

DUDDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 28th March 2024 in the Rankin Room
at the Victory Hall.

Present: Cllr Brakewell, Cllr Edmondson, Cllr V Glessal, Cllr Kanhai, Cllr S Lane, Cllr I Longworth and
Cllr C Robertshaw.

049/24 Apologies

Resolved to note apologies from Cllr M Kirkbride and Cllr P Robinson.

050/24 Requests for Dispensations

Resolved to note that there was no request for dispensations.

051/24 Declarations of Interest

Resolved to note that there was no declaration of interests.

052/24 To consider if there are any items on the agenda from which the press and public should be excluded.

Resolved to note there are no items are to be discussed in private.

053/24 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 22nd February 2024 to be signed by the chairman as a true record.

054/24 Chairs Announcements

Resolved to note there are no chairs announcements this month.

055/24 Public Participation

a) Westmorland and Furness Cllr Matt Brereton was not in attendance but had sent the following report via email:

The walkabout last Friday regards implementation of the 20mph scheme was a success, and good to see engagement from Helen's team regarding the issues raised. As we attended the site visit on Keppleway, additional street lighting was being installed there, which was one of the many recommendations of the road safety audit. I notice one of the damaged street signs has been temporarily fixed, but we were told they would order new, yellow-backed signs to increase visibility and warning of the build-out, and (hopefully) reduce vehicle strikes in future. The sign beyond the school towards Boothwaite Nook requires work at height equipment as it so tall. I will let Cllrs Robertshaw and Kanhai report on the meeting in more detail – Helen's team did go on to view other sites around Broughton highlighted by the audit, and did also agree to looking at some additional signage issues at Wreaks End on their way out of Broughton (angle of the no SatNav sign, and also siting and assessment for removal or repair of the speed activated signs/poles either side of the Wreaks End junction).

Other highways issues outstanding are being addressed, namely repairing and replacing damaged signs (I saw one being fixed only this morning). The matter of trees (particularly on the A595 along Galloper's Pool), is also hopefully soon to be resolved (after bird nesting season, it seems!). This from the officer in charge: "With regards to trees along this stretch, there is a pot of money which

has been set aside for improvements all along the A595, and the intent is to use a portion of this to undertake significant vegetation removal and maintenance works in order to make an overall improvement to the A595. Arboriculture Officers for highways are not yet in place, so it will be myself surveying and overseeing these works. Initially I was hoping to have the survey complete by now, but I have had to focus on the delivery of the ash dieback works on the resilient road network. My hope is that once the ash dieback works are up and running I can survey the A595 and start pulling together a package of work to go out to contractors in time for the end of bird nesting season. As for road signs along this stretch I am aware that the area officer and technician have surveyed all existing (and missing) signs and have pulled together a works package. I can't say for sure when this work will be delivered, but can confirm that the survey has been completed and the works ticket raised and passed to our operations team for delivery."

Other than this I have been corresponding with residents, officers and the NFU about the vandalism to the road protection above Broughton Mills, and have asked the officers in charge to liaise with local residents and farmers for them to better understand the issues there. I have asked them not to threaten residents and road users with a whole road closure, and to better understand the cause of the damage to the road edge and wall (most likely the very heavy logging wagons) and to speak to residents about the proposals to fix the issues in the way they communicated (for the most part successfully) around Shop Bridge.

With regards the tree in the square, as I am now aware you are in correspondence with not one but three officers of the council, I will continue to leave this matter for the Parish Council to progress. The latest query from one of the council officers dating to this issue seemed to refer to fairy lights being installed in the tree branches, and to confirm removal of such before work is ordered. It may of course not be possible to progress at present owing to bird nesting season. For the avoidance of confusion, I will await any further request from the parish to take specific action on this matter as and until I have been informed the work has been satisfactorily carried out.

Work to install Fibrus gigabit enabled internet infrastructure continues by Viberoptix around the Parish; one point to note may be the increased use of telegraph poles, as the minister in charge has said specifically this should be avoided in all but the most unavoidable circumstances. I think I saw two new poles being erected along Station Rd this week, so if anyone else is aware of new poles being erected please do report to me and/or our local Broadband Hub Champion Emma Hatton – wherever possible they should be using existing infrastructure and ideally not running cables along poles.

There has been good news this week in terms of Govt funding for the wider Furness area – 20million per year for the next decade. This is transformational and will certainly assist in improving our roads, rail and hopefully critical broadband and mobile phone networks. I continue to liaise with Simon Fell's office in terms of organising a petition in support of community policing in Broughton, and also a joint letter from himself and Trudy Harrison to major employers in the area asking for assistance in making Broughton's roads safer.

I think this covers it for now, I will hopefully be able to attend the April meeting in person.

b) There were no residents in attendance

056/24 Road Safety Working Group

Cllr R Kanhai and Cllr Robertshaw met with representatives from Highways and took the opportunity to ask a series of searching questions particularly about the Independent Road Safety Audit report which the clerk circulated recently. They are concerned that a report dated 14 months ago referring to "risk of head-on collisions", "vehicles losing control", "collisions with the buildout" and "sudden braking which

may cause rear shunt collisions” was only sent to us a couple of weeks ago and only because we insisted. I think it is worth noting that while the report stops short of stating the Keppleway buildout is dangerous, this is implied in that it sets out a series of measures to mitigate the possibility of collisions. The Road Safety Working Group (RSWG) had raised these and other major safety concerns with Highways last May, but these were dismissed. And, considering we had had no meaningful communication from Highways for over eight months we weren't really sure what to expect from the meeting. I am delighted to tell you it was very positive and productive.

Regarding the mitigation of the risk from the findings in the report, Highways are confident that the upcoming works (new street lighting and signage) will help mitigate that risk. They also said that it will be an evolving situation which will be monitored and may require other measures to be scoped in the future. They will work with us to achieve this. Cllr Brereton asked to be copied in on all correspondence.

Safety audits may contain accident and fatality details which could cause distress to members of the public. Therefore, as a matter of standard practice, they are not in the public domain. We cannot publish it as is, but we can refer to its content. I suggest we advise the community of the essential report findings and inform them of the steps Highways are taking to mitigate the risk and make our roads safer. We can do this through our Social Media platforms and The Parish Pump. Looking ahead, there is to be a RSWG meeting for the second week in April to appraise the members of recent events and to formulate a plan to move forward. I am sure they will be delighted that the excellent and insightful work the Group has done has been vindicated by the report.

057/24 Street Light

Resolved to agree to Westmorland and Furness decommissioning the streetlight on the corner of Cinder Hill/Foxfield Road which does belong to the Parish Council. The light will be removed from our inventory list and a request will be made to Npower to remove it from our unmetered supply.

058/24 Wilson Park

a) Pump Track

Resolved to note that in order to get insurance for the track once it is tarmacked the track needs to be brought up to Rospa standards and the tarmacking will need to be done by a tarmac specialist.

b) Playground Inspection

Resolved to note the playground inspection.

059/24 Allotment Field

Resolved to adjourn until next meeting as Cllr Kirkbride and Cllr Robinson are not in attendance.

060/24 D DAY

Resolved to adjourn until next meeting as Cllr Kirkbride is not in attendance.

061/24 Consultations

a) **Resolved** to note the Parish Council have no comments on the Cumbria Fire and Rescue consultation.

b) **Resolved** that the Parish Council as a corporate body have no comments on the bus service improvement plan, it was also noted that individual Cllrs can complete the consultation as individuals.

62/24 Community Power Workshop

Resolved to note the invite for representatives from all Town and Parish Councils to the above workshop will take place as follows: Date: Thursday 11th April, Time: 6:45pm for a 7pm start. Ends at 8:30pm.

063/24 Parish Lengths Man

Resolved to ask the Parish Lengths Man to remove the little trees around Broughton Mills and Woodland and also on the road from Broughton towards Coniston.

064/24 Handyman

Resolved to add a handyman to the PC payroll.

065/24 Parish Cllrs Surgeries

Cllr Glessal and Cllr Edmondson reported the following concerns raised:

- a) Potholes on Princes Street and Church Street
- b) Lose flags on Princes Street
- c) Flooding at Foxfield
- d) Bin required at Wreaks End layby

The next surgery date is 9th April 2024 between 10.45 and 12 noon in the Square Cafe.

066/24 Planning Applications (Planning applications can be viewed on the relevant authority's website)

Planning Application Refused

Ref No: 7/2023/5833

Location: Wallenrigg Farm, Woodland, Broughton-In-Furness, LA20 6AE

Proposal: Change of Use from paddock to attached extended garden comprising new garage/workshop, permeable graded driveway and porch/oil store to existing residential property

067/24 Cllr Vacancy

Resolved to note that Westmorland and Furness have not received any requests for the vacancy to be filled by election. The PC can now fill the vacancy by co-opting. It will be advertised by putting a note in the parish pump, putting it on social media and a poster on the notice board.

068/24 Financial Matters

Resolved to authorise the following payments:

Npower	276.51
Town Cryer Ancient & Honourable Guild	50.00
Waterplus	27.07
Scribe	644.40
Npower	241.20
Npower	87.86
SRCL	108.00
Salaries	662.84
HMRC	108.24
CALC	30.00
Victory Hall	48.00
Heaths	51.20
Reimbursements	37.95

£ 2373.29

Receipts

Allotment Rent	600.00
Honesty Boxes	40.00
Wayleave	60.15

£700.15

069/24 Payroll Services

2 quotes were available for outsourcing the payroll.
Resolved to outsource the payroll to the cheapest quote.

70/24 Councillors Reports

Resolved to note concern was raised about the following:
Stones missing off a bridge, this has been reported to Highways.
Collapsed road at Broughton Mills also has been reported.

71/24 Date and time of Next Meeting

To note that the next full parish council meeting will be on 25th April 2024 at 7.00pm
in the Rankin Room at the Victory Hall.

Meeting Closed.