Ulmes Walton.