

Loweswater Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th July 2017 in Loweswater Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Mitchell (Chair), Leck, Meadley, & Thompson

Apologies: Cllrs. Robinson, Todd & Astley. Cllr. Bowness (CCC).

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

47.17 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest.

48.17 Minutes of the previous meeting:

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

Proposed: Cllr. Meadley

Seconded: Cllr. Leck

The Chair duly signed them.

49.17 Public Participation:

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

50.17 The Clerk's Report:

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

38.17: Clerk to register Loweswater PC with pension provider: Done

41.17: Clerk to send out all payments: Done

42.17: Clerk to inform the LDNPA of the views of the Council: Done

42.17: Clerk to contact LDNPA Compliance Officer to raise concerns re: Crabtreebeck Cottage: Done and response received: LDNPA content with progress on the site.

44.17: Clerk to report concerns to highways Hotline: Done

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

Correspondence	For information	For action
CALC Newsletter May and June	X	
Report from Allerdale Parishes LDNPA member: April, May & June	X	
Confirmation from Zurich that PC is covered by insurance	X	
Pensions regulator: Acknowledgement of declaration of compliance	X	
Household Emergency Planning leaflets from ACT	X	
Electoral review of Allerdale: Final recommendations	X	
Email from NW Connections project confirming halt in progress	X	
Big Lottery questionnaire	X	X
CALC Member Satisfaction survey	X	X

All relevant emails were forwarded to Councillors.

Mockerkin update: The street-light at Sosgill has been replaced.

Thackthwaite Green: The Clerk is to meet up with Mr. Airey, the contractor, on the site to discuss what needs to be done.

ACTION: Clerk to meet up with the contractor on site.

The Notice-boards Project: The contractor has stated that the boards should be installed during the coming month. Cllr. Annison stated that the Council should consider asking the Leader of Allerdale BC, Cllr. Smith, to officially unveil the new boards. This was agreed by the Councillors present.

The Chair confirmed that, when removed, the Mockerkin notice-board would be donated to Lorton Tennis Club for their club house.

ACTION: Once the new boards have been installed, an unveiling session will be arranged.

51.17: Chairman's Announcements:

Cllr. Mitchell thanked Cllr. Thompson for agreeing to be the Loweswater PC representative on the Melbreak Communities Group.

The latest update on the delivery of fibre broadband to the Mockerkin area has stated that the village will be surveyed this year with possible roll-out in 2018/19.

The Clerk has contacted Allerdale BC Planning Dept. regarding a rectangular structure that has appeared on Mockerkin Tarn. The planning officers were not aware of the installation and will investigate further.

52.17: Update from the Borough Councillor:

The Chair welcomed back Cllr. Annison who has missed recent meeting due to illness.

Cllr. Annison thanked the Chair for her comments. He went on to report that the Boundary Commission had recommended the break-up of the Crummock Ward, the ward for which he is Councillor. The aim of the changes is to reduce the number of Allerdale BC Councillors from 56 to 49. Each of the revised wards is to have a population of approximately 1,500 electors. Crummock ward has 1,100 electors, thus the re-structuring. Loweswater Parish will be incorporated into a ward named Crummock and Derwent.

The Scrutiny Committees, Corporate and Community, have been combined under a new chairperson following the concerns raised by Cllr. Annison about the lack of independence of the committees.

Cllr. Annison said that he understood that work was currently being undertaken at Mockerkin Hall and this was confirmed by Councillors. There was some uncertainty as to whether the scope of the work being undertaken would include the outbuildings.

Cllr. Leck asked if Cllr. Annison could chase up again the missing wheelie-bin from the lay-by at Waterend. Cllr. Annison confirmed that he would look into this matter.

ACTION: Cllr. Annison to chase up the missing wheelie-bin from the car park/lay-by at Waterend.

53.17: Finance:

The Clerk informed the meeting that the balance of the main account as of the most recent bank statement dated 15th June 2017 was £5,395.48p with all payments agreed at the last meeting having cleared through the account. The balance of the reserve account was £2,361.97p thus giving a total balance of £7,757.45p

The Clerk reported that the following payments were outstanding:

i. D. Smith - Clerk's salary Qtr1 17/18:	£293.20p
ii. HMRC PAYE Qtr1 17/18:	£63.20p
iii. D.Smith Expenses Qtr1 17/18:	£105.90p

Councillors agreed to these payments. Taking the above payments into account, the total reconciled balance of the two accounts as of 6th July 2017 was £7,295.15p.

ACTION: Clerk to send out all payments.

54.17: Planning:

There was one new planning application to consider.

Ref: 7/2017/2147
 Location: Grasmoor House, Loweswater CA13 0RU
 Proposal: Installation of package sewage treatment plant to replace existing septic tank including associated drainage and buried gas (propane) tank to replace existing above ground gas tank.
 Reply by: 20th July 2017

Councillors agreed that they had 'No Objections' to the application.

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

One planning application had been dealt with between meetings:

Ref: 2/2017/0240
 Applicant: Mr. Peter Brown
 Proposal: Conversion and extension of former barn to form 4 bed residential dwelling.
 Location: Tarn Banks, Mockerkin
 Reply by: 31st May 2017

An **objection** to the application was submitted on behalf of the Council citing the following reasons:

1. The large size of the extension within a comparatively small area, causing loss of light to adjacent houses, as well as impacting on privacy of neighbours
2. Traffic and pedestrian safety issues with vehicles entering / exiting the property - gateway is on a bend of a narrow road; there is also a potential issue with increased noise from vehicles, impacting on adjacent property owners.
3. Potential impact on the right of access to back wall of neighbours property for repairs etc
4. Doubts regarding the extent of the property boundary to the roadside
5. It is thought that there is a covenant in-situ preventing structures / buildings being erected that likely covers the proposed development area.

The Chair read out a copy of a letter sent to the Planning Authority by a local resident objecting to the application for a variety of reasons including loss of light, loss of privacy, increased flooding risk and a covenant covering the land on which the proposed development is to take place.

There followed a discussion regarding the 'No objections' response to the above application from a number of Councillors. It was agreed that when considering planning applications in the future the views of the Councillors who live closest to the proposed development should be taken into consideration by the other Councillors.

55.17: The CALC Survey:

The Chair introduced the CALC satisfaction survey which all Councillors had received a copy of. It was agreed that only the most relevant sections would be discussed in the meeting and that the Clerk would complete

the remaining sections of the survey prior to returning it to CALC. Most Councillors receive emails and newsletters via the Clerk and all were happy that this method of communication continued rather than each individual Councillor being placed on the CALC mailing list. It became clear that the Clerk and the Chair were the individuals who most used the CALC service, though most of the Councillors had received their initial training via CALC.

ACTION: Clerk to complete the survey and return it to CALC.

56.17: Report from the Police:

The Clerk reported that, according to the police website there had been one reported incident in the parish, though the website had not been updated since the end of April. The incident was classed as a robbery and was probably referring to the theft of tools from contractors working on Crabtreebeck Cottage as reported at the May meeting.

57.17: Highways issues:

Highways concerns previously raised by Councillors but not yet dealt with:

- Pothole has re-emerged at Thrushbank
- The road from Kirkstile to Muncaster House needs attention and preferably re-surfacing
- 2 replacement grit bins are required for Mockerkin (1 has been installed, a second is still required for the entrance to Mockerkin from the Loweswater end)
- Do not follow your sat nav sign for Mosser Road end.

One new concern was raised and this was the cutting back of the vegetation along the road side all the along Fangs Brow.

ACTION: Clerk to report the above to Cumbria Highways.

58.17: Melbreak Communities Update:

Cllr. Thompson informed the meeting that the group was now ready to re-launch the Emergency Plan which would be delivered to every house in the four parishes. Unfortunately, Mockerkin seems to have been missed off the previous plan but it has been agreed that the details of those Mockerkin residents willing to be contacts can be added to the plan using self-adhesive labels.

Some funding had been successfully applied for and with it a number of hydro snakes and sacks had been purchased. Currently stored in boxes in The Yew Tree Hall, there was some discussion as to where would be the best place to store some of them in Loweswater. The next Coffee morning is being run by Lorton Gardening Club and will take place on Saturday 15th July.

ACTION: Cllr. Thompson to put together the list of Mockerkin contacts.

ACTION: Cllr. Mitchell to ask the Chair of the Village Hall Committee if it would be possible to store some of the hydro snakes & sacks.

59.17: Date of next meeting:

Thursday 7th September 2017 at 8.00pm.

Signed: _____

Chair

Date: _____