

# Loweswater Parish Council

## Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th January 2017 in Loweswater Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs. Mitchell (Chair), Leck, Todd, Walker, Meadley, Astley and Robinson.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Bowness (CCC)

**Also in attendance:** Cllr. Annison (ABC) & David Smith (Clerk).

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **01.17 Declarations of Interest:**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **02.17 Minutes of the previous meeting:**

The minutes of the November meeting were accepted as an accurate record by the councillors present:

Proposed: Cllr. Leck

Seconded: Cllr. Robinson

The Chair duly signed them.

### **03.17 Public Participation:**

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

### **04.17 The Clerk's Report:**

The Clerk reported that after the November meeting he had undertaken the following actions:

- 73.16: Clerk to inform CALC that LPC supports continuing the Parish Forums: Done
- 73.16: Clerk to complete and return the LD Communities Fund form: Done & awarded grant
- 73.16: Cllr. Walker to meet up with Cath Johnston re: degradation of peat fells: Not done (see below)
- 74.16: Clerk & Cllr. Bowness to raise this issue with Cumbria Highways: Done
- 75.16: Clerk to contact ABC again to find out what is happening with street-light opposite Dancing Pastures: Done and assurances given
- 76.16: Cllr. Annison to provide Cllrs with an update on Mockerkin Hall: ongoing
- 76.16: Clerk to send letter of thanks to Mr. Starkie: Done
- 77.16: Clerk to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner re; new style Police Report: Done (see below)
- 78.16: Clerk to inform ABC that there would be no increase in the precept: Done
- 82.16: Clerk to request the return of the bin to the lay-by between Waterend and Loweswater Hall and a visit from the road sweeper for the Parish: Done but no response
- 82.16: Clerk and Chair to meet with the new highways engineer for the area: Done

**ACTION: Clerk to contact Cath Johnston (LDNPA) re visit to Cllr. Walker.**

**ACTION: Clerk to contact ABC again requesting return of waste bin.**

Cumbria Highways: see agenda item below

Mockerkin Issues: The Clerk reported that the officer from Allerdale dealing with the matter of the street-light opposite Dancing Pastures had gone on maternity leave and that a new officer was now dealing with the issue and had apologised for the delay in getting the light back in working order.

**ACTION: Clerk to chase up again.**

The Notice-boards Project: The Clerk reported that both the grants from Allerdale BC and Melbreak Communities were now in the PC account. Confirmation has been received from both the LDNPA Communities Fund and Awards for All that the applications to them for funding had been successful. The project fund now stands at £3,200 as follows:

- Allerdale BC: £2,000
- Melbreak Communities: £300
- LD Communities Fund: £500
- Awards for All: £400

A vote of thanks was given to Cllr. Annison for his assistance in obtaining the grant from Allerdale BC.

The Clerk passed round a quote from a local joinery firm and there followed a discussion regarding the number of quotes required. It was agreed that there should be a minimum of three quotes sought.

**ACTION: Clerk to request quotes from other local joiners.**

A list of correspondence received, as below, was read out and duly noted by councillors.

<b>Correspondence</b>	<b>For information</b>	<b>For action</b>
LDNPA Allerdale Members Report: Oct & Nov	X	
CALC Newsletter: Nov & Dec/Jan	X	
Discussion document 2: Insurance cover Melbreak Communities	X	
Letter from LDNPA confirming grant of £500	X	
Letter from PCC re: new style Police Reports	X	
Response from Cumbria Highways re: Old Mosser Road	X	

**05.17: Chairman's Announcements:**

Cllr. Mitchell informed the meeting that she had attended the CALC NW Connections meeting and that a letter had been sent from the Parish Council as part of the consultation process asking that both the proposed new power lines, north and south, be put underground.

The local NHS Success Regime consultation had also been responded to by the Parish Council raising concerns about the proposal to move various services from Whitehaven to Carlisle.

An email has been received from Vodafone seeking to place equipment in the defibrillator phone box that would enhance the mobile signal in the area. A response has been sent explaining that BT still own the box.

Cllr. Leck reported back from a visit to Terrace Farm to view the recently installed hydro project which will pay for itself within a 10 to 12 year period.

**06.17: Update from Borough Councillor:**

Cllr. Annison reported that he was currently involved in the development of a new constitution for the Borough Council. Cllr. Annison also reported that in the Allerdale Council Plan 17/18 it was proposed that large swathes of land, some of which was within the National Park, should be made available for further wind turbine development. He informed the meeting that the Conservative group on the Council would oppose this proposal.

As part of the restructuring proposal for the Council that will see a reduction in Councillor numbers by 7, a number of proposals to change the make-up of his Crummock Ward had been put forward but he was opposing these suggestions.

There was little new to report on developments at Mockerkin Hall and it is possible that a compulsory purchase order may be the only way forward for dealing with the situation.

**ACTION: Cllr. Annison to provide Councillors with an update on Mockerkin Hall.**

#### **07.17 Finance:**

The Clerk informed the meeting that the balance of the main account as of the most recent bank statement dated 15th December 2016 was £4,987.25p with all payments agreed at the last meeting having cleared through the account, including a payment to Loweswater Village Hall of £75.00p made between meetings, and the two grants from Melbreak Communities and Allerdale BC having been paid into the account. The balance of the reserve account was £2,361.49p thus giving a total balance of £7,348.74p

The Clerk reported that the following payments were outstanding:

- i. D. Smith Salary Qtr3: £293.20p
- ii. D. Smith Expenses Qtr 3: £72.00p
- iii. HMRC PAYE Qtr 3: £63.20p

Councillors agreed to these payments.

**ACTION: Clerk to send out all payments.**

#### **08.17 Planning:**

There was one new planning application to consider:

Ref: 7/2016/2312  
Location: Grasmoor House, Loweswater CA13 0RU  
Proposal: Extension & alterations to dwelling house  
Reply by: 11th January 2017

After some discussion it was agreed that a response of 'No Objections' should be sent with a covering note stating that some concerns had been raised regarding the 'fit' of the extension into its surroundings and possible further developments on this site.

**ACTION: Clerk to inform the LDNPA of the views of the Council.**

#### **09.17 Report from the Police:**

The Clerk read out the response from the Police & Crime Commissioner to the complaint about the new format of the Police Report. The response indicated that Cumbria police were still developing their web systems.

The Clerk talked councillors through the report from the Police explaining that, according to the website there had been no incidents in the parish in November. He also explained that he had not been able to access the road traffic incidents website.

#### **10.17 Highways issues:**

Cumbria Highways: The Clerk, Cllr. Mitchell and Cllr. Leck reported back from their meeting with John Smitham, the new Highways Engineer for the area, and Ian Mayson who is in charge of the gully cleaning team for the area. They had all driven around the parish with the councillors showing the officers the various

highways issues that were outstanding, a list of which is given below. We were assured that work on these would be undertaken shortly. Councillors reported that little work had been undertaken since the tour.

1. Pot hole has re-emerged at the top of Fangs Brow.
2. 'Slow' signs on the road in the Waterend area need to be re-painted.
3. The gully under the road in the Pinfold area needs to be cleared.
4. Gullies in the vicinity of Church Bridge and the Kirkstile need to be cleared.
5. Uneven road surface beyond Thrushbank
6. Breaking away of the road edge and associated pot holes on the Mockerkin to Fangs road
7. Flooding in the Pinfold area due to blockages
8. Pinchpoint in Mockerkin - larger lorries
9. Blockages in the beck under the bridge at Waterend
10. Various blocked gullies

**ACTION: Clerk to contact John Smitham and ask for an update on the issues raised.**

The Clerk had also requested that the road sweeper visit the Parish but has been told by James Irving from Allerdale BC that because of cut backs they, Allerdale BC, only had one large road sweeper and three smaller ones. The large one was the one that would be used for the rural parishes but he had been told to prioritise the three towns in which flooding was bound to be an issue in the coming months, i.e. Cockermouth, Keswick and Workington, where homes would be under direct threat. He stated that he would aim to get Loweswater and Buttermere done early in the new year.

A response has been received from Cumbria Highways stating that they would install a 'Don't Follow Your Sat Nav' sign at the Cockermouth end of the old Mosser Road. It also stated that Cumbria Highways engineers would inspect the road in the coming weeks. It was noted that yet another vehicle had become stuck on the road on December 21st.

**ACTION Clerk to forward the response to Roger Hiley.**

Addition highways concerns raised by Councillors were:

- Blocked drain at bottom of Fangs Brow on the right leading to ice on the road when conditions are frozen.
- Large pothole on the Sosgill Road just beyond the last house.
- Blocked gulley to the east of Thrushbank
- Drains/gullies by Stonebarns, Mockerkin full of silt.

**ACTION: Clerk to report the above to Cumbria Highways.**

### **11.17 Melbreak Communities Update:**

Cllr. Mitchell reported that there had been a good turn-out at the Coffee morning in Lorton at which Community Renewable Energy projects were discussed.

The Clerk confirmed that he had responded once again re: insurance cover for the Melbreak Communities group and had once again suggested that the only way forward was for the group to take out their own insurance cover.

Upcoming meetings are: January 17th: Cllr. Robinson is to attend on behalf of the Council.

**12.17 Date of next meeting: Thursday 2nd March 2017 at 8.00pm.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_