**KENDAL PARISH MEETING**

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

held on Thursday 15th March 2018 at 7.00pm

In the Kings Room, the Shakespeare Centre, Kendal

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| **CHAIRMAN** | The Mayor of Kendal, Councillor Andy Blackman |
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| **IN ATTENDANCE** | Simon Unsworth, Mayors Attendant |
|  | Janine Holt , Assistant to the Town Clerk |
|  | Justine McCoy, Administrative Officer |
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| **PRESENT**  | 71 Electors |
|  |  8 Non Electors |
|  |  1 Member of press who abstained from voting |
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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. 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 12** | Thanked people for attending and apologised for the cost of the process but felt that there was no alternative as every other avenue had been exhausted. Do you want our Westmorland and Lonsdale MP to call a public inquiry into activities and dealing of New Road common land was proposed as a question for the group to consider. |
| **Elector Nos 52** | Asked whose idea was it to take away the free parking and why? We need car parking and not green spaces. |
| **Non Parishoner** | Worked in Kendal for 27 years. When the injunction was served an email from a South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) officer was in the papers, stating that there was no requirement for planning consent or public consultation. It was stated that this proves that SLDC had no intention of undertaking a public consultation. |
| **Elector Nos 50** | Asked for clarification on which SLDC officer sent the email and who was it sent to. |
| **Parishioners**  | Confirmed the SLDC officer by name who sent the email contained within the injunction papers. |
| **Elector Nos 55** | The cost of the poll was stated at approx. £13k. MP Tim Farron has been asked previously to undertake a public enquiry and has refused. Will having a poll change the decision that MP Tim Farron has already made? It was stated that the poll was just a waste of money. |
| **Elector Nos 57** | It was stated that MP Tim Farron had been contacted on numerous occasions but only refers the matter to Mr Lawrence Conway, Chief Executive of SLDC. |
| **Elector Nos 59** | Stated that money should not be spent on a poll. Doesn’t want a car park back. The area is key on the riverside walk and is very supportive of it being a green space. |
| **Elector Nos 22** | A resident of Kendal all his life, a Town Councillor and SLDC Councillor. He stated that many years ago he used New Road to park his vehicle but stopped doing this due to safety issues. He acknowledged that he was aware of all the legal issues,that the car park is deemed unsafe and that parking on New Road is unlawful. There is also the aspect of the Environment Agency to be considered, they may have a view and proposals for the land with regard to flood defences. It was clearly stated that a public consultation will go ahead.  |
| **Elector Nos 20** | Clarified that it is a public enquiry that is wanted not a public consultation. It was stated that the Town Council has a £87K reserve and that money should be used to fund a poll, not an increase in council tax. |
| **Non Parishoner** | Stated that the freehold was obtained by SLDC in 2005. Would like explanation as to why it has taken between 12/13 years and a health and safety report to find out it is uninsurable. |
| **Elector Nos 31** | A resident of Kendal, Town Councillor and leader of SLDC. Welcomed this meeting, he hoped that it would help to dispel some of the misinformation that has been circulated. All the answers to the questions and concerns raised this evening are contained within a document that is available at the back of the room and on the SLDC website. The Council are willing to meet with any individual who has concerns and discuss it. Clarity has to be sought first on the Environment Agency requirements and a public consultation will go ahead. |
| **Elector Nos 61** | Stated that misinformation is only out there because it is felt that SLDC have not given any straight answers to all the questions asked. When will the public consultation take place? |
| **Elector Nos 12**  | SLDC keep stating there will be a public consultation but doesn’t state when. The first public meeting held on the subject in the Town Hall, it was a resounding no to the proposed plans. |
| **Elector Nos 36** | SLDC said they would provide free parking within six weeks of New Road closing. There is still no free parking. |
| **Elector Nos 13** | Said he would second elector nos 12’s proposed question and suggested that the meeting move to vote on the demand for a poll. |
| **Elector Nos 69** | A Town and SLDC Councillor stated that significant measures had been implemented to make parking available for residents and visitors to Kendal. The opinion was split evenly in the Town Hall meeting about the proposed plans for New Road. It is reported that the businesses in Kendal have had the best trading Christmas for a number of years. |
| **Elector Nos 53** | A Kendalian and very proud to be, stated that he didn’t believe a word the Council said. |
| **Elector Nos 45** | Asked why hasn’t the top section of South Lakeland House car park been closed. Parking is now costing £7 a week. Why close public toilets if you want to bring business into Kendal? |
| **Elector Nos 71** | Represents various groups and doesn’t believe this group is representative of the people of Kendal. A small number of people are calling for the vote, this should be taken into consideration. |
| **Elector Nos 52** | Asked will work on New Road cease if a vote on a poll is successful? |
| **Elector Nos 71**  | Stated that the current work being undertaken is the decontamination of the site. |
| **Elector Nos 37** | Who owns the mineral rights to the land? |
| **Elector Nos 19** | Stated the mineral rights are owned by the lord of the manor. |
| **Non Parishoner** | Stated that SLDC have already decided what they are doing with the land with no consultation. |
| **Elector Nos 50** | Confirmed that SLDC are doing the remedial work that has to be done because it’s been a car park |
| **Elector Nos 25** | Asked why if this product is contaminated is it being given to farmers? |
| **Elector Nos 20** | Stated the 1899 Commons Act – traceable to local families in Kendal. He stated CEO of SLDC was unconcerned about this meeting. The rights of commoners should be considered. |
| **Elector Nos 27** | How can a cycle path be built without permission? |
| **Elector Nos 31** | Stated the decontamination was below the tarmac level |
| **Elector Nos 29** | New Road is New Road, why can we park on one side and not the other? |
| **Elector Nos 44** | Only when there was opposition to the removal of the car park was it stated that alternative parking will be provided. |
| **Non Parishoner** | It’s not permitted to ride a bike on common land, yet they are planning to put a cycle track over common land. |
| **Non Parishoner** | They have sided with SLDC, Kendal BID puts a compulsory tax on businesses in Kendal. |
| **Elector Nos 50** | Chair of Kendal BID. BID went to see SLDC, demanded that Council take measures re:parking. BID asked for a public consultation, doesn’t see the point in a vote. |
| **Elector Nos 12** | A business owner in Kendal. Whilst SLDC had the freehold, they are only the custodians of the common land. The common land belongs to the people of Kendal. |
| **Elector Nos 19** | Stated some people are at this meeting because the Council aren’t listening. |
| **Non Parishoner** | Do you realise how many shops are no longer open? |
| **Elector Nos 20** | Everyone has assumed that we are wanting a car park on New Road. This is about the handling of New Road, not parking. |
|  | A question was proposed by Andy Milliard of Yard 2, Strickland Kendal, LA9 4ND.  |
| **QUESTION** | DO YOU WANT OUR WESTMORLAND AND LONSDALE MP TO CALL A PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO ACTIVITIES AND DEALINGS OF NEW ROAD COMMON LAND |
| **SECONDED**  | The question was seconded by Jack Brooke-Battersly of 2 Lambrigg Terrace, Kendal, LA9 4BB. |
| **VOTE** | 52 Voted in favour of the question being used to demand a parish poll.12 voted against the question being used to demand a parish poll. |
| **Conclusion**  | The Mayor of Kendal, Councillor Andy Blackman consented to the demand for a Parish Poll because there was a majority vote. The question will now be forwarded to the Returning Officer at SLDC for verification. |

**The meeting closed at 8.10pm**

*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.*