**Broughton Parish Council**

A meeting of Broughton Parish Council was held at Little Broughton Village Hall on Tuesday 24th February 2015 at 7pm.

Present: Cllr Sue Hannah (in the Chair), Cllr Steve Hannah, Cllr M Weir, Cllr, M Richardson, Cllr J Wilson, Cllr D Kelly, Cllr V Sherwood, Cllr S Anderson, Cllr R Mawdsley, Cllr M Bradley

Attendance: B Carter (Clerk), ABC Cllr N Cockburn, Vivienne Pattinson (Times & Star), Caroline Watson (Community Transport Officer CCC), C/Cllr A Clarke, in excess of 100 members of the public

**19/15 Apologies**

Cllr B Smith, Cllr A Carruthers, A/BC Cllr T North

**20/15 Declarations of Interest**

None received

**21/15 Minutes of the last meeting (27th January 2015)**

Cllr M Bradley proposed acceptance with all councillors present in favour that the minutes of the meeting of the 27th January 2015 be accepted as a true and accurate record. **Resolved**

The chairman signed the minutes accordingly.

**22/15 Adjournment of the meeting**

Cllr Sue Hannah welcomed all those in attendance and all councillor were introduced to the meeting. Approx.100 members of the public in attendance were present due to the recent notification from Stagecoach that they would be withdrawing the number 33 bus service which is the last remaining bus service that serves Great & Little Broughton.

Cllr Sue Hannah confirmed that following an email from Stagecoach they were not present at the meeting as they did not want to offer false hope that the service could be reinstated. Stagecoach have confirmed that some of the 33 services will be amalgamated into the 47 service (these are three services that provide transport to either schools or colleges and they will only run during term time).

It has been identified that the current 33 service is used by the following user groups:

* Accessing work
* Shopping
* Accessing medical appointments
* Social (infrequent/non regular use).

Cllr Sue Hannah introduced Ms Caroline Watson (Community Transport Officer for CCC) to provide an overview of some options to mitigate the impacts of the removal of the 33 service.

* Use of local taxi firms (there are some in the villages)
* Community Minibus – There are community minibuses in Cockermouth & Maryport which can be hired for group activities. With additional volunteer drivers these maybe able to be utilised further.
* Rural Wheels- This uses commercial operators providing small taxis, and minibuses up to 16 seats. This provides door to door transport for those that don’t have access to or can’t use public transport. This service takes people into the nearest town (Cockermouth). The service operates Monday-Saturday 8-6. There is a fare of 36p per mile. It is a membership scheme. This service requires planning in advance and booking. And is available up to twice a week.
* Village Wheels- This uses small operators (up to 16 seats). Users have to be members of the the rural wheels scheme, and then a service is organised on a pre-arrange day/days e.g. Anthorn to Wigton via the villages runs on a Tuesday at 9:20. The service will only run if there is a demand for it.
* Voluntary Social Car Scheme- Requires a volunteer co-ordinator and a pool of volunteer drivers. CCC provides additional insurance beyond that which you would have as a domestic car user, and they reimburse mileage to the drivers at 45p per mile. The client is charged 36p per mile. This can be more flexible and offers a door to door service.
* Community Minibus- Procurement of and then development of a community transport scheme.

Cllr Sue Hannah thanked Ms C Watson for attending and opened the floor for questions:

-Ms C Watson confirmed that concessionary travel cards can only be used on scheduled services so any of the above transport solutions would be chargeable (predominately at 36p per mile)

-Rural wheels is open to anyone but they have to be a member, and it is planned transport scheme so it would require people to be flexible.

-It was confirmed to the meeting that this decision had been taken by Stagecoach as a commercial operator not by the CCC. The CCC subsidies had been removed from this service in 2014, Stagecoach have now taken the decision that it is no longer commercial to continue running this service. They have done this formally and given notice to the Transport Commissioner in Leeds (56 days notice). As there is no remaining CCC subside involved in this bus service the CCC can’t do anything about this.

QU- What provision is going to be provided for those accessing work? – Ms C Watson is trying to facilitate solutions for groups of people who want to get to the same place at the same time, car sharing etc.

-A local resident raised concern that as a single mother unable to drive for medical reasons that she wouldn’t like to take her child in a car with a stranger.

-QU: What evidence is there from Stagecoach regarding the decision to withdraw the service. Cllr Sue Hannah confirmed that stagecoach had stated that to make the route viable it would require a 60% uplift in revenue to break even.

-QU: Can’t work out why full busses aren’t viable- It was noted that certain services were consistently full (and members of the public have evidence of this) however other services were regularly almost empty.

-Has anyone suggested to Stagecoach that they make a more reasonable timetable focusing on the key busy times.

-QU: A dialogue should be held with Stagecoach on how to make this service more viable.

-QU: Why can’t concessionary pass holders be asked to make a contribution per journey? Ms C Watson confirmed that the legislation that covers these passes is a national scheme, CCC just deliver the scheme as required by the Government. To require concessionary pass holders to make a contribution towards each fare would require a change in national legislation. Ms C Watson also notified the meeting that the scheme is underfunded so Stagecoach only receives 58% of a full fare back per concessionary card holders. So even with a full bus Stagecoach isn’t getting the full fares back.

-Cllr Sue Hannah confirmed that whatever is put in place going forward is likely to be more patchwork and it is very important for everyone to find out information regarding all the systems. The Rural Wheels Service requires a top up card that you preload and then prebook your routes. It is a door to door service at 36p per mile. The limitations are that the service can only be accessed twice a week, and must be pre booked.

-Cllr Sue Hannah suggested that signs be erected on the two relevant bus stops and if you required a lift to either Workington or Cockermouth you would stand under the relevant sign- This proposal met with strong objections.

-QU: Has anyone approached the other bus companies to see if they would consider taking on this service? Ms C Watson confirmed that there is another operator interested in some services but she couldn’t confirm if the villages of Great & Little Broughton were included.

-QU: How do you know whose car you are getting into with regard to the voluntary social car scheme? Ms C Watson confirmed this is a formal system that is set up and regulated nationally.

A number of statements were made during the course of the meeting and supported with applause from other members of the public these are recorded below:

* We are here to save the buses not to hire taxis
* There has been recent advertisements stating that people should leave the car at home and catch the bus. You can’t do this as there are no buses
* Why did Stagecoach when they took over the route put on larger buses making it less viable?
* Allerdale Borough Council should reduce council tax because of the lack of services. Seaton has a bus service every 20mins yet the Broughton villages don’t even get one. The nearest remaining bus stop is Brigham.
* It was agreed that even if a new service could be organised a fair price would need to be agreed (A previous operator charged £4.40 return into Cockermouth which is too much)
* What is the cost of running the 33 Service?
* Why can’t a medical surgery be held in the village twice a week to reduce the need for people to travel into Cockermouth for routine medical appointments?
* Suggested that those present all join a scheme and pay a certain fee per month to raise funds.

7 people volunteered to form a public liaison committee on this matter and their phone numbers were passed to Cllr J Wilson:

-Brian Beck

-Gavin Pattinson

-Margaret Hardie

-Rodney Casson

-Margaret Miller

-Daphne Stephenson

-Mary Grant

C/Cllr A Clarke informed the meeting that Stagecoach are only interested in running buses that make a profit, and that these problems stem back to the nationalisation of the bus services. He further notified the meeting that given the pressure on CCC to reduce its budget by 83mill, including circa 1800 redundancies that things are likely to get worse. He stressed that he would be keen to work with the community to get a system going to enable people to access work in the mornings and return in the evenings and get children to school & college. C/Cllr A Clarke suggested that another meeting would be required, possibly of a committee to look at solutions.

Following the above discussions the following actions were agreed:

**Action: Clerk to write to the relevant PCT to ask if a pop up surgery could be held in Great/Little Broughton to reduce the need for persons to travel to Cockermouth**

**Action: Ms C Watson to ask Stagecoach if it would be possible for a new bus stop to be installed closer to Broughton than Lime Kiln so that those that walk could access these services. Ms C Watson to feedback the answer to this question to the Clerk.**

**Action: Clerk to post the 47 Bus Timetable to the Broughton PC website and share via social media where possible.**

Cllr Sue Hannah thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Ms C Watson asked for a show of hands for the current usage of the bus, which showed that circa 25 ppl use the bus on an irregular basis e.g. to access social, medical, shopping. Circa 6-8 raised there hands when asked about the usage of the bus for regular work commuting.

**Action: Ms C Watson to prepare some options for what Broughton Parish Council could achieve in terms of a community transport solution with circa 3k (not approved).**

**23/15 Payment of accounts & financial statements.**

***a.Financial Statement***

**Bank Statements**

Current Account – Statement (at 01/02/2015) £5,906.55

Money Manager Account (at 31/12/2014) £89.56

Cumberland Building Society Account (At 30/09/2014) £86,025.31

**Total £92,021.42**

**Invoices for payment 24th February 2015**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **From** | **Reason** | **Amount** |
| Cumbria Payroll Services | PAYE Services | £12.00 |
| Becx Carter | Salary | £307.28 |
| HMRC | PAYE | £76.80 |
| Becx Carter | Expenses | £172.03 |
| Mckanes Printers | Photocopying of legal docs | £94.20 |
|  |  |  |

**Total £662.31**

**Receipts between 20th January and 24th February 2015**

None

**Resolved** that the above bank balances be noted and a copy of the financial statement was signed as such by the Chair.

***b. Payment of accounts***

**Resolved** by all present that the invoices listed above be paid and they were signed by two signatories (Cllr J Wilson & Cllr V Sherwood).

**Action: Clerk to process the above payments.**

**c. Application for funding from Broughton Red Rose Rugby Club**

An application for funding was tabled to help with the costs of a new strip which are anticipated to cost circa £1200 (£800 already raised).

Cllr J Wilson proposed that £250 grant be offered to the Red Rose, this was seconded by Cllr Mary Bradley with all present in favour.

**Resolved** that a £250 grant be offered.

**Action: Clerk to process this donation**

**d. Application for funding from Broughton Children’s Carnival.**

An application for funding was tabled to help with the costs of the annual Broughton Children’s Carnival (the total cost of running it is circa £3k-£4k).

**Resolved** that a £150 grant be offered

**Action: Clerk to process this donation.**

**e. Application for funding from Citizens Advice Bureau**

An application for funding was tabled from the Allerdale Citizens Advice Bureau.

The council requested that some further information be obtained from this organisation prior to a grant being paid.

**Action: Clerk to contact the CAB and ask if they would be willing to hold a monthly surgery in Great & Little Broughton.**

**24/15 Chair’s Announcements**

* *Main Street Speed Limit-* A meeting took place with Kevin Cosgrove of CCC regarding this matter. He has agreed to look at the possibility of installing road markings to make drivers aware that there are pedestrians using the road as well (e.g. lines defining a pavement), to consider the changing of priority of the road from Harris Brow up to Ghyll Bank rather than straight along main road (due to sight lines). Also the consideration of a 20mph speed limit throughout the village, he will also look into the re installation of the white lines showing sides of the road on either side of Broughton Bridge.
* *Cllr Jefferson* – It was noted by the meeting that the papers from the January meeting had been returned to the clerk as Cllr Jefferson was no longer resident at his address. He will continue to receive council papers via email but it is not know where he has moved to.

**25/15 Police Report**

A written police report was read out by the clerk. The report detailed 1 incidents of note since the last meeting.

**26/15 Clerks Matters**

A Clerks report had been received by all councillors in advance of the meeting.

1. *Weight Limit on Priests Bridge*

The Clerk informed the meeting that a response received stating that there is no weight limit on this bridge, the reason it was shut during the 09 floods is because the road/bridge was unsuitable for increased volume of traffic that was using it and said traffic was increasing the risk of parapet damage. The bridge was inspected in Summer 2015 and needs some work however it is not urgent.

1. *Storage of Legal Documents*

Clerk circulated a report to all councillors on the progress made so far. An update will be provided at the March meeting.

Cllr S Anderson offered to scan in the A3 documents.

**Action: Ongoing- Clerk to provide a written report on this matter to the February meeting.**

**Action: Clerk to confirm to S Anderson the number of A3 documents requiring scanning**

1. *Speeding Review for Great Broughton Main Street*

Covered above

1. *Land for cemetery at the edge of Church Meadows*

The Clerk informed the meeting that the ABC Valuations Officer was currently having discussion with Persimmion homes regarding the possible purchase of this land.

**Action: Clerk to request an update from ABC on progress as and when anything changes.**

1. *2015 elections*

The Clerk informed the meeting that election packs still hadn’t been received from ABC but that she was continuing to work with ABC on this matter. The Clerk confirmed that only two signatures were required to stand for the election.

1. *Access/ground conditions at corner entrance to Welfare Field*

Clerk raised the issue that having attended a site meeting regarding this matter the exit in question provides a blind exit on to a road for any users.

**Action: Clerk to get a quote for a sign to be sited next to the exit of the play area ‘beware road/beware vehicles passing**

**Action: Clerk to get a quote for repairing the kerb and the ground at this exist**

**Action: Clerk to contact homeowner and ask if they would be willing to trim their hedge back**

1. *Stile on Riverside*

Clerk tabled a map at the meeting and asked Councillors to confirm the location of the problem stile.

**Action: Cllr D Kelly to walk this footpath over the coming weekends and provide photographs of the relevant stiles to the clerk so she can further action this mater**

1. *Home Group- repairs to the track alongside Welfare Field*

Clerk informed the meeting that despite written assurances from the Home Group that this work would be undertaken by CCC, she had received a phone call from CCC stating they did not have a budget for these works.

The Council expressed strong disappointment and anger at this response as it was a condition of allowing the Home Group to site their cabins on this piece of land that the track be resurfaced once the cabins had been removed.

**Action: Clerk to continue working on this matter and report back at the March meeting.**

**27/15 Reports from Visiting Councillors**

Nothing raised

**28/15 Allotments**

Nothing raised

**29/15 Fishing**

Consideration was given to if the licence fee should be raised for the 2015 season.

**Resolved** that the licence fees remain the same as 2014, but that the kill limit for Salmon be brought in line with the Derwent Owners Association

**Action: Clerk to make the relevant changes to the licence**

**Action: Clerk to procure a bunch of flowers and a thank you card for Carol at the PO to thank her for her work in administrating the Broughton Parish Council Fishing Permits**

**Action: Clerk to confirm at the March meeting the revenue generated by the fishing permits during 2014.**

**30/15 Parish Maintenance**

1. *Sign at Church Meadows*

This matter to be removed from the agenda as no response has been received from Cllr B Smith regarding its exact location. The Clerk has undertaken a site visit and can’t see an obvious location for a missing sign.

**31/15 Correspondence (for discussion)**

The Council noted receive of an email from Broughton Moor Parish Council stating that they were also unwilling to act as the accountable body for the Derwent Forest feasibility study.

**32/15 Planning Applications**

Ref: 2/2015/0067

Applicant: P Potts

Proposal: Single Storey Rear Extension

Location: 31 South Terrace

Cllr M Weir declared an interested in this item and didn’t take part in any discussions

**Resolved** that the council had no comments or objections with relation to this application

**Action: Clerk to submit the above to ABC**

Ref: 2/2015/0044

Applicant; Mr Cameron Wood

Proposal: Dropping of kerb outside property to create off street parking

Location: 82 Ghyll Bank, Little Broughton, Cockermouth

**Resolved** that Broughton Parish Council have no comments or objections regarding this application, but were concerned about the proximity of this new dropped curve to the junction and possible impacts on the line of site for vehicles using the junction depending on the size of vehicle parked on the new drive. The Highways department should be asked to review/consider this application before its approval.

**Action: Clerk to let ABC know the above comments.**

Ref: 2/2015/0090

Applicant: Mr H Thompson

Proposal: Outline application for one single storey dwelling

Location: Land to the rear of Thorndene, Moor Road, Great Broughton

**Resolved** that Broughton Parish Council have no objections to this proposal

**Action: Clerk to submit these comments.**

**33/15 Planning Decisions**

The following decision were noted by the meeting.

Ref:2/2014/0897

Applicant: Mr Neil Quinn

Proposal: Removal of existing single garage and replacement with new single garage

Location: Claryn Li, Little Broughton, Cockermouth,

FULL PLANS REFUSED

Ref: 2/2014/0850

Applicant: Mr Jamie Wood

Proposal: Creation of a balcony assessed via a single glazed door in a first floor office- Resubmission of 2/2014/0418

Location: 51 Main Street, Great Broughton, Cockermouth

FULL PLANS REFUSED

**34/15 Consultations for consideration and response**

The Clerk informed councillors that the Allerdale Local Plan (Part 2) Site Allocations consultation was currently open but that no new or changed sites had been proposed within the parish.

**35/15 Council Discussion re No33 Bus Service Withdrawal**

A summary of this discussion is given below:

-Councillors were concerned that there wouldn’t be sufficient volunteers for schemes such as Voluntary Car Scheme

-Concern regarding increasing number of volunteers when there is an age limit cut off (76), and for minibuses (over 70).

-To get another BUS service into the village would require tendering and legalities.

-Need to look in detail at the different options available and assess whether all the options are viable for Broughton or not

-Community minibuses are often fully booked, or there are no drivers available

-Rural Wheels- Only operates on two days, and you have to be a member of the scheme to use it.

-Village Wheels- Larger scheme but id doesn’t just concern the transport options, e.g. if the scheme could be set up it would be a case of liasing with services in Cockermouth regarding the way they organise things. E.g. having a set day/s for regular Broughton medical appointments that co-incides with the days the bus runs.

-Volunteer car scheme- concerns were raised regarding the wear and tear this would put on the vehicles

-Can the council encourage the creation/usage of car schools via its website?

-Could the council consider encouraging other local firms to set up a bus service?

-A discussion needs to be held with Stagecoach to see if they would be willing to alter route 36 to include Broughton, or to extend the school & college services through the holidays so these become regular services?

The council discussed at length if the next stage was to hold another public meeting to discuss what was required,or to hold some fact finding meetings with Stagecoach and CCC to get some of the finer detail on the options available.

**Resolved** that a meeting be held on Wednesday 4th March with Stagecoach and Caroline Watson invited to try and get some facts on the options available and if Stagecoach would consider varying other routes to include Broughton.

**Action: Clerk to arrange this meeting and circulate the date, time and venue to all councillors.**

**36/15 Member Queries**

None raised

**37/15 Date of next meeting**

24th March 2015 at 19:00 in Little Broughton Village Hall

Meeting closed at 21:35

**Signed ………………………………………………………………………………………………..Chairman**