

Loweswater Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th November 2014 at Loweswater Village Hall

81.14 **Present:** Cllrs: Coles, Leck, Mitchell, Walker, Meadley & Todd.
One member of the public was present.

82.14 **Apologies:** Cllr Hayton.

Cllr. Coles, the Chair for the meeting, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

83.14 **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

84.14 **Minutes of previous meeting:**

The minutes of the September meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record by all the councillors present.

The Chair duly signed them.

85.14 **Public Participation:**

1. It was reported that the street light at the end of the road on which Mockerkin Hall stands, Chestnut Grove, is not working.
2. Concerns have been expressed by local residents regarding stones from Mockerkin Hall falling onto the highway.
3. Due to the extraction of timber from nearby plantations there is a large amount of mud on the Thackthwaite Road. It is unclear whose responsibility it is to remove the mud from the road.

ACTION: Clerk to report items 1 and 2 to Allerdale BC. Clerk and Councillors to try and find out who the land-owner is whose trees are being removed.

86.14 **Clerk's Report:**

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

- 75.14: Clerk to send out payments: Done.
- 78.14: Clerk and Councillors to report issues previously highlighted to the Highways Hotline: Done and informed that most of these works have now been undertaken.

The Clerk reported that the following correspondence had been received since the last meeting:

Correspondence	For information	For action
CALC October & November Newsletters	X	
Request for funding from Great North Air Ambulance	X	X
LDNPA Allerdale Parishes Representative: Report x 2	X	
LDNPA Partnership Plan: Draft for comment	X	X
CCC Budget Consultation 15/16	X	X
CALC Invitation to AGM	X	X

After some discussion it was agreed that, on this occasion, the council could not afford a donation to the Great North Air Ambulance.

87.14 Chairman's Announcements:

Cllr. Coles informed the meeting that he had visited Cllr. Hayton in Cockermouth Hospital. The Chairman, John Hayton, had indicated that he felt he should resign from the Council. It was agreed that this issue should be revisited again at the January meeting.

Future Agendas: Cllr. Coles asked the councillors present that if they had any items they wished to discuss at a meeting then they should let the Clerk know two weeks before the meeting so that he could add them to the agenda. He also asked councillors to let the Clerk know if they were unable to attend a meeting and give their apologies.

Letter from Michael Barron: Cllr. Coles reminded councillors of the email from Mr. Barron in which he offered a bench, in memory of his late wife, to the Parish Council for placement in the parish to be used by both visitors and residents. There followed a discussion about the potential liabilities of taking up such an offer, e.g. maintenance and insurance costs, and where it would be possible to situate the bench. It was eventually agreed that because of the potential costs to the council and the fact that there was no suitable council owned land in the parish to place a bench, a letter would be sent to Mr. Barron politely declining his offer, explaining why and suggesting he contact the national trust to offer them the bench.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Mr. Barron on this issue.

Mockerkin Village Green: The Clerk explained that further to the discussion at the September meeting he had now received an invoice from Mr. Steel in relation to the petrol used for strimming parts of the Mockerkin Village Green. There followed a discussion regarding the need for any payment as Mr. Steel was getting free grazing for his horse. Other points raised included the poor state of the green as a result of the grazing and horse muck left on the site, thus discouraging use of the area by other residents, and the question of insurance cover should the horse hurt someone on the green. The Clerk confirmed that the council had indemnity insurance but, because of the uncertainty over ownership of the land until recently, the Village Green was not specifically identified in the insurance policy.

All those present agreed that the current situation was far from ideal and that alternative solutions to the maintenance of the village green should be looked at for the 2015 season.

It was proposed that a cheque for £20 be issued to Mr. Steel to cover his expenses for this current season. A vote was taken on this proposal with 4 councillors being in favour of this expenditure and 2 councillors being opposed.

Mockerkin & Loweswater Roads & Drainage: Cllr. Coles explained that he would be meeting up with Paul Telford from Cumbria Highways on the 7th November and he asked councillors what they would like him to highlight during his tour of the parish. The following issues were raised:

- The main road between the village hall and Thrushbank, pot holes, uneven surface and blocked drains.
- The road by the Pinfold always wet and flooded
- Blocked drains and gullies by Loweswater Hall

- Blocked drains and gullies by Cllr. Walkers farm causing stability problems with an adjacent wall.
- Drainage problems by Dancing Pastures.

(Subsequently Cllr. Coles reported that he had met with Paul Telford and that the following had been agreed: The blocked gullies and drains reported above would be dealt with by the Gully Cleaning sub-contractor during the third week in December. The issue at The Grange required works by the land-owner and would be completed by Mr. and Mrs. K. Meadley. A check would be made when gully cleaning had been undertaken to ensure that the gully under the road, from the Grange Hotel, was clear of detritus. Resurfacing work on the road and replacement drainage would be inserted alongside Beechcroft Farm in Mockerkin. Since the Mockerkin Road outside the farm will need to be closed for this work to be undertaken, advance warning has to be given to the Local Authority. This work has been booked in for 16th - 21st March 2015.

88.14 Draft Budget 2015/16:

The Clerk had previously sent out to each councillor a copy of the proposed budget for 2015/16. He talked the meeting through each of the budget headings explaining that there would be an election next May and what the associated costs would be of an uncontested election as compared with a contested election. There then followed a discussion on grounds maintenance and in particular the maintenance of Mockerkin Village Green (see above). It was eventually agreed that there would need to be an increase in the precept of £250 this coming financial year and probably a further similar increase the following year to cover the costs of increased grounds maintenance responsibilities. It was thus agreed that the precept for 2015/16 should be £2,450.

89.14 Council Finance:

The Clerk reported that the balance as per the bank statement 15/10/14 for the main account, having now received the second part of the precept (£1,100.00) was £2,358.31p. The amount in the Business Money Manager Account was £2,357.52p thus giving a total balance of £4,715.83p.

There was one payment to be agreed:

Mr. H.W. Steel – grounds maintenance:	£20.00
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The above payment were agreed by the majority of councillors.

Taking the above payment into account, the reconciled balance for the main account, as of 6th November 2014, is £2,338.31p, which together with the reserve account balance gives a total balance of £4,695.83p.

ACTION: Clerk to send out payment.

90.14 Planning Matters:

There was one new planning application to discuss:

7/2014/2267; Iredale Place Farm, Loweswater - construction of self-contained sheep shed. After some discussion it was agreed that there were 'No Objections' to this application though the planting of a screening hedge was suggested.

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

Planning Applications dealt with between meetings as below:

Ref: 7/2014/2230
Location: Miresyke, Loweswater, Cockermouth CA13 0SU
Proposal: Single storey kitchen/dining extension to existing house

The following response was sent to the LDNPA Planning Dept.:
Loweswater Parish Council wish to '**Object**' in the strongest possible terms to this application which is viewed as being completely inappropriate to an important listed building in the Loweswater valley. This extension would damage the integrity of this Grade 11 listed building and there seems to absolutely no justification for it. We must protect our heritage in this corner of the National Park.

Ref: 7/2014/2226
Location: High Park, Loweswater, Cockermouth CA13 0RU
Proposal: Part conversion to provide guest room and essential repair work to existing structure

The following response was sent to the LDNPA Planning Dept.:
Loweswater Parish Council wish to '**Object**' to this application on the grounds that it would damage an important listed building in an important area of the National Park both in terms of conservation and heritage. The vernacular buildings of the Loweswater valley are of huge importance nationally and locally and their listed status was given to protect them from just such proposals as these.

91.14 Report from the Police:

PCSO Sarah Brown had submitted her apologies as she was not on shift at the time of the meeting. The report she supplied stated that there had been six incidents in the Parish since the September meeting, but because of the nature of the incidents she was unable to provide the council with further details.

92.14 Highways Matters:

Councillors reported that the resurfacing and drainage work on the Mockerkin to Pardshaw road had now been completed and a good job had been done.

All the other highways related issues were covered in agenda items above.

ACTION: Cllr Coles to report to the clerk on the outcome of his meeting with Paul Telford.

93.14 Melbreak Communities Update:

The Clerk informed the meeting that there was little new to report. The organisation was still looking to recruit a new co-ordinator to replace Penny Poole and a new chair to replace John Hayton. The Coffee & Cake mornings continued to be well supported. The group were still looking for ideas on how to spend funds allocated to them by Age UK.

94.14 Date of next meeting:

Thursday 8th January 2015 in Loweswater Village Hall at 8.00pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date

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

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