

Minutes of the Kentmere Parish Meeting held on Mon 1 Sept 1997 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. W. Otty in the chair, Mr P. Dawson, Vice-Chairman, Mr J. Barkway, Mrs V. Barkway, Mr. J. Brownlow, Mr. S. Raven, Mrs. J. Bialy, Mr. M. Biden, Mrs. C. Black, Miss C. Callister, Mr. J. Corry, Mrs. M. Corry, Mrs. A. Cummings, Mrs. J. Dawson, Mrs. R. Dawson, Mr. I. Dickinson, Mr. C. Gregory, Mrs. S. Gregory, Mr. G. Hayton, Mrs. S. Hayton, Miss P. Hayton, Mrs. C. Hevey, Mrs. G. Michell, Mr T. Nuttall, Mrs. J. Otty, Mr. M. Raven, Mrs. J. Raven, Mrs. A. Steele, Mr. A Williams, Mrs. Anne Williams, Mr. J. Williams

Observers: Cllr E Acland, Cllr S. Collins, Rev. G. Watson, Mr. & Mrs. G. Thwaites, Mr. & Mrs R. Parkinson, Mr. I Johnston, Mr. D. Woodbridge, Mr. W. Beethom.

Apologies for absence Mr & Mrs T. Sturgis, Mr. & Mrs. H. Fry, Mrs. H. Brownlow.

Remembrance. The meeting stood to observe a minute's silence in remembrance of the Princess of Wales, who died last month.

Chairman's Introduction. This was a special meeting called to discuss the proposed parking scheme. The minutes of the last meeting and matters arising would be deferred to the next meeting expected to be in November. At the Parish meeting on 22 May '97 it was agreed to discuss parking again after the CCC legal services had made their recommendation. This had now been received. This special meeting had been called at short notice so that our approval of the scheme given at the P Meeting on 12 Dec '95 could be debated again and our continued approval, or any change in our view, could be conveyed to the County Council South Lakeland Committee at its meeting on 11 Sept '97. There was an objection by Mrs. Cummings and the Chairman had asked her to put her case to the meeting.

Since our last meeting, the Chairman had spoken to Mr. Brown the County secretary (Senior Lawyer) as had Mrs. Cummings. His department would report to the S Lakeland Committee that because of long established use and no previous objection, the land across from the Institute is presumed to be "Highway Land" unless it can be proved otherwise. However, legal action has been threatened and any decision by the High Court in this matter cannot be predicted. The LDNP Park Management Committee on 25 July '97 affirmed its willingness to pay for the works and recommended that the County Council be asked to improve the layout of the parking in the vicinity of Kentmere Church in accordance with the plans agreed with the Parish Meeting (Drawing no 1091-02-A as approved on 12 Dec '95 which was displayed at this meeting).

Several parishioners had requested a secret ballot. After checking that this was within the powers of the meeting, the Chairman had agreed. The Vicar had kindly agreed to act as teller. Two proposals had been put forward.

Proposal 1. This meeting still approves of the proposed car park shown on drawing no. 1091-02-A which is on display. Proposed by Mrs C. Hevey, Seconded by Mrs. J. Otty

Proposal 2. This meeting requests that the Cumbria County Council should use its powers to remove the boulders, posts and chains from the area opposite the Institute. Proposed by Mrs S. Hayton. Seconded by Mrs. Anne Williams.

Discussion

Mrs M. Cummings

1. The plan on show did not appear to be the original plan displayed on 22 Dec '95
2. She mentioned that the land opposite the Institute along the Capplerigg wall belongs to her property and is not "highway land".

The Chairman

1. There have been minor changes in the position and number of car spaces within the overall arrangement of land intended for parking which has not changed.
2. The opinion of the County lawyers who did not wish to dispute the ownership of the land beneath the highway, was that "highway land" extended to the wall.

Mr John Williams asked why we needed to discuss the matter now.

The Chairman said that it was thought that an up to date expression of opinion would help to encourage the County Council to carry the scheme forward.

Mr C. Gregory asked if Mrs Cummings would allow any parking next to the wall if she should establish that it was not "highway land".

Mrs Cummings said she might let village people park but not tourists.

Mrs. Anne Williams suggested that this would be impossible to arrange in practice.

Mr. I. Dickinson asked if it was known when the wall was set back into Capplerigg Field. 1857 was suggested.

Mr. G. Hayton suggested a wider, 18ft wide, approach to the Capplerigg entrance.

Mrs Cummings said she had not been informed of the changes affecting her property.

The Chairman insisted that she had been approached directly a number of times since it was realised that she was personally interested. Before that the proposals had been fully and openly discussed at regular and special Parish Meetings.

Mrs. C. Black asked why Mrs. Cummings had not objected to the parking of cars on this land when she bought Capplerigg eight years ago.

The Chairman showed a picture from the Westmorland Gazette in 1926, which appeared to show the unmade road extending the Capplerigg Wall.

Mr Dickinson suggested that the plan be amended to widen the entrance to Capplerigg if this would satisfy Mrs. Cummings' objections.

Mrs C. Black proposed an amendment to Proposal 1. "that the approach to Capplerigg should be widened by moving the boundary between its west side and the

parking area and this should be negotiated with Mrs. Cummings." This was seconded by Mr. Biden and approved by 25 votes to nil.

Mrs. Cummings said this would not lead her to withdraw her objections.

Cllr. Acland stressed that a much better understanding is needed between residents of the Parish.

Proposal 1 was put to the vote. There were 25 in favour and four against out of the 32 voters present.

Proposal 2 was put to the vote. There were 22 in favour, 6 against and one blank.

The Chairman undertook to report these results to the County Council, to be presented at the 11 Sept. meeting of the South Lakeland Committee.

Any other business

Cllr Collins asked if any decision had been reached about the bus turning point

The Chairman said he had not heard of any.

Mr. Barkway asked if parking could be arranged for churchgoers against the rails opposite the church gate.

A Parishioner asked if the park and ride scheme once suggested had been followed up. The Chairman thought that it had proved too expensive and unpopular with residents of the areas which might be used for the park.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

*W. Otty Chairman
25 Nov 1997*