

MELMERBY PARISH COUNCIL

**Acting Clerk: John
Fleming**

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Chairman: Cllr Chris Jones.

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Minutes of the Meeting Held on Tuesday 24th September 2019
in Melmerby Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Unapproved v2

38/19 Apologies

County Councilor Claire Driver

39/19 Present

Cllrs: Chris Jones (Chairman), Marjorie Jones (Vice Chair), David Bardsley, Ruth Beaumont, Gary Fletcher and John Fleming (Parish Clerk).
District Councilor Rob Orchard and four members of the public

40/19 Minutes

The Chairman was unanimously authorized to sign the minutes of the meeting held 23rd July 2019, as a true record.
Proposed by Cllr D Bardsley. Seconded by Cllr Marjories Jones.

41/19 Declarations of Interest

Cllr C Jones - Agenda Item 6 Planning - 19/0509 – The Tower House, Melmerby

42/19 Appointment of Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

42.1 Reported that John Fleming had been appointed Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer as from the 1st September 2019.

42.2 Appointed on NALC scale SCP 19 @ 5 Hours per week, with no overtime being claimed, except in agreed exceptional circumstances.
In addition, an Office Provision Fee of £15 per month was agreed.

42.3 Expenses paid, supported by receipts. Mileage at 45p per mile.

43/19 Public Participation

Langwathby School Bus Chaperone Issue – It was reported that Cumbria County Council had decided to employ the two Langwathby school bus Chaperones for a further academic year, whilst a review of the policy was ongoing. The Parish Council, along with others, were thanked for their campaigning which has led to this, much welcomed, decision.

44/19 Planning Applications

19/0509 – The Tower House, Melmerby - Addition of porch to pool hall, alterations to conservatory to form supplementary changing facilities **Supported**

19/0619 – 3 Tortree Gardens, Melmerby –
Proposed creation of new vehicle and pedestrian access – **Supported**

19/5049 Planning enforcement case - Nutwood, Melmerby – Still under investigation.

45/19 District Councilor Report.

The Council recently voted to adopt a Climate Change Economy and achieve a carbon free status by 2030. It has since issued a Consultation Document on this matter which I believe you are due to discuss later. Whilst I have no problems with Council adopting the policy in principal, I am concerned that the document you have been asked to comment on, is very short of detail. It does not suggest how the Council plans to achieve these objectives, how their proposed actions will be financed and from where the finance will come. Unfortunately, I can't give you any advice on those aspects because currently the Members of the Council have not been given any more information than you have received.

Sadly, the two Councilors who were appointed, three years ago, as Directors of the Council's new company 'Heart of Cumbria', have resigned because of unacceptable interference by the Officers of the Council. These two Councilors have done an outstanding job with 'Heart of Cumbria', setting it up from scratch and operating it into a position where it is already a major contributor of income for the Council. Sadly, again, one of those Directors Cllr John Owen (Con. Shap) has also resigned from the Council over the matter.

Rob Orchard, EDC Councillor – Hartside

46/19 County Councilors Report

No report was available; however a video is available on the Parish Council website. www.melmerby.org.uk

47/19 Finance (Incl. Vat)**47.1 The Following Balances Were Reported as at: - 12/9/2019**

	£
Barclays Current Account	704.67
Barclays Investment Account	8350.00
Vat due	129.30

47.2 The Following Accounts were Ratified.

Acting Clerks Fee July 2019	218.40
Acting Clerks Fee August 2019	218.40
Vision ICT. Web Build	650.00
Memo Subscription	50.00
May Elections	604.20
ICO – Data Protection Fee	35.00
Cumbria Payroll Services	43.80

Concern was raised over the cost of the May Elections, which had been raised with the Elections Office of EDC.

47.3 The Following Accounts Were Approved For Payment

Clerks Expense 23/7/19 – 12/9/19	76.06
(Including 4 months Office Provision as Acting Clerk @ £15pm)	
Fellrunner Community Bus Donation	49.20
Vision ICT – 'Accessibility Statement' preparation	85.00

46.2 and 46.3 were unanimously approved.

Proposed by Cllr D Bardsley

Seconded by Cllr G Fletcher.

47.4 Presentation of Interim Accounts

The interim set of accounts were unanimously approved.

Proposed by Cllr D Bardsley

Seconded by Cllr R. Beaumont,

47.5

There were none

47.6 To Report Transfers

From Current to Investment Account	2000.00
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47.7 Purchase of a Laptop Computer

47.7.1 Following the Grant Application to the EDC Community Fund being approved by the Community Fund, as reported at the last meeting, it has to be, very disappointingly reported, that the EDC Executive subsequently failed to approve payment; such a decision being virtually unheard of in the history of the Community Fund's existence.

47.7.2 As a consequence of the above, it was decided to seek three revised quotes, from those obtained in April, prior to the EDC Grant Application, for a Laptop computer, loaded with Microsoft Office Home and Business along with a wireless mouse, to be presented to the 26th November meeting, where a decision to purchase would be made.

In the interim the Parish Council's office would continue to operate with the Clerk using an old Laptop, very generously loaned, from Langwathby Stores.

48/19 Melmerby Parish Council Documentation – Asset Register.

48.1 Asset Register. A revised version was tabled and discussed.

48.2 Log Seats Ref No. 006 and 013. Agreed to change the 'Date of Original Acquisition' from 2011 to 2012.

48.3 Defibrillator and Cabinet. It was confirmed that the Defibrillator and Cabinet, listed as located in the Phone Kiosk, was in the custody of the Community Heartbeat Trust, being owned and insured by them. It was the wish of the meeting that this arrangement continued.

48.4 The Phone Box – Currently the Phone Box was also owned and insured by the Community Heartbeat Trust. Being a charity, with limited resources, the preferred option of the Community Heartbeat Trust was that Parish Councils adopted a Phone Box, housing a Defibrillator, thus being responsible for insurance costs. The cost of adoption was £1.00; however, the value of a Phone Box so adopted and added to the Asset Register, being in the region of £2000.

Action: - It was unanimously agreed to adopt the phone box from the Community Heartbeat Trust providing that the increased insurance premium to provide 'All Risk' cover, did not exceed £15 per annum.

Proposed by Cllr D Bardsley

Seconded by Cllr G Fletcher.

48.5 Asset Register Values – An Analysis.

A) Asset Values as with insurers currently, prior to adjustment including the removal of the value of litter and grit bins, whilst also having a value included for the Defibrillator and Cabinet: -

Outdoor Equipment/Street Furniture	5,728.20
Play Equipment	<u>2,250.00</u>
Total value	7978.20

B) Values with the Defibrillator, Cabinet and Phone Box at no value to Parish Council. (as tabled at meeting)

Outdoor Equipment/Street Furniture	4897.20
Play Equipment	<u>2,250.00</u>
Total value	7147.20

C) Values as with the changes agreed above; i.e. With Defibrillator, Cabinet at no value to Parish Council but with Phone Box added at £2000.	
Outdoor Equipment/Street Furniture	6897.20
Play Equipment	<u>2,250.00</u>
Total value	9147.20

The overall Asset value of the agreed changes resulting in a net increase in asset value of £1169.00.

48.6 Vandalism Cover

A query was raised as to whether the Parish Councils Assets were covered for vandalism damage. The Clerk to seek clarification.

49/19 Highways and Land Matters

49.1 Dog Fouling – Reported that the agreed action to raise the awareness of the problem by putting up posters around the village and also to distribute an EDC leaflet in an edition of the Memo, had been actioned

4.9.2 Vehicle Speeding Through the Village – A traffic survey report was awaited.

4.9.3 Junction White Lining – Two junctions still to be done, the matter was with Highways.

49.4 Litter Bins – Reported that a bin had been relocated to the privately-owned layby by Townhead; as a consequence, an objection had been raised by a Parishioner.

49.5 Footpath Signs – Repair and Maintenance. – Reported that the request for three Public Rights of Way fingerposts to be replaced and for a stile to be repaired, had been forwarded to the Cumbria County Council, Footpaths Officer, Andy Sims.

In response he had confirmed that request for the new signs had be placed on a future works programme. Regarding the repair of the stile, it being stated this is the responsibility of the landowner, however it may be possible to supply a new stile kit for installation.

Agreed to make enquiries as to who the landowner was in respect of the stile.

49.6 Hole in Bridge - Melmerby to Gamblesby Road Past Saw Mill – Reported that the repair work had been completed.

49.7 Bridge Terrace - Road Surface Repair – In hand with Highways

49.8 Bus Shelter – Reported that the shelter had received a coat of paint and had been swept out. A roof drainage problem had been identified; before any action was taken to rectify the problem, it was agreed to check if the water in question drained onto the Village Green. Reported that a bird nest was also adding to the problem.

49.9 Concrete and Wooden Bench - Reported that the repair was in hand.

49.10 Grit Bins – Reported that Highways had agreed to provide 4 Grit bins on the road to Gale Hall, regarding the Ousby road, there only being room to provide small heaps of grit due to the narrow width and profile of the verge. Concern was raised over the need for a bin by Townhead.

(Subsequent to the meeting Highways have agreed to provide a bin in this area, subject to agreement on the exact location)

49.11 Melmerby Defibrillator Kiosk Refurbishment.

After discussion, it was agreed to repaint and renovate this Kiosk.

The following work was agreed with all labour being provided free of charge.

- Thoroughly clean
- Repaint the interior – with a paint cost up to £30.
- Repaint the exterior - paint being provided free of charge from the Community Heartbeat Trust
- To ask the Community Heartbeat Trust if they would supply a replacement for the missing acrylic window, before Adoption. (See 47.4)

A comment was made that the provision of some plants, surrounding the box, would enhance appearance.

49.12 Defibrillator Road Signs

Decided to investigate the provision of signs informing where the Defibrillator was located in the village, on the 'Melmerby' road signs on entrance roads to the village. Such signs can be purchased from Cumbria County Council, with the possibility of Highways installing them free of charge. The Community Heartbeat Trust to be asked if they could finance the purchase of the signs.

50/19 Councilor Matters

50.1 Vehicle Speeding – Melmerby Ousby Road.

Concern was raised over instances of excessive vehicle speeding as you leave the village, on the Melmerby/ Ousby road.

Action : - To discuss the issue with the Community Police Officer.

51/19 Correspondence

51.1 CALC Training – Autumn Programme. If any Councilors are interested in attending, please contact the Clerk, in the first instance.

51.2 EDC Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places – This report was tabled; there being no change or issues with the polling station at the Melmerby Village Hall.

51.3 CALC AGM 9th November – Market Hall, Church Street, Wigton.

51.4 Eden Tourism Summit – 17th October, *North Lakes Hotel, Penrith*,

51.5 Meathaw Hill Road Improvements – Details of the road closure were tabled.

51.6 EALC AGM - 25th September at 7.00pm. Fire and Rescue HQ, Penrith

51.7 EDC Final Draft– Council Plan –

It was reported that this final draft of the Eden Council Plan for 2019-2023, is now open for consultation and can be viewed at www.eden.gov.uk/councilplan. The survey is available online through the following link [Eden District Council Plan Survey](#). Please submit any response to the Council by **4 October 2019**.

Reported that EDC will be holding an event on the evening of 1 October 2019 at Rheged for Parish and Town Councils / Parish Meetings and further details will be available soon.' Councilors were invited to respond personally.

51.8 5G Mobile Consultation in Rural Areas. –

This being a 28 page consultation document.

Consultation closes on 11th November 2019

Concern was expressed that the proposed increase in the height of masts could be inhibited by Planning restrictions.

(Subsequent to the meeting a brief comment, on the 28 pages of the proposal, from a local Parishioner, with specific knowledge, is added below for information: -

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government are seeking the view of developing 5G in rural areas. The current coverage of standard mobile phone coverage is still poor and therefore any development is positive. Strategically preparing infrastructure for the future and move away from physical line fed infrastructure is positive.

The emergency services 'Mission Critical Communication Programme' will result in mobile phone coverage being improved.

5G is being tested in parts of London with limited success. Network throughput is the limiting element of the technology, not the 5g mobile connectivity and therefore, whilst the launch has happened there is still technical development to take place.)

51.9 Eden Tourism Newsletter - Issues 55 and 56 - Circulated to Councillors.

52/19 Melmerby Emergency Plan –

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to initiate the compiling of a Melmerby Emergency Plan for consideration at a future meeting.

53/19 Dates of Future Meetings

Tuesday 26th November 2019

Tuesday 28th January 2020

All meetings commence at 7.30pm in Melmerby Village Hall.

Meeting closed: 9.30pm

Signed _____

Date _____