

G R A N G E – O V E R – S A N D S

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held in the Victoria Hall, on Monday 20 April 2015 commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr. T Harvey, Chairman
Cllr. T Thomas, Civic Mayor
Cllrs. J Greenway, F McCall,
K Sobue, M Brennand, N Thorne, R Shapland

County Cllr. B Wearing
C Benbow - Acting Town Clerk

14 members of the public attended

Doors opened at 6.30pm to give the residents the opportunity to meet Town Councillors

The Chair, Councillor Tom Harvey, opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed everyone.

15/01 Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

15/02 Minutes of Previous Annual Town Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the previous Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 14 April 2014 were accepted as a true record and that the Chairman was authorised to sign the Minutes.

15/03 Address from the Chairman

Cllr Harvey addressed the meeting, and drew attention to written reports which were available to the public from District Councillors Mary Wilson and Tom Harvey and County Councillor Bill Wearing.

15/04 Presentation from The Community Led Plan Steering Group

The meeting received a presentation from Malcolm Kimber, Chairman of The Community Led Plan Steering Group.

15/05 Representation from community members who wished to take the opportunity to address the town.

Barbara Braysher, Secretary of the 3Ps spoke on behalf of several residents who lived near Yewbarrow Woods. Her report was spoken as follows:

Yewbarrow Wood

This an outline of what is happening in the wood to date and local residents' concerns about these incidents and what might develop during the summer months.

Late summer 2014 an increasing number of youngsters began gathering in the wood, mostly at the "Viewing Point" to drink and smoke "pot", at this time the problem was the litter/broken bottles/ends of joints. (Most of this litter was cleared by regular wood users). Autumn led to fires being lit which required the local Fire Services to be called out on a number of occasions. Finally at the end of October the wooden bench specially built for this area was pushed over the cliff becoming wedged and broken 30/40 feet below. During autumn/winter the bench was heaved back to the site and repaired.

Early March 2015 the youngsters returned to the site, again fires were started requiring both the Police and Fire Service to be called out. The weekend of the 13/14 of March once again the bench was tossed over the cliff edge, the damage this time is worse than before. On the night of Saturday the 14th of March the youngsters who had gathered in the wood were screaming and shouting sounding as if fighting had broken out, again the Police had to attend.

Local residents/visitors are faced with on litter/beer bottles and cans/ broken glass/evidence of smoking pot/empty condom packets. All this is taking place in a public area/footpath. This anti-social behaviour has been "logged" by the police. The damage to the bench is criminal damage, the lighting of fires is criminal damage of the undergrowth; taking a resident's blue recycle box and melting it in the fire is theft. These actions are affecting the quality of life for people living close by, plus the additional effect it has on residents and visitors enjoyment of a local amenity.

A number of residents have been in contact with, The Police and the District and Town Councils.

SLDC acquired the wood when they were formed in the 1970's. Our contact is Tony Naylor who informed us that they are aware of the problem and will contact their "enforcement team".

Cumbria Police advised that anyone seeing/hearing incidents in the wood to phone 101 for a priority response. They also spoke of police visits to local senior schools; and they would contact our Community Support Officer.

Community Support Officer, Howard Firth No. 5186 is aware of the problems and has spoken to local residents with regards to visiting the site when on late duty, visiting local senior schools and enquiring if the "Rural Police Car" could drive past during the evenings. He thought that some of the youngsters could be part of the group that had "moved on from the Pig Lane Area".

Grange Town Councils' Acting Town Clerk has been contacted and indicated the Town Council was aware of some of the problems, and that their "Lengths Man" was going to look at the damaged bench, and they could write to relevant parties when required to help with resolving people's concerns.

This is how the situation stands at the moment. If I can be of any help please contact me or Judith Shapland (33706) or Penny Ward (33243)

Many thanks. Barbara Braysher.

15/06 Close

The electorate recieved a vote of thanks from Civic Mayor Cllr. Tricia Thomas as follows:

Thank you all for coming and especially to Malcolm Kimber who has spoken on behalf of the Community Led Plan Team, not only for the update but for all the very hard work you and your team carried out to get the plan completed and distributed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers in the town for the sterling work they do to make our town the special place it is. I am not going to name them individually but without you we would have no Information Centre, no entry into Cumbria in Bloom, no gorgeous garden displays, no band stand concerts, no facilities on the prom and a town littered with rubbish. Included in this list must also be our first responders and retained fire fighters. You really do all make a difference.

I would also like to thank my fellow Councillors for all they do for the town. They too are volunteers, often doing a difficult job. They spend hours each month trying to do what is best for our community, and while I realise we can't please all of the people all of the time we really hope we can at least go some way to pleasing some of you some of the time.

And last but by no means least I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to all the team at the Victoria hall. It has not been an easy year for a variety of reasons but you have all been stars.

Good evening. The Council Meeting will follow.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

Written reports for the public from District Councillors Mary Wilson and Tom Harvey and County Councillor Bill Wearing were available to view.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....