

## **KIRKBAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Village Hall, Kirkbampton on **14<sup>th</sup> May 2007** at 7 pm

### **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Mr. R. Stables (Chairperson), Mr. M Cunliffe, Mr. J. Graham, Mr. F. Duckworth, E. Newstead, Mrs. N. Mowbray, Mr. J. Lightowler (Clerk), Mr. Mr. V. Hodgson (Borough Councillor). P. Ackred (CCC), M. Watt, A. Brock (Natural England), R. Taylor, M. Woodhouse, A. Woodhouse, G. Cocks, G. Glendinning, D. Smith, B. Smith, J. Routledge, H. Aitken (VAC). Several other members of the public who did not sign the register.

#### **1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Apologies:** Mr. D. Fairbairn (County Councillor), T. Cartner

**Declarations:** None

#### **2. Minutes of the Meeting**

**RESOLVED:** The Minutes of the meeting dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 2006 were approved and signed as a true record

#### **3. Mr. A. Brock – Natural England**

Mr Alasdair Brock of Natural England (formally English Nature) gave the following report.

##### **With Particular Ref to Little Bampton Common**

1. 20 Hebrideans grazed LBC in 2006 to control Molinia and birch regeneration. Taken off in July to prevent browsing of new heather shoots.
2. Hebrideans replaced by Kendal Rough
3. Felling. A small amount of felling was carried out in the Scots pine area to the north as part of an ongoing project to reduce the tree cover and allow the heath to regenerate back to its former area
4. The boardwalk around the eastern edge of LSC has been extended as increased use has led to damage of the path. The central path which is badly damaged by foot traffic is not now way marked so as not to encourage the public
5. A small section of boardwalk has been constructed toward the America Lonning entrance so as to facilitate access to the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly recovery project on the mire.

##### **Haverlands Green**

1. Tree safety checks have been undertaken of Haverlands Green and major routes within Finglandrigg Wood. A report is being prepared and a copy will be sent to Kirkbampton PC.

##### **General**

1. Two sculptures have been erected to encourage families into the woods. One 'bird bench' is memory of D Ratcliffe - former chief scientist of the NCC who regularly visited the areas in his youth and was instrumental in having the site designated as an SSSI. The second sculpture - 'mini beast tree' is to encourage young children to explore
2. Numerous school sessions have been held for Kirkbampton and Kirkbride schools.

3. A variety of walks, talks and general get to know the woods events have been carried out. (120 adults and children at the last at Easter)
4. Marsh fritillary butterflies have been released into the wet grassland in the north west of the site in an area that they were found up to 1993. It is thought they became extinct because of inbreeding due to isolation/islandisation of the population. Open days and self guided trials are being put in place. The first adult Marsh Fritillaries have been seen flying.

#### **Future**

1. **Natural England** is looking to fell a larger area of LBC (about 1.75 ha) as part of the objective of restoring heath back to the majority of the site. Work will be concentrated on younger pines/birch and some of the isolated trees all of which are shading out the heather. As the land has no known owner (section 9 land) **NE** will apply for a felling licence in consultation with Allerdale, Cumbria County Council and Kirkbampton PC. Unless Kirkbampton PC has registered ownership/control under the Commons Registration Act in that case **NE** will ask them to apply for the felling licence.
2. Grazing with sheep and cattle will be used to control birch regeneration. Pine regeneration will be controlled by hand pulling.
3. Field scale trials to demonstrate practical ways of restoring rush pasture - a type of wet grassland that supports marsh fritillary butterflies but which is now in massive decline through grants to drain and improve marginal land.
4. Increased car park at Haverlands Green. Looking to provide an additional 10 places on a controlled area of parking that will be opened for events or at busy times of the year.

#### **4. KIRKBAMPTON COMMUNITY PLAN**

A Presentation was made by Hellen Aitken of VAC and Pat Ackred of CCC into the creation of a Parish Plan. They pointed out the advantages of creating such a plan and what it involves. The general consensus from the people who attended the meeting, which incidentally was the largest public turnout we have had for many a year, was querying why we needed a plan. Hellen explained that the District and County Councils tended to take into account the needs of those parishes who had their thoughts included in a Parish Plan. Miss J. Routledge, the head teacher of the local school stated that as far as the school was concerned there is the ever danger of village schools being combined and closed and a plan would enable the school to put their views forward and stamp their ideas in writing. One of the main comments made was that we have a close liaison with Thurstonfield via the schoolchildren and any plan should really include them but this would involve "cross border" consultation not only with a Parish that already has a plan (Burgh by Sands) but also a different Council area.

It was noted that there were no representatives of the public from the outlying villages of the Parish, Little Bampton and Oughterby, and it may be an idea to see if we could have the next Council meeting in the "Tam O'Shanter" pub to see if that would produce any additional interest.

A tentative question was asked as to who would be willing to participate in the creation of a Parish Plan and there was very little take up.

#### **5. Review of the Year**

Once again we started the year with five elected members and three vacancies

which were thankfully reduced to two in July 2006 when Mrs Noreen Mowbray consented to be co-opted to the Council.

We avoided having to cancel any meetings due to managing to achieve a quorum for every meeting for which I extend my thanks to all members for attendance and their efforts throughout the year.

Sadly we have not had a single member of the public attending any meeting this year.

The Speed Indication Device came into use in late July 2006 on a ten weekly cycle which was interrupted on several occasions due to problems with batteries/chargers and two machines malfunctioning. We would like more volunteers to assist in deploying the device but have not yet succeeded in obtaining any.

The Police Reports have been infrequent throughout the year although Yvonne Benson did make one appearance.

The remainder of the work content was the usual - several planning applications some of which succeeded and some of which were rejected by Allerdale BC. plus the normal road work and pavement problems.

The year culminated in the resurrection of the infamous "Finger Post" which has been the subject of much discussion over the last few years.

Finally current work in hand is the provision of an emergency plan which is in abeyance with Ewan Hall and the "Better ways to School Scheme" which is with the Cumbria County Council and Capita.

Ron Stables

13 May 2007

## **6. HAVERLANDS GREEN REPORT**

Report from Mrs. Aileen Rosie.

In 2000/2001 a group got together to improve Haverlands Green. We got some grant money, tidied the place up and put in two picnic tables. At our last meeting we discussed our present usefulness and decided to continue to meet annually although at the moment we are not doing anything apart from picking up dropped rubbish. Should we need to become more active for any reason, we can always leap into action!!

## **7. Financial Statement 2006 / 2007**

### **RESOLVED:**

The Clerk presented the financial statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 showing balances of:-

Current account :- £960.60

Club account:- £1760.92

The statement was accepted by the members and signed by the Chairman and RFO.