

Loweswater Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th May 2014 at Loweswater Village Hall

30.14: **Present:** Cllrs: Hayton, Coles, & Leck.

Also in attendance: Cllr. Bowness (CCC), Caroline Easton (Melbreak Communities) and David Smith (Clerk).

31.14: **Apologies:** Cllrs. Walker, Todd, Mitchell and Meadley.

The Vice-Chair, Cllr. Coles asked Cllr. Hayton if he would like to chair the meeting. Cllr. Hayton felt it would be more appropriate were Cllr. Coles to continue. The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

32.14: **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2013:**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 3rd 2012 were read, approved and signed by the Chair.

33.14: **Election of Chairman:**

Cllr. Coles proposed Cllr. Hayton for the position of Chair. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Leck and was unanimously supported by all those present.

34.14: **Election of Vice Chair:**

Cllr. Hayton proposed Cllr. Coles for the position of Vice Chair. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Leck and supported unanimously by all those present.

35.14: **Chairman's Report:**

Cllr. Coles read out the Chairman's Report:

I would like to record my sincere thanks to all Parish Councillors for their unequivocal support over the year. We in turn would say how much we have missed our Chairman, John Hayton, who we are all pleased to see here tonight. Mr. Hayton wanted me to register his thanks for all the support he has received and has told me how much he enjoyed the novel set in Loweswater which we gave him. As you can see, he continues to make significant progress. The news on improving cancer treatment is so very welcome and we hope it augurs well for the future. After seventeen years on the National Park Authority representing the Allerdale area and Loweswater, John has retired from this role; the expertise which he brought to the parish was hugely advantageous to Loweswater Parish.

The Council continues to meet in Loweswater Village Hall every two months and welcomes attendance and participation from the community at all times. If there are items for the agenda please let our Clerk, David Smith, know, or bring to the attention of any of the Council members. Our finances remain of limited nature and we are very cautious regarding any financial outlays.

A major problem for the parish is the upkeep of our roads which are not getting any better despite our constant vigilance and ensuring that telephone calls are made to the Highways department following every Council meeting. We have met with Karl Melville, the Highways & Transport Manager West, and showed him our concerns both in Loweswater and Mockerkin. Some improvements have been made but these tend to be of a parsimonious nature and the infilling of tarmac where holes occur not only takes a long time before work is undertaken, but inevitably is of a temporary nature. Rest assured that any improvements are the result of continuous badgering, letters from our Clerk and contacting the Highways Department by letter and phone.

We have considered four planning applications together with one permitted development during the past year. All details are circulated to members, informal responses are gathered and details are then sent to the Clerk for his written response to the Planning Authority. We always meet the time schedule requested.

Our thanks are due to David Smith, our Parish Clerk, who fulfils his role with enthusiasm, dedication and expertise. He keeps us up to date with all relevant issues and is fastidious and accurate with his documentation, financial records, minutes and agenda.

I thank all parish Councillors for their support over the last year whilst our Chairman has been away and we look forward to him returning to lead us in the near future.

36.14: The End of Year Accounts:

The Clerk presented the End of Year Accounts (see attached) and talked those present through the figures. Total income during the year was £2,221.69p. Total expenditure was £1,859.20p. Together with the balance brought forward from the previous financial year, the balance of the Parish Council account on March 31st 2013 was £1,400.56p. However, the first tranche of the 14/15 precept from Allerdale Borough Council (£1,100.00p) arrived early and the reconciled balance at the end of the financial year was £2,500.56p. In the Business Money Manager Account there was £2,356.70p giving a total balance of £4,857.26p. The figures had been checked and agreed by Mr. D. Walmsley, the internal auditor. There were no questions from those present. The End of Year accounts were formally agreed by the councillors present, together with the annual governance statement contained within the external audit form as completed by the Chair and the Clerk.

The Clerk informed the meeting that Mr. Walmsley was happy to act as the Internal auditor for another year.

37.14: Report from The Melbreak Communities:

Caroline Easton, from the Melbreak Communities Committee, explained that Penny Poole, the Co-ordinator of the group, sent her apologies and had asked him to speak to her report. Highlights of the last year include the Monthly 'Coffee and Cake' events at Yew Tree Hall which have raised more than £500 for local causes, including £200 given to LPC towards the cost of replacing the notice-board at Lorton village crossroads. The Emergency Plan, incorporating a telephone tree to enable people to be alerted quickly in the event of an emergency, is now being coordinated by Steve Irlam. Leaflets containing useful information about what to do in emergency situations were distributed by members of the MC Steering Group to households throughout the Valley. In March, a guided walk at Whitbeck, supported by West Cumbria Rivers Trust, generated an encouraging level of interest among local residents and members of the farming community. A funding application submitted to Age UK West Cumbria in December was successful and the MC Steering Group is currently reviewing options for a project that will benefit older people in the valley. Finally, the Melbreak Communities' AGM will be held at Yew Tree Hall on Wednesday 11 June at 7.30pm and all are welcome.

Caroline, asked the Council to consider sending a representative to the Melbreak Communities meetings whilst Cllr. Hayton was indisposed.

The Chair thanked her for her presentation.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm.

Signed:
Chairman Date

David Smith,
Clerk to Loweswater Parish Council,
Ivy Cottage,
Blennerhasset,
Wigton,
CA7 3QR