

Loweswater Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

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

25.17: Present: Cllrs: Mitchell, Leck, Meadley, Todd and Astley.

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

26.17: Apologies: Cllr. Robinson.

The Chair, Cllr. Mitchell, welcomed everyone to the meeting and suggested a round of introductions.

27.17: Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest.

28.17: Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2016:

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 5th 2016 were accepted as an accurate record:

Proposed: Cllr. Meadley

Seconded: Cllr. Astley

The Chair duly signed the minutes.

29.17: Co-option of a new Councillor:

The Chair explained to those present that Allerdale Borough Council had now given the go ahead to the Council to co-opt a new Councillor to replace Cllr. Walker. One person, Rachel Thompson, had expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor and the Clerk had forwarded her resume to Councillors.

The Chair expressed the view that Rachel would be a real asset to Loweswater Parish Council and proposed her co-option. Cllr. Leck seconded the nomination and all those present agreed.

Rachel Thompson was duly co-opted onto Loweswater Parish Council and was welcomed by all those present.

Action: Clerk to inform Allerdale BC of the co-option and send Cllr. Thompson the various governance documents.

30.17: Election of Chairman:

Cllr. Meadley proposed Cllr. Mitchell for the position of Chair. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Astley and was unanimously supported by all those present.

Cllr. Mitchell accepted the position as chair of the Council and took control of the meeting.

31.17: Election of Vice Chair:

Cllr. Meadley proposed Cllr. Leck for the position of Vice Chair. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Mitchell and supported unanimously by all those present.

Cllr. Leck accepted the position of vice-chair of the Council.

32.16: Chairman's Report:

Cllr. Mitchell presented her 2016/17 Report.

Writing an annual parish report gives the useful opportunity to review and reflect on the events of the past year. So what has occurred over the 12 months since my last Chair's report:-

- Commenced regular participation in Melbreak Communities meetings – I am grateful that Councillors have kindly agreed to share meeting attendance and feedback accordingly.
- Completed an 'on the ground' meeting with Cumbria Highways staff which has assisted with ensuring regular repair of potholes and clearing of drains; also the re-surfacing of Fangs Brow. There remain ongoing highways issues, but it is good to see some progress made.
- Obtained sufficient finance (£3200) to undertake the new notice-board project – I would like to re-iterate my thanks to Tony for first highlighting potential funds and following up on accessing them; also to David who has not only been instrumental in obtaining additional finance from Lake District Communities Fund, Awards for All and Melbreak Communities, but also worked hard in obtaining quotes, enabling the project to move forward with a local company.
- Dealt with 6 planning applications, within and between our 2 monthly meetings, 5 of which went through with 'No Objections' and one, the water pipeline project, we chose not comment on as it was out with this parish.
- Beside receiving regular updates relating to the LDNPA from the North Distinctive Area Member; Geoff Davis kindly attended one of our meetings, together with Kath Johnstone (Park Ranger), allowing a useful question and answer session.
- Resolved some of the ongoing issues in Mockerkin such as street lighting, Hall decay and upkeep of the village green. Local resident and volunteer, Mike Starkie, cut the green regularly during the 2016 season and has recently re-commenced – a huge thank you to him – his work has been greatly appreciated by all residents.
- Kept the 2017 - 18 years precept unchanged.
- Sent timely responses on a variety of matters, including the North West Coastal connections project (noting concerns on the impact of pylons on local tourism businesses) and the NHS Success Regime (regarding moving services from Whitehaven to Carlisle).
- Recruited a keen volunteer to the Parish Council following Geoff Walker's resignation in March, after 8 years of valued and appreciated input. I am sure that Rachel will prove to be a great asset.

All in all a good year with progress in several areas. However, this could not have happened without involvement of everyone. I would like to take this opportunity to re-iterate my thanks to all my fellow councillors for their contribution, especially to Kath who has acted as Chair during my absence; to Tony Annison who has kept concerns highlighted by us on the Allerdale Borough Council agenda, enabling quicker resolution; and to Alan Bowness who has kept us up to date on the wider County Council issues. A special thanks to David who, as our Parish Clerk, works tirelessly on our behalf - keeping us well informed, ensuring that our finances are in order and being an excellent source of support when complex issues arise.

33.17: The End of Year Accounts:

The Clerk presented the End of Year Accounts 2016/17 and talked those present through the figures. Total income during the year was £5,172.83p. Total expenditure was £2,082.45p. Together with the balance brought forward from the previous financial year, the balance of the Parish Council account on

March 31st 2017 was £4,530.45p. In the Business Money Manager Account there was £2,3561.49p giving a total balance of £6,891.94p as of March 31st 2017. The figures had been checked and agreed by Mr. D. Walmsley, the internal auditor. The Clerk reminded those present that the income for the year was considerably higher than the previous year because of the fund-raising that had occurred for the new notice-boards. There were no questions from those present. The End of Year accounts were formally agreed by the councillors present, together with the annual governance statement contained within the external audit form as completed by the Chair and the Clerk.

The Clerk informed the meeting that Mr. Walmsley was happy to act as the Internal auditor for another year.

Action: Clerk to send off the External Audit Form when fully completed.

34.17: Public Participation:

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and brought the Annual Parish Meeting to a close.

The meeting ended at 8.25pm.

Signed:

Chairman

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Date