

**DRAFT GREYSOUTHEN PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL IN  
THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023  
AT 7.15 PM**

**Action**

Present: Jennifer West, Helen Davies, Gwenda Ward, Dawn Watson, Ewan Roberts, Councillor Andrew Semple (Cumberland Council)

1 member of the public in attendance

Part 1

**115/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Andy Proctor, Joan Postlethwaite and Angie Sims

**112/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A Greysouthen resident spoke on the public transport provision for Bridgefoot, Broughton Cross, Greysouthen and Brigham. He gave the following report:

The X4/X5 bus route between Workington and Cockermouth currently provides a half-hourly service in either direction between the two towns that also serves the residents of Stainburn and Great Clifton, but only the X5 proceeds through the villages of Bridgefoot, Broughton Cross and Brigham, these stops also accessible for the residents of Greysouthen. The X4 route runs along the A66 instead, between the Little Clifton roundabout and Cockermouth, bypassing those four villages. It is unable to pick up any passengers as there are no bus stops on the A66 and even if there were, it would be dangerous for pedestrians to cross the highway. This means that the half-hourly service is reduced to an hourly one. In consequence, the buses are poorly used by those who live in the four villages, with very few people getting on or off, indeed, in the last year, the number of times I have found someone else waiting at the Marran Lane stops at Bridgefoot, or those at Broughton Cross, can be counted not on one hand, but on one finger. Yet when passing through Stainburn and Great Clifton, I have witnessed four or five people regularly getting on or off the bus at the various stops, and these are not just older people with concessionary passes, but people of all ages, from teenage school pupils upwards.

If the X4 route was changed to match that of the X5 - leaving the A66 to travel through Bridgefoot, Broughton Cross and Brigham, in both directions - it would, once established and promoted, attract just as many users. This change would not unduly lengthen the X4 journey time, nor would it cost the operating company any more to run, as the mileage would be the same. And in fact, ticket revenue would grow as a result of the increased number of people taking advantage of the half-hourly service. Moreover, this change would also dovetail with the stated central and local government climate change goal of encouraging more people to use public transport instead of their cars.

## Action

For these reasons, I believe the Greysouthen Parish Council - ideally in concert with the Bridgefoot and Brigham PCs - should present these arguments for bus service parity to Cumberland County Council at the earliest opportunity, so that when the spring/summer timetables are published by Stagecoach during March 2024, the route changes outlined above will have been incorporated into the new schedules.

As I mentioned at the meeting, I recently brought the above proposal to the attention of the County Council's Sustainable Transport and Highways team - my email was answered by Mark Hodgkiss ([mark.hodgkiss@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:mark.hodgkiss@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)) - but the reply I received was not exactly positive, and certainly not a ringing endorsement of what should be a win-win change for all involved: the county council, the bus service operator, and most importantly, the residents of Bridgefoot, Great Broughton, Greysouthen and Brigham.

It was agreed to write a letter of support to Cumberland Council and Councillor Semple also agreed to take this matter forward.

### **1132/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record.

### **114/23 MATTERS ARISING**

**Fence, playing field** – Ewan Roberts agreed to look at this.

**Ewan Roberts**

### **115/23 DECLARATION OF INTEREST– NONE**

### **116/23 REPORT BY CUMBERLAND COUNCILLOR ANDREW SEMPLE**

Councillor Semple reported on the situation with the bridge closure in Cockermouth and referred to a meeting he had had with Carl Melville (Cumberland Council) and the problems being encountered with access for any proposed demolition works and the need to get the bridge opened as soon as possible. Councillor Semple said there was to be free parking after 3 pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Councillor Semple referred to a meeting with a resident concerning speeding and the level of traffic at Bridgefoot.

### **117/23 CLIMATE CHANGE**

Andy Proctor sent the following report in his absence. The last meeting was on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Thermal imaging surveys are starting – received training and have received interest and bookings. This is in conjunction with

## Action

Bridgefoot energy group Retrofit. There was a Retrofit Made Easy event in Lorton on 3<sup>rd</sup> November which was a success with 30 people attending with declarations of interest in thermal imaging surveys. The next meeting is on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

### 118/23 GREYSOUTHEN GOSSIP

It was confirmed Andy Proctor had everything in hand and would report costs via e-mail.

**Andy Proctor**

### 119/23 PLAYING FIELD

Gwenda Ward confirmed the maintenance work had been completed on play equipment. The trees have been surveyed and all were safe but it was agreed to cut the ivy back on the ash tree which is in decline.

### 120/23 ALLOTMENT AND GARAGE

The Clerk confirmed the following:

Garage plot 3A had been offered to Angie Summers as she was next on the list but she decided against taking it.

Garden plot 20 – a refund had been given to William Gate Mr. and Mrs. Smith had been offered the tenancy and accepted as there were no other people on the waiting list and they had paid to the end of March 2024.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith had come to agreement with William Gate for the purchase of his garage. William Gate had been given a refund for the ground rent and Mr. and Mrs. Smith had paid to the end of March 2024.

### 121/23 FINANCIAL ISSUES

The bank balances were reported as:

Current Account £13864.80

Deposit Account £7331.99

Precept 2024-25

After a full discussion it was proposed by Helen Davies, seconded by Dawn Watson and unanimously agreed to precept 2024-25 for £18500.00 (eighteen thousand five hundred pounds)

The amount was made up as follows:

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Clerks salary       | 3500.00  |
| Clerks expenses     | 600.00   |
| Jubilee Gardens     | 1000.00  |
| Insurance           | 700.00   |
| Subscriptions       | 300.00   |
| Donations           | 3000.00  |
| Audit               | 400.00   |
| Admin               | 1000.00  |
| Playing field       | 3000.00  |
| Repairs/maintenance | 1500.00  |
| Grasscutting        | 3500.00  |
| TOTAL               | 18500.00 |

The following payments were agreed and cheques signed – proposed by Jennifer West, seconded by Ewan Roberts and unanimously agreed.

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Clerks salary November        | £ 215.20 |
| Tax on salary November        | £ 53.80  |
| Clerks expenses               | £ 38.13  |
| Clerks salary December        | £ 215.20 |
| Tax on December salary        | £ 53.80  |
| TN Maintenance - October      | £ 35.00  |
| TN Maintenance - November     | £ 35.00  |
| A Proctor (Lakeland Trailers) | £ 174.00 |
| Paul Nolan                    | £ 660.00 |

### **122/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

FUL/2023/0207 – erection of biomass building, Tarn Bank,

Greysouthen – no objection

FUL/2023/0210 – Sheep penning building, Tarn Bank,

Greysouthen – no objection

FUL/2023/0209 – Machinery store, Tarn Bank, Greysouthen  
– no objection

FUL/2023/0208 – Bale storage shed, Tarn Bank,  
Greysouthen – no objection

### **123/23 PLANNING DECISION**

FUL/2023/0126 – barn conversion, 16 Main Street,

Greysouthen – approved by Cumberland Council on 7<sup>th</sup>  
November 2023

### **124/23 CORRESPONDENCE – none**

### **125/23 REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Ewan Roberts reported on the Village Hall Committee meeting he attended. The heating costs are predicted to rise £1800 for the next financial year which would not show a profit. £20,000 payments received through Covid are ring fenced for projects. The Parish Council received thanks for their donation of the bouncy castle for the Fun Day in September.

### **126/23 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall

Meeting ended 8.25 pm

Signed as a true and correct record .....

Date .....