**KENDAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the proceedings at the Parish Meeting called on New Road

held on Wednesday 18th April 2018 at 7.00pm

In the Assembly Room, Kendal Town Hall.

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| **CHAIRMAN** | The Mayor of Kendal, Councillor Andy Blackman |
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| **IN ATTENDANCE** | Simon Unsworth, Mayors Attendant |
|  | Liz Richardson, Town Clerk |
|  | Janine Holt , Assistant to the Town Clerk |
|  | Justine McCoy, Administrative Officer |
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| **PRESENT** | 45 Electors |
|  | 5 Non Electors |
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|  | **INTRODUCTION** |
|  | The Mayor of Kendal, Councillor Andy Blackman welcomed everyone. He introduced the members of Town Council staff present and explained that their role for the evening was to provide administrative support only. He explained that this was the second Parish Meeting on the subject of New Road. The Poll question from the first meeting had not been deemed legal by the returning officer. Councillor Andy Blackman then went on to explain the process for the evening. He asked all present did they understand the process and the reason for calling the parish meeting, nobody indicated that they didn’t understand the process. |
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|  | **GUIDANCE ON CONDUCT** |
|  | Simon Unsworth, Mayors Attendant provided an outline of the conduct which was to be expected during the meeting. |
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|  | **PARISH MEETING** |
|  | The Mayor of Kendal, Councillor Andy Blackman officially opened the meeting and asked the group for a show of hands of people who would like to speak. If time became an issue electors would be given the opportunity to speak first. A general discussion pursued with the following points being raised: |
| **Elector Nos 17** | With regard to a poll, does it mean schools would have to close? Confirmed that as long as permission is granted you can cycle across the land. |
| **Elector Nos 1** | Responded that you can use schools for free for the poll. |
| **Elector Nos 40** | Stated that the fact that it is common land is not the problem, the by-law is the problem. |
| **Elector Nos 33** | Stated that his understanding is that the issue is not with the by-law but the issue of parking because it is common land. Can only be parked on with land owners consent. New Road designated as waste land. |
| **Non Parishoner** | Questioning the cost of the parish poll, asks why can’t it just be tagged onto the elections that are scheduled for May. |
| **Elector Nos 10** | Informed the group that the report on New Road was undertaken by an independent 3rd party and that SLDC had no alternative but to follow the recommendations with regard to safety.  It was stated that it is not possible for a poll to co-incide with the May elections. |
| **Elector Nos 43** | Asked have air quality readings been undertaken? |
| **Elector Nos 33** | Responded to the previous comment stating that everyone has a legal right to air and recreation but not on air quality. |
| **Elector Nos 43** | Disagreed to New Road previously being called waste land, this is not waste land it has always been used by the people of Kendal. Kendal is now very busy with vehicles, what happens if a child is playing and runs out into the road? |
| **Elector Nos 12** | A parent of 3 children, stated that it was more unsafe not to be able to walk along the river due to the unauthorised car park. Pollution is absorbed by plants. |
| **Elector Nos 40** | Confirms you can’t have a poll at the same time as an election. Not aware of any accidents on New Road. The road itself is built on common ground, how is that legal? |
| **Elector Nos 1** | Questioning the health and safety aspect of the report. |
| **Elector Nos 33** | He was not indicating that the common land is waste land. Waste to the parish enabled it to be registered. Blackhall Road is built on common land, the current registration document states that common land on New Road runs either side. |
| **Elector Nos 30** | Asked what happened at the golf club? This is why SLDC are using New Road. He stated he was disgusted at what’s going on. He stated at the last parish meeting Cllr Archibald agreed to let them see the plans for New Road, these plans were not received until the day the work started. |
| **Elector Nos 10** | Felt it was very distressing to be accused of telling lies. Disappointed that people think there is a hidden agenda. He highlighted a Gazette article from May 17 where a child was knocked over by a vehicle backing out of New Road. He stated that there was no choice but to address the safety issues and that everything has been undertaken in public interest. |
| **Elector Nos 24** | A Kendalian whose ancestry can be traced back to the 15th century asked why has no archaeological dig had been undertaken? |
| **Elector Nos 20** | Stated that Blackhall Road is common land. 2 reports have been passed to the Chief Executive of SLDC stating that it is unlawful that planning consent wasn’t undertaken for the work. |
| **Elector Nos 18** | A Kendalian stated that there is plenty of common land in London you can cycle on . By-laws can be lifted. |
| **Elector Nos 12** | Don’t understand economics. |
| **Elector Nos 18** | This is an SLDC process and decision, questioning why Town Council meetings are being used to address this issue. |
| **Elector Nos 43** | Responded by stating they had tried to talk to SLDC but nobody wanted to know. She runs a voluntary organisation and she is having trouble recruiting volunteers because the don’t want to pay for parking. Stated nothing was written in stone about the safety issues, it was ridiculous. |
| **Elector Nos 7** | Stated they had to go through the Town Council because SLDC wasn’t listening. Councils need communities but communities don’t need councils. |
| **Non Parishoner** | An independent review should be undertaken by a consultant chosen by the Town Council. |
| **Elector Nos 18** | 2000 signatures are required to call a SLDC meeting, can’t you get 2000 signatures? |
| **Elector Nos 12** | Refers to recent comments in Gazette and Facebook about the antisocial behaviour on the land, this is not what the residents of Kendal want. |
| **Elector Nos 32** | Stated that since October 2017 this situation has been going on, all we have been told is lies. |
| **Elector Nos 1** | Stated they already have 1800 signatures in support |
| **Elector Nos 20** | Promises have been made at meetings, plans arrived 5 days after the work had started. |
| **Elector Nos 13** | Sympathises with the situation. From her house she has a clear view of New Road, it was always full so it isn’t shoppers using the car park. |
| **Elector Nos 40** | Stated this isn’t a Town Council matter, it is a wider problem. Environment Agency will more than likely take some of this land for flood defences. |
| **Non Parishoner** | Requested that Cllr Archibald answer the question asked last summer about how much had been spent in the last 15 years on preventing parking on New Road, would he like to answer that question? |
| **Elector Nos 43** | Why spend money on New Road when there is a chance the Environment Agency are going to take some of the land? |
| **Elector Nos 10** | Apologised that if he had been asked a question last summer and not responded. He stated he would look into this. |
| **Elector Nos 33** | Representing the views of the Civic Society, who are supportive of the plans. |
| **Elector Nos 43** | Stated people come to Kendal to shop, go to the doctors etc, not to look at views. Kendal is not a working town now, her view of the Civic Society has now dropped. |
| **Elector Nos 12** | In response to the statement about people not visiting Kendal for the views, it is a festival town and wished people would stop putting it down. |
| **Non Parishoner** | Stated that no meaningful consultation will take place and be above board. |
| **Elector Nos 30** | Addressed a question to Cllr Archibald, where has the disabled parking gone? All parking gone, market traders have been sent to the other side of town. |
| **Elector Nos 40** | Raised a question, allotments are desperately looking for more land, does anybody know of any? |
| **Elector Nos 43** | Stated that K Village would make good allotment land |
| **Elector Nos 20** | Asked how will the fair get onto the land with the planters and rocks in place? |
|  | **QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED AT A PARISH POLL** |
|  | Four questions was proposed by Andy Milliard of Yard 2, Strickland Kendal, LA9 4ND all the questions were seconded. |
| **QUESTION 1** | DO YOU WANT SLDC TO CHANGE/CREATE/AMEND A BYE-LAW TO ENABLE FREE PARKING ON NEW ROAD? |
| **VOTE** | 27 Voted in favour of the question being used to demand a parish poll.  13 voted against the question being used to demand a parish poll.  The question was passed. |
| **QUESTION 2** | DID YOU KNOW THAT THE NEW SINGLE SPAN GOOSEHOLME BRIDGE DUE TO BE COMPLETED BY CHRISTMAS 2018 IS TO BE DESIGNED FOR CYCLISTS BUT THEY CANNOT CYCLE OFF THE BRIDGE EITHER SIDE, AS NEW ROAD AND GOOSEHOLME ARE BOTH COMMON LAND AND CANNOT BE DE-REGISTERED BY CHRISTMAS? |
| **VOTE** | 19 Voted in favour of the question being used to demand a parish poll.  13 voted against the question being used to demand a parish poll.  The question was passed. |
| **QUESTION 3** | I WANT AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY SLDC INTO THE CLOSURE OF THE NEW ROAD COMMON LAND FOR CAR PARKING, AS I BELIEVE CAR PARKING ISSUES ARE CURRENTLY A MAJOR ECONOMIC BARRIER IN KENDAL |
| **VOTE** | 23 Voted in favour of the question being used to demand a parish poll.  13 voted against the question being used to demand a parish poll.  The question was passed. |
| **QUESTION 4** | DO YOU AGREE WITH THE HUGE EXPENDITURE THAT SLDC IS MAKING, WITHOUT ANY PUBLIC CONSULTATION, FOR EXAMPLE ON THE NEW ROAD COMMON LAND DEVELOPMENT. |
| **VOTE** | 28 Voted in favour of the question being used to demand a parish poll.  11 voted against the question being used to demand a parish poll.  The question was passed. |
| **Conclusion** | The Mayor of Kendal, Councillor Andy Blackman consented to the demand for a Parish Poll because there was a majority vote. The 4 questions will now be forwarded to the Returning Officer at SLDC for verification. |

**The meeting closed at 8.30pm**

*Footnote: The Parish meeting and Parish Poll on the subject of New Road was not initiated by Kendal Town Council and is therefore not public engagement on behalf of ourselves. It has come from the legal right of the electorate to demand first a Parish Meeting and then a Parish Poll. Unfortunately the current legislation allows this to be a very small number of electorate. This Council have no desire to hold a Poll on this topic as New Road is not within our responsibility but we are legally required to do so.*