

Loweswater Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on:

Thursday 3rd September 2015 at Loweswater Village Hall

68.15 **Present:** Cllrs: Mitchell (Chair), Leck, Meadley, Robinson & Todd.

Also in attendance: Cllr. Annison (ABC), Cllr. Bowness (CCC) & David Smith (Clerk).

69.15 **Apologies:** Cllrs. Astley & Walker.

Cllr. Mitchell, the Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

70.15 **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

71.15 **Minutes of previous meeting:**

The minutes of the July meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record as:

Proposed: Cllr. Meadley

Seconded: Cllr. Leck

The Chair duly signed them.

72.15 **Public Participation:**

No items were raised under this agenda item.

73.15 **Clerk's Report:**

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

- 60.15: Cllrs Mitchell and Todd to contact local people regarding ownership of Mockerkin Village Green: Done - see below
- 60.15: Clerk to contact the Common Land Records Dept.: Done - see below
- 61.15: Clerk to send out all payments: Done
- 64.15: Clerk to report issues of concern to Highways Hotline: Done
- 64.15: Clerk to meet up with ABC officer re: street-light: Done - see below

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

Correspondence	For information	For action
Cumbria Trust GDF: Call for evidence	X	X
LDNPA Allerdale Members Report: June, July & August	X	
CALC Newsletter: July/August	X	
LDNPA Parishes Forum minutes	X	
LDNPA Affordable Housing guidance	X	

Mockerkin Village Green: The Clerk reported that he had now visited the Cumbria County Council Records and Archives Dept. in Carlisle. He had been shown the Registers of Common Land in Cumbria in which Mockerkin Green was recorded. The registration number for the plot of land is CL 159, the land was registered in 1969 by the then Clerk of Loweswater Parish Council, Mr. J. B. Sergeant. The registration of Mockerkin Green as Common Land was undisputed and became final on 1st August 1972. In 1976 a right of way across the land was granted to access the adjacent dwelling.

All 'Common Land' in Cumbria falls under the oversight of Cumbria County Council. Mockerkin Green is not a registered village green and is not owned by the Parish Council (no one owns registered 'Common Land').

There followed some discussion with regard to the Green and the responsibility of the Parish Council. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the November meeting when budget setting for the following financial year.

The issue of the ownership of the land at Thackthwaite that the Parish Council currently pays to be maintained was raised.

ACTION: The Clerk to look into who owns the land at Thackthwaite.

Mockerkin Street-light: The Clerk reported that he had met with David Bryden from Allerdale BC and he had agreed that the light in Mockerkin should be replaced. He will need the agreement of the land owner to the placement of a new pole next to the ENW pole that the light was originally on. Cllr. Mitchell reported that she had contacted the land owner, Mike Starkey of Chestnut Grove, and he had agreed to the placement of the new lighting pole in his garden.

ACTION: Clerk to inform ABC of the agreement of the land-owner and provide them with his contact details.

74.15 Chairman's Announcements:

The Chair read out the 'Thank you' card received from Roger Coles as a result of the gift presented to him in recognition of his long service to the Council.

An email has been received from Rosamund Macfarlane with regard to the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) and the recent changes to the planning laws that will now give the final say on any GDF related planning application to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The recently received GDF Call for Evidence was discussed by councillors and it was agreed that the Parish Council should send in a response to the Office for Nuclear Development.

ACTION: The Clerk is to complete the paperwork re: The Call for Evidence, circulate it to councillors for their comments prior to submitting it to the OND

75.15 Report from the Borough Councillor:

Cllr. Anison provided an update on Mockerkin Hall in which he stated that officers at ABC were now really pursuing this matter. Officers have confirmed that they visited the property and have identified what requirements they could ask for to improve the properties external appearance. It is the intention of ABC to serve an untidy site notice (Section 215 notice) to ensure these improvements are carried out if there is no agreement with the owner. Officers are also to consider the use of a building preservation notice with regards to other works to the building.

Cllr. Annison reported that as a member of the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee he was keen to find examples of good practice in the provision of services for elderly people living in rural areas. He stated that much of the work undertaken by the Melbreak Communities group with elderly people was being used as an exemplar but he needed other examples if they were available.

Councillors were reminded that if they had any ideas for community projects requiring capital expenditure, £5k to £10k, then he would be pleased to help try to access funding through the Borough Council. He confirmed that the Parish Council would be an acceptable applicant. There followed a discussion with regard to the state of the notice-boards within the Parish and whether their replacement might be a suitable case for funding.

ACTION: Cllr. Annison to send photos of notice-board in Thursby and Clerk to send out information on different types of board.

The meeting was informed that the idea of two unitary authorities for Cumbria, north and south, was gaining ground within the Conservative Party in Cumbria and he would be pleased to hear views on this proposal.

County Councillor Bowness informed the meeting about a scheme to install defibrillators into phone-boxes that had been used less than 250 times in the last twelve months. The phones would be left in the box and would be able to be used to phone the emergency services.

He confirmed that a new sign would be installed on the Mosser Road informing users that it was not suitable for motor vehicles beyond that point. Councillor Bowness doubted that there would be money in the Highways budget for repairs to the road and he thought that it be declassified in the future.

76.15 Council Finance:

The Clerk reported that the balance in the main account, with all cheques cleared, as per the bank statement 15/08/15 was £1,983.80p. The amount in the Business Money Manager Account was £2,359.16p thus giving a total balance of £4,342.96p.

There were five payments to be agreed:

D. Smith Salary Qtr 2:	£252.35p
HMRC - PAYE Qtr 2:	£53.00p
D. Smith Expenses Qtr 2:	£60.67p
Richard McCree Grounds Maintenance July & August:	£120.00p
T.W. Airey Grounds Maintenance Thackthwaite:	£138.00p

The above payments were agreed by councillors.

The reconciled balance of the Council accounts as of September 3rd 2015 was £1,359.78p in the main account which, together with the monies in the reserve account, gave a total reconciled balance of £3,718.94p.

ACTION: Clerk to send out all payments.

77.15 Planning Matters:

There were no new planning applications to discuss.

One planning application has been dealt with between meetings:

Ref: 7/2015/2151
Location: Crabtreebeck, Loweswater CA13 ORU
Proposal: Conversion of a redundant barn to dwelling

A response of 'No Objections' was sent on 11th August 2015.

The Chair thanked councillors for their swift response to dealing with the above application.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the applicants had thanked councillors for their support in this matter.

78.15 Report from the Police:

A report from the Police had been received in which it was stated that there had been five incidents in the parish reported to the police since the July meeting. It was further stated that the only incident of public interest was a burglary where a quantity of jewelry was stolen from a house and that enquiries were conducted and crime prevention advice given.

79.15 Highways Matters:

Cllr. Leck sought some clarifications with regard to the proposed road closure at Fangs Brow.

Outstanding issues highlighted by councillors were:

1. Blocked drain/culverts on the Sosgill Road, Mockerkin (previously reported)
2. Damaged drain by Dancing Pastures, Mockerkin (previously reported)
3. Continued flooding by the Pinfold due to a blocked culvert
4. Flooding after heavy rain to the SE of Thrushbank due to blocked culvert

ACTION: Clerk to report the above to the Highways Hotline.

5. Street-light out in Mockerkin opposite Dancing Pastures

ACTION: Clerk to report to Allerdale BC

80.15 Governance Documents:

The Clerk reminded councillors that all the governance documents for the Parish Council were now placed on the Melbreak Communities website. When collating the documents for placement on the website he had been unable to find copies of the Councils Complaints Procedure or the Freedom of Information Publication Policy.

Councillors had been supplied with copies of templates of the two policies and the Clerk asked that they agree to the formal adoption of both documents.

The adoption of the Loweswater Parish Council Complaints Procedure and the Loweswater Parish Council Freedom of Information Publication Policy was

Proposed: Cllr. Mitchell

Seconded: Cllr. Robinson

All those present agreed to the adoption.

ACTION: Clerk to send the documents for placement on the Melbreak Communities website.

