

Loweswater Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th May 2017 in Loweswater Village Hall

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

Apologies: Cllr. Robinson.

Also in attendance: Cllr. Bowness (CCC) and David Smith (Clerk).

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

35.17 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest.

36.17 Minutes of the previous meeting:

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

Proposed: Cllr. Astley

Seconded: Cllr. Meadley

The Chair duly signed them.

37.17 Public Participation:

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

38.17 The Clerk's Report:

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

16.17: Clerk to inform ABC of the resignation of Cllr. Walker: Done

16.17: Councillor Vacancy notices to be issued: Done

19.17: Clerk to send out all payments: Done

20.17: Clerk to inform the successful firm re: notice-boards: Done and met up with contractor.

22.17: Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Cumbria highways for recent work done: Done

22.17: Clerk to chase up the additional sign for the Old Mosser Road: Done and informed that an order had been placed for the sign. No date given as to when it will be installed.

22.17: 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 March & April	X	
Letter from Allerdale BC re: vacancy and co-option	X	X
Report from Allerdale Parishes LDNPA member: Feb & March	X	
Notice of first payment of 17/18 Precept from ABC	X	
Letter from John Bercow MP re: UK Parliament Week	X	
Information pack from Zurich Insurance	X	X
Letter re: Pension Registration	X	X
LDNPA Call for development sites	X	

Mockerkin update: A street-light at Sosgill has been, or is about to be, removed. An official request for a replacement has been made and this has been agreed.

Thackthwaite Green: Local residents have been in touch concerned that the usual annual maintenance visit has not been undertaken. The contractor will undertake the work once lambing has finished.

Employee Pension Scheme: Though there is no requirement for the Council to provide the Clerk with a pension, Councillors do have to choose a pension scheme and register with it so that it may be used at some future date. The recommendation is to choose the NEST Scheme which is the one set up by the Government. Councillors agreed to accept the recommendation of the Clerk.

ACTION: Clerk to register Loweswater Parish Council with the pension provider.

The Notice-boards Project: Mark Szandurski from W.S. Reid Ltd. has now visited all four sites for the new boards and does not foresee any problems with installing the new boards. It was agreed that the new boards should be the same dimensions as the old ones.

39.17: Chairman's Announcements:

Cllr. Mitchell reported back from LDNPA Parishes Partnership meeting held on March 13th in Thirlmere Recreation Hall. There had been a number of topics covered and these included Cumbria Tourism, the LDNPA Partnership Group, The Local Plan and updates were given on the World Heritage bid, with a decision expected in July, and the NW Coastal Connections project, the consultation for which had received over 8,000 responses. It was stated at the meeting that there will be a probable delay in the commencement of the Coastal Connections project due to the financial problems that Toshiba are currently experiencing.

Cllr. Thompson stated that she had recently attended a meeting in Mockerkin regarding fibre broadband and that a small delegation of residents from the village would be attending a meeting in Carlisle in the near future with Connecting Cumbria and BT.

40.17: Update from County Councillor:

Cllr. Bowness reported that as a result of the damage caused in Cumbria by Storm Desmond the highways budget for the next four years would be £18m per year in Allerdale rather than the £4m it had been. He said that this was really good news for the district and should enable Cumbria highways to resurface most of the road network during the coming years.

He also informed the meeting that there was a new website, HIMS, for reporting highways concerns which should enable people to click on a map to indicate precisely where the concern was. The new Area Engineer for Allerdale is Amber Sykes who has taken over from David Harrison.

41.17 Finance:

The Clerk informed the meeting that the balance of the main account as of the most recent bank statement dated 15th April 2017 was £5,755.45p with all payments agreed at the last meeting having cleared through the account and the first precept payment having been made by Allerdale BC. The balance of the reserve account was £2,361.49p thus giving a total balance of £8,116.94p

The Clerk reported that the following payments were outstanding:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| i. CALC Annual Subscription 17/18: | £108.12p |
| ii. Zurich Municipal Insurance 17/18: | £251.85p |

Councillors agreed to these payments. Taking the above payments into account, the total reconciled balance of the two accounts as of 4th May 2017 was £7,756.97p.

ACTION: Clerk to send out all payments.

42.17 Planning:

There was one new planning application to consider.

Ref: 7/2017/2097
Location: Gillerthwaite, Loweswater CA13 0RU
Proposal: Extensions & alterations (revised scheme)
Reply by: 18th May 2017

After some discussion it was agreed that a response of '**No Objections**' should be sent with a covering note indicating that some Councillors felt that the proposed size of the extension was too big and might dominate the immediate vicinity.

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

Councillors were asked to note:

Notices of Planning Permission granted:

7/2017/2006: Crabtreebeck Cottage: listed building consent & planning permission

7/2017/2008: Gillerthwaite: extensions & alterations

The works currently being undertaken on Crabtreebeck Cottage were discussed with some concerns being expressed about the works carried out on the listed barn and the apparent complexity of the other works, contractors having been on site since November.

ACTION: Clerk to contact LDNPA Compliance Officer to raise the above concerns.

43.17 Report from the Police:

The Clerk reported that, according to the police website there had been no reported incidents in the parish, though the website had not been updated since the end of February. Councillors were aware of two recent incidents occurring in the Parish:

- Theft of oil from a house in Mockerkin
- Theft of tools from contractors working on Crabtreebeck Cottage

44.17 Highways issues:

It was noted that the road between Mockerkin and Fangs brow had been resurfaced since the last meeting.

Cllr. Leck informed the meeting that Cumbria Highways were to undertake strengthening work on the bridge by The Grange.

Additional highways concerns raised by Councillors were:

- 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

ACTION: Clerk to report the above to Cumbria Highways.

45.17 Melbreak Communities Update:

Cllr. Mitchell read out a report from Cllr. Robinson who had attended the most recent meeting of the Melbreak Communities group, the AGM, on behalf of the Council. Among items covered at the meeting were the adoption of the financial statement for 16/17, an update on website usage, an update on the Emergency Plan and an update on the Community Energy project. The election of officers took place with Chris Poate agreeing to continue as Chair and Carolyn Davis agreeing to remain as Secretary and, due to a lack of volunteers, Treasurer. There was also an update given by Liz Roberts on the Lorton Oil Group whose 27 members are currently saving 4.6p per litre through their membership.

The date of the next meeting is July 12th and Cllr. Thompson has agreed to attend on behalf of the Council.

46.17 Date of next meeting:

Thursday 6th July 2017 at 8.00pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chair

David Smith, Clerk to Loweswater Parish Council Tel: 016973 23296 Mob: 07742 224775 Email: loweswaterparishclerk@gmail.com