

HAVERTHWAITE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th July 2020 at 7.00pm in Tudor Close garden.

PRESENT

Gordon Eggleston (GE)	Sue Sanderson (SS)
Brian Fleming (BF)	Julian Bevins (JB)
Cath Stoddart (CS)	Ann Newby (AN)

MINUTE	DESCRIPTION
	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
01/07/20	Resolved – None
	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
02/07/20	Resolved – It was noted that no Member declared any Interest in items on the Agenda
03/07/20 record	Resolved – The Minutes of the Meeting on 15 th June 2020 were signed off as an accurate record
	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
04/07/20	Resolved – No Public invited
	DISTRICT & COUNTY REPORTS
05/07/20	Discussed – Sue Sanderson read her Report (attached)
	POLICE REPORT
06/07/20	Resolved – 3 Road Traffic Collisions with Injury, 1 RTC damage only, 3 highway disruptions and 2 COVID 19 breaches
	APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT
07/07/20	None
	FINANCIAL MATTERS
08/07/20	Resolved – Exemption Certificate received
	PARISH MATTERS
09/07/20	Resolved – Parish Maintenance, General cutting back & path clearing has been ongoing
10/07/20	Resolved – the Emergency Planning Support Group has worked exceptionally well being put into practice due to COVID 19. Examples are Shopping & Prescription collection for Locals unable to leave their Houses. Just the fact that we have been able to provide a Network of Contacts for any issues arising.
	CORRESPONDENCE
11/07/20	Discussed – None
	Next Meeting Monday September 14th at 7pm – Venue tbc

Report for Haverthwaite Parish Council July 2020

I am still working very hard as the Cabinet member for schools: all of them did open with a range of attendance some nearly fully and some with just vulnerable children and children of key workers. We supported them in their work. We are now approaching the end of term, summer holidays and the return in September with little information on how it will work. The County Council have put plans in place to support schools in managing all. One cannot underestimate the pressure Headteachers are under at the moment and it is principally because of the uncertainty of everything.

- Heads were also concerned they would be asked to stay open during the summer holidays and they did not think that was acceptable as many staff had worked through Easter and two half terms already. As a Council we took the decision to state we would not be expecting teachers to be working through the summer holidays. To this end two officers have been working with other agencies to create a programme of summer activities available for children and families. A senior officer and myself have been working to support schools to prepare for September. They will probably have to have several plans to cope with alternative scenarios: we need to support staffing as it has often been lack of staffing that has been the main issue, school and public transport, exams and qualifications, post 16 provision – issue around apprenticeships, transition, emotional wellbeing of staff and children remain to name but a few.

We need to ensure that parents understand every school is different and will manage things differently. Schools do not want to be in competition with each other.

I attended a meeting with the Rural services network they represent all the County and Unitary councils who have significant rural populations. Everyone seemed to be struggling generally with loss of income. They are still lobbying for a rural strategy which so far has been refused by the government.

Funding remains an issue for the County despite promises being made to cover the additional costs owing to COVID 19 there is a gap between what has been spent and what has been given.

I have dealt with individual enquiries and issues of concern.

Sue Sanderson County Councillor

Report for Haverthwaite Parish Council July 2020

County Councillor Sue Sanderson

Summer/Autumn 2020

I worked very hard as the Cabinet member for schools: all of them did open with a range of attendance some nearly fully and some with just vulnerable children and children of key workers. We supported them in their work. We are now approaching the end of term, summer holidays and the return in September with little information on how it will work. The County Council have put plans in place to support schools in managing all. One cannot underestimate the pressure Headteachers are under at the moment and it is principally because of the uncertainty of everything.

Heads were also concerned they would be asked to stay open during the summer holidays and they did not think that was acceptable as many staff had worked through Easter and two half terms already. As a Council we took the decision to state we would not be expecting teachers to be working through the summer holidays. To this end two officers have been working with other agencies to create a programme of summer activities available for children and families. A senior officer and myself have been working to support schools to prepare for September. They will probably have to have several plans to cope with alternative scenarios: we need to support staffing as it has often been lack of staffing that has been the main issue, school and public transport, exams and qualifications, post 16 provision – issue around apprenticeships, transition, emotional wellbeing of staff and children remain to name but a few.

We needed to ensure that parents understood every school is different and will manage things differently. Schools did not want to be in competition with each other.

I attended a meeting with the Rural services network they represent all the County and Unitary councils who have significant rural populations. Everyone seemed to be struggling generally with loss of income. They are still lobbying for a rural strategy which so far has been refused by the government.

Funding remains an issue for the County despite promises being made to cover the additional costs

January 21

The Education Planning Group continues to meet which I chair. It covers a full range of educational establishments : schools: maintained, academies, independent; colleges and universities. Senior County Officers and NHS staff. It has meant that we have worked together over all issues and the feedback has been consistently positive.

It remains a challenging area as most of you are aware. We worked throughout the Christmas break and made the decision to write to the DFE and asked them to allow us to close the schools in Carlisle and Eden at least and preferably the rest of Cumbria. We set a 3.00pm deadline for a response and received it just before the deadline. The answer was no. The Prime Minister announced schools were safe with which we did not agree but later that day he said they should close.

However as we all know now they are not closed : they are open for vulnerable children, children of key workers and children who cannot access remote learning (a new addition). 95% are open and primaries have many more children than at the previous lockdown. Support has been offered by the LA through risk assessments and trying to put a hierarchy together to deal with requests for places.

We call them critical workers but it is all adding pressure to the schools and negating the point of closing them. Laptops have been sent out but the number offered was cut back, we have received donations from companies but as we all know it takes more than just being given a laptop. We have continued to lobby about prioritising staff in schools for vaccinations

The special schools and PRUs are under specific pressure as the DFE considers all their children vulnerable and they should be open anyway. This is implied rather than stated.

Exams are another issue again an announcement with no warning despite being under discussion for months. The decision could have been made a long time ago, plans could have been in place and schools preparing.

The health situation is summarised by Colin Cox the DPH

Driven by the new variant our rates are the highest they've been, and we've got more people in hospital than we had at the height of the first wave, leading to significant NHS pressures particularly in the north. From that perspective at least, lockdown measures are therefore very welcome and if they have a similar impact to the November lockdown we are hopeful that rates might start to turn towards the end of next week – but we'll have to wait and see.

Locally I have dealt with a request for support through our volunteer group I did some shopping then Brian's family have taken it on.

I have heard from Highways England that the roadworks to install a compulsory left turn at Newby Bridge will be started on 8th February there will be some disruption but in the end it should reduce the disruption caused by blockages. For information the garage at Newby Bridge has been sold to a chain the franchise for the shop will change from the Co-op to Greggs and Staveley Parish are concerned about an increase in traffic.

I continue to raise the issue of lining on Brow Edge but I know Highways are under severe pressure because of the sickness/isolating and the weather

March 21

Primary schools returned today and secondary are carrying out testing with a weeks grace. We continue to meet weekly. We had to fight to obtain vaccinations for special school staff North Cumbria were willing to do it but Morecambe Bay were not we managed to get this decision overturned so all special school staff have been vaccinated. It remains a challenging area as most of you are aware. WE were awarded £1.3m from the government for food and holiday activities for pupils eligible for free school meals over Easter, Summer and Christmas.

I have heard from Highways England that the roadworks to install a compulsory left turn at Newby Bridge will be started on 8th February there will be some disruption but in the end it should reduce the disruption caused by blockages. This has happened but I spent most of last weekend observing as residents were concerned about the poor signage and road markings. I reported it to Highways England, managed to speak to Jonathan Reade and I am waiting for the outcome of a road safety audit. The audit by an independent inspector agreed with residents and the junction will be redone, timescales are unclear but I have stressed the urgency of it

As you know there is a consultation about Local Government Reorganisation relating to Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset. The decision will be made by Ministers. The County Council has proposed a single unitary, the other proposals involve splitting Cumbria in two, one including part of Lancashire. It is very unsettling for staff who have worked non-stop throughout the pandemic. It

looks like it will be July before we hear any official outcome. Whatever happens we do not think it will not happen and we will lose a tier either the whole CCC or Districts. It seems there will be a bigger role for Town and Parish Councils something we need to be thinking about. It will be a completely fresh start all councillors will have to be selected and elected again to serve in a single unitary or one split into two unitaries.

Sue Sanderson