

Loweswater Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2nd November 2017 in Loweswater Village Hall

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

Apologies: Cllrs. Robinson & Annison (ABC).

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

72.17 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest.

73.17 Minutes of the previous meeting:

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

Proposed: Cllr. Thompson

Seconded: Cllr. Todd

The Chair duly signed them.

74.17 Public Participation:

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

75.17 The Clerk's Report:

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

63.17: Clerk to liaise with Cllr. Annison re: ribbon cutting at new notice-board: Done

64.17: Cllr. Astley to arrange for work visit to Thackthwaite Green:

64.17 Cllr. Mitchell to contact local residents and explain the plan for Thackthwaite Green: Done

64.17: Cllr. Astley to assess the condition of the two larch trees on Thackthwaite Green:

66.17: Clerk to send out all payments: Done and all payments have cleared.

67.17: Clerk to contact United Utilities re: Crummock Water: Done via email

69.17: Clerk to report concerns to Highways Hotline: Done and ref numbers received

69.17: Cllr. Mitchell to provide clerk with map of drains that require attention in Mockerkin: Done

69.17: Clerk to write to Kirkstile Inn: Done but no response received.

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

Correspondence	For information	For action
CALC Newsletter September & October	X	
Report from Allerdale Parishes LDNPA member: Aug & Sept	X	
Letter from local Police inspector re: meetings with PCSO's	X	
Letter from Clerk re: resignation	X	
Donation request from Great North Air Ambulance	X	X

All relevant emails were forwarded to Councillors.

Thackthwaite Green: Cllr. Mitchell confirmed that she had recently visited the site but it did not appear that any work had been undertaken other than the cutting of the grass border by the road which had been undertaken by a local resident. As Cllr. Astley was not at the meeting it was agreed that Cllr. Mitchell should contact him for an update.

ACTION: Cllr. Mitchell to contact Cllr. Astley for an update on when works on the site will be undertaken.

The Notice-boards Project: The official ribbon cutting for the new notice-boards by the Leader of Allerdale Borough Council, Cllr. Alan Smith, was well attended and reports of the event have subsequently appeared in the Times & Star and The Link.

Resignation of the Clerk: Following his letter of resignation, the Clerk informed those present that the advert for the Lorton and Loweswater posts had appeared in the latest edition of The Link magazine but as yet he had had no enquires regarding the vacancy. Once the new hourly rate for the Clerk has been agreed, see below, then the advert will be sent to CALC for placing on their website and in the newsletter. It is expected that the best time to hold the interviews would be in January.

ACTION: Clerk to send copy of revised vacancy advert to CALC.

76.17: Chairman's Announcements:

Cllr. Mitchell thanked those who had attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new notice-boards which she felt had gone well.

Further to his volunteer work cutting the grass on Mockerkin Green, Mike Starkie has confirmed that he is happy to continue to undertake this work next year and that he does not require any payment for fuel used. Cllr. Mitchell suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Starkie and all those present agreed.

ACTION: Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Mr. Starkie.

77.17: Update from the Borough Councillor & County Councillor:

Cllr. Annison was unable to attend the meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Cllr. Annison to chase up the missing wheelie bin at Waterend lay-by.

Cllr. Bowness provided a brief update on the progress of the ongoing re-surfacing works in the area and confirmed that this work would not take place in Loweswater until BT had undertaken their works on the highway, due in December and January.

He reminded those present that there was a 'Legacy Fund' associated with the West Cumbrian pipeline project and confirmed that he would chase up the sign for the Mosser Road end.

ACTION: Cllr. Bowness to make enquiries regarding the Mosser Road end sign - 'Do not follow your sat nav'.

78.17: Draft Budget 2018/19:

The Clerk had previously circulated the proposed draft budget for the financial year 2018/19. He highlighted the one major change to the current budget, this being an increase in the hourly rate paid to the Clerk from £9.90 to £11.05, SCP 23 on the Local Government pay-scale, to try and ensure that there is a good response to the advert for the new Clerk. To accommodate the proposed increase in the Clerks salary an increase of £50.00p, 2%, is suggested in the precept.

Councillors accepted the draft budget as proposed and agreed that there should be an increase of £50.00 in the precept bringing it up to £2,500.

ACTION: Clerk to inform Allerdale BC of the increase in the precept for 18/19.

79.17: Finance:

The Clerk informed the meeting that the balance of the main account as of the most recent bank statement dated 15th October 2017 was £3,327.61p with all payments agreed at the last meeting having cleared through the account and the second payment of the precept having been received from Allerdale BC together with £500.00p from the LDNPA Community Fund for the notice-board project. The balance in the reserve account was £2,361.97p thus giving a total balance of £5,689.58p

He reminded those present that they had received a request for a donation towards running costs from the Great North Air Ambulance service. after some discussion Councillors agreed to donate the sum of £100.

In light of the above decision, the Clerk reported that the following payment was outstanding:

i. Great North Air Ambulance: £100.00p

Councillors agreed to this payment. Taking the above payment into account, the total reconciled balance of the two accounts as of 2nd November 2017 was £5,589.58p.

ACTION: Clerk to send out all payments.

80.17: Planning:

There was one new planning application to consider.

Ref: HOU/2017/0213
Applicant: Mr. & Mrs. Clark
Proposal: Bedroom and garage extension
Location: Arndale, Fangs Brow, Loweswater CA13 0SU

After some discussion it was agreed that the parish Council had 'No Objections' to the above application.

ACTION: Clerk to inform Allerdale BC Planning Dept. of the views of the Council.

81.17: 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 August.

Following the letter received from Inspector Rachel Gale informing the Council that local PCSO's would no longer be attending Parish Council meetings but would instead be arranging 10 weekly meetings for Parish Councillors to attend, an invitation has been received from PCSO Clare Parker to attend the first of these meetings on Wednesday 8th November at 7.30pm at Cockermouth Police Station.

ACTION: Cllr. Mitchell is to attend the above meeting.

82.17: Highways issues:

The Clerk provided Councillors with an update on the issues raised at previous meetings:

- Drains either side of Midtown, on Sosgill Road blocked: now dealt with
- Drains by the wall at Beechcroft Farm, Mockerkin, need cleaning: now dealt with
- Blocked culvert under the road to Barrowgate, on Sosgill Road: now dealt with
- Salt bin required on road out of Mockerkin: now installed.

Matters previously reported but not yet dealt with:

- Drains by Loweswater Hall blocked
- Water running off the field by Miresyke
- Brambles etc. requiring cutting back along the road side at the northern end of Loweswater.
- Culvert under the road blocked down from Thrushbank.
- Cutting back of the vegetation along the road side up to Fangs Brow required.

New concerns raised by Councillors:

1. Drains blocked by the entrance to Iredale House
2. Under road gullies blocked along the main road through Loweswater - jetting required.
3. Ongoing drain repairs halfway along the Sosgill Road - works update required
4. Pot-hole on the Thackthwiate Road by Rosewell

ACTION: Clerk to follow up and report the above to Cumbria Highways.

83.17: Melbreak Communities Update:

Cllr. Thompson informed the meeting that seven of the hydro sacks and snakes had been used recently during the heavy rains and that further funding would be sought to purchase more of them. The timetable for Coffee Mornings for 2018 was now complete. The insurance concerns raised by those members of the group working on the Emergency Plan had now been addressed.

Further to previous discussions regarding the dispersal of the hydro sacks and snakes around the Melbreak Communities area, it was agreed that Cllrs. Leck and Thompson would arrange to collect some of the sacks and snakes and distribute them in the Loweswater Parish area.

ACTION: Cllrs. Leck and Thompson to collect and distribute some of the hydro sacks and snakes.

84.17: Date of next meeting:

Thursday 4th January 2018 at 8.00pm.

Signed: _____

Chair

Date: _____

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