

STAVELEY AND COPGROVE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mr. B. Atkinson
Danesmead, Main Street, Staveley. HG5 9JY

Staveley and Copgrove Parish Council Meeting Held on
Tuesday, 10 March 2011
At Staveley and Copgrove Village Hall, Staveley

MINUTES

Present:

Chair: Parish Councillor Nick Stringer
Vice Chair: Parish Councillor Michael North
Parish Councillor Richard Tesseyman
Parish Councillor Peter Edwards
Parish Councillor Ian Griffin
Parish Clerk: Bernard Atkinson
32 Members of the public

Parish Council Meeting

1. **To receive apologies of absence** – C. Councillor J.Watson,
Parish Councillor P Smith, PC S. Brookes
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** Parish Councillors N stringer, M North and
I Griffin declared an interest in Item 4 (a) -Staveley Nature Reserve
3. **To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2011**-Agreed
4. **To discuss subjects brought forward from the last meeting**

(a) Staveley Nature Reserve

The Chairman stated that the purpose of the ensuing discussion was to decide what comments, if any, the PC should submit to HBC regarding YWT's recent planning application. He then read a prepared statement recommending the position of the Parish Council (see appendix 1). The Chairman opened the meeting to the public in attendance. Subjects covered included concerns regarding the size of the proposed hides, public footpath crossing the existing access road, the absence of gates for the Minskip road car park, disabled access only to Hide "A", lack of toilets' for visiting parties, lack of risk assessments accompanying the planning application and a call for the YWT application to be withdrawn pending consultation between residents and YWT.

Following the above discussions the Chairman advised the meeting that the PC should decide on whether to accept the position as he had originally outlined, or whether to accept the alternative position of recommending that the YWT application be withdrawn. However, no decision or vote could be taken because the PC was unable to form a quorum due to the number of Parish Councillors that had declared an interest.

(b) Spellow Crescent

No further information available.

(c) Bus Shelter

The Chairman requested that Mr & Mrs G Clark consult with other bus users and report

back to the next meeting. Mr & Mrs Clark agreed.

(d) Arkendale Road signage

No further information available.

(e) School Safety Railing

It was agreed that an application for funding be made to NYCC

(f) Lorry Watch Scheme

Mr D Holliday agreed to coordinate the scheme. He was requested to liaise with Parish Councillor Griffin.

(g) Allerton Park Incinerators

The meeting was advised that a meeting would be held at Arkendale village hall on 15 March 2011 and Parish Councillor M North would attend.

(h) Affordable Homes

HB Councillor Alton advised that the production and issue of the LDF had been delayed.

5. Inland Revenue

It was confirmed to the meeting that HMRC required PC's to register as employers for the purposes of PAYE and National Insurance contributions. Parish Clerk to write to HMRC to clarify the position.

6. Planning Applications

The PC confirmed that no comments would be offered to HBC re Danesmead, Main Street. The planning application re Dove Cottage, Minskip Road has been approved by HBC

7. To Receive Invoices and Credits.

P Walker	£230	Safety inspections Recreation Field
B Atkinson	£480	P Clerk Oct 2011 to March 2011-03-15
J Goulding	£25	Post repairs, village green

8. Dates of next meeting

10 March 2011. This meeting would be the AGM

Appendix 1

YWT and Staveley Nature Reserve – Staveley & Copgrove PC's Position

1. In 2009, Staveley PC became aware of YWT's intention to purchase the old Staveley quarry land from Cemex. YWT had insufficient funds to do this by themselves, so applied for a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Staveley PC, with the full agreement of Parish Councillors, wrote to support YWT's application as follows:-

Staveley & Copgrove Parish Council wishes to express strong support for your initiative to acquire an extension to the Staveley Nature Reserve. Residents of Staveley value the Reserve very highly, and regard it as one of the great assets of the village. It is frequently visited by all of us for walks, to admire the wildlife and to appreciate its beauty and tranquility. It would be splendid if it

could be extended by acquiring the adjacent fields and lakes.

2. In 2010 it was announced that YWT had been successful in obtaining an HLF grant, so they went ahead and completed the acquisition of the land from Cemex. However, it was an important condition of the grant that YWT made the land accessible to all, including disabled. The consequence is that there will be some increase in visitor numbers to the Nature Reserve, plus a need for facilities to allow access for disabled persons.
3. In questioning YWT about how big this increase may be, YWT do not know. However, they have no budget for increased marketing of the site, and in any case, in order to preserve the characteristics of the original site, are not seeking any increase apart from occasional school parties.
4. It was YWT's original intention not to provide any car parks. However, at present, most Nature Reserve visitors park their cars in Jennifer & Martin Simmons' field, opposite the track down to the Reserve. This facility is currently offered as a matter of goodwill, an arrangement which is long overdue for change. Therefore YWT are proposing new car parking arrangements, one for 'disabled' vehicles only on the site of the old quarry weighbridge, with 3 places, and another more general car park on a field at the Minskip side of the village, with 12 places.
5. In coming to this proposal, YWT considered the option of having just one car park, to accommodate the needs of the general public and disabled visitors, at either site. However, the Minskip Road site is located some way from the main bird watching area in the centre of the reserve, which would entail a long wheelchair journey for disabled visitors. The alternative of locating everything at the weighbridge site was rejected because access to it is along a narrow track with no passing places, the junction near the church is more dangerous for turning vehicles than Minskip Road, and in any case undertakings had been given to local residents, whose properties adjoin the track, that traffic on it would be kept to a minimum. As it is, based on their experience from other sites, YWT have stated they do not expect more than 4 or 5 disabled cars per week. All such drivers will require a key to open the gate at the end of the track by the church (making it inaccessible to the casual visitor).
6. One objection to the use of the track for this purpose is its exit to Staveley Main Street by the church, because turning right is fairly blind and therefore potentially dangerous. This could be solved by the simple expedient of making it no right turn from the exit. The other objection of the lane having no passing places needs to be addressed.
7. The Minskip Road site is planned to have 12 places. If the number of places proposed is found to be insufficient, then there is plenty more space in the field for expansion. However one point that needs to be addressed is the provision of coach parking (for parties of schoolchildren).

8. One other concern about this site is security at night. It has been suggested that it should have lockable gates and somebody willing to lock them on a daily basis.
9. A major element of YWT's planning application, currently with HBC for consideration, is the construction of two substantial hides in the main bird watching area. The reason for the size of these hides is to provide sufficient space to accommodate parties of schoolchildren, who will visit from time to time. However YWT should explain why two hides of such size are needed, given that only one party of schoolchildren could be expected at any one point in time. A reasonable compromise would be to build a single hide initially and then review the need for a second hide once experience of using the hide had been obtained.
10. It has been pointed out that parties of schoolchildren usually require toilet facilities, but YWT have stated that they have no plans as such for these, nor do they have the funds. There are no toilet facilities in the village. Therefore, YWT need to make all visiting school parties aware of this in their marketing and publicity materials.
11. Another concern expressed is, if there is an increase in visitor numbers, there will be a proposal for some sort of Visitor Centre. As with the toilets, YWT have stated that they have no plans as such, nor do they have the funds either to construct it or to maintain and man it if constructed. The Nature Reserve is also very small in comparison to other sites that do have visitor centres and would probably be economically non-viable.
12. If there is an increase in visitors, YWT's expansion of Staveley Nature Reserve will lead to some changes in Staveley village life. Some legitimate concerns about the expansion have been raised by villagers, and these need to be addressed by YWT. However, the changes brought by the expansion of the Nature Reserve are dwarfed by the changes that the village has experienced in the last 20 years with the loss of post office, risk of closure of the village pub, loss of a working farm and the building of a large number of new homes within the village. Taking an overall view, Staveley PC welcomes this expansion because of the benefits it brings to all:-
 - (a) Protection of the whole of the west side of the village from any possible urban encroachment for the foreseeable future
 - (b) The knock-on beneficial effect on Staveley house prices as a result of this protection
 - (c) The improved viability of the village pub, and therefore reduced risk of its closure due to lack of trade, because of the increased number of visitors
 - (d) The increased chances of success of a village shop for the same reason.