

Loweswater Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd Jan' 2019 at Loweswater Village Hall

Meeting opened: - The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm.
Present: Cllrs K Mitchell (chair) K Leck (vice chair), L Meadley, C Todd, M Astley,
D Robinson, R Thompson

Cumbria County Councillor and Allerdale District. A Bowness (CCC), T Annison (ABC)

Clerk: Mike Milner, 2 members of the public and guest Anie Kelly, Melbreak Communities.

94.00 Apologies for absence

94.01. None

95.00 Declarations of interest. None

96.00 To read and approve the minutes of the last meeting of Loweswater parish council held on Thursday 1st November 2018.

96.01 Resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.

Cllr A Bowness (CCC) joined the meeting 7.34pm

97.00 Melbreak Community hydro project, update by Anie Kelly.

97.01 Chair introduced the guest A.K from Melbreak Communities Group who was to up date the councillors on the local Hydro Community Project. Anie thanked the clerk for circulating a note on the project to all councillors prior to the meeting.

97.02 The Hydro Project is a local community energy project, which had gained a government grant in August 2018 to further investigate the feasibility of the project(s), there were 3 possible sites and to develop them would require £500k for each site. Potentially each site could develop between 100-200Kw of energy. If the sites were deemed viable then fund raising would be by crowd funding. However, there was a couple of major problem in that the government were ceasing the "energy feed in tariff," from March 2019, also ENW can only accept up to 200Kw per year from the community group in total, meaning that only one project could be considered.

97.03 After her presentation a short question session was concluded by Cllr M.A (LPC) advising that from his work within the National Trust if applications for schemes were made prior to March 2019, then they could still be included in an "energy feed in" tariff contract. A.K to have further discussions with the Cllr on the topic.

Chair K.M thanked A.K for her presentation and A.K left the meeting at 7.46pm

98.00 Public participation.

98.01 The members of the public present were concerned about the state of the road running from Scales Bridge up past Muncaster House, then up to the Kirkstile Inn and back past the church to the phone box.

98.02 Clerk advised the public and Cllrs that when he put up the draft minutes, he would bring his camera and take various photographs and send them to Highways to reinforce the verbal complaints.

98.03 Cllr A.B (CCC) confirmed that Cumbria Highways had approx. £1.5m (to spend by the end of March 2019), extra funding for Allerdale. The money has to be spent by then or is lost, therefore Highways is currently bringing forward long-term costed and approved projects to spend the money which would free up monies from their future budgets.

Members of the public thanked the council for their response to their complaint and departed 7.46pm

Cllr A.B (CCC) advised that he had no other comments for the council and departed 7.57pm

99.00 Applications for development.

99.01 Councillors considered 7/2018/2351, Thackthwaite Farm, the addition of a new balcony. After discussion Loweswater PC agreed unanimously to raise no objection, clerk to advise the planners accordingly.

99.02 Councillors considered 7/2018/2348, local occupancy housing, Oakbank Farm, Loweswater. All councillors had received the details of the development application from the clerk prior to the meeting and had read the various documents on the planners website in relation to the development. During discussions concerns were raised about it being a 4 dwelling occupancy project. That the market value of the properties may not attract "local occupancy" so perhaps encouraging a future potential change of use application to holiday let properties and the area has more than sufficient number of such properties. The council unanimously agreed to object to the development and requested the clerk to advise planners of their decision and provide supporting reasons for the decision.

100.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.

100.01 Cllr T.A (ABC) advised the councillors of his recent work on audit panels and the Allerdale waste services, which will see the removal of the purple bin scheme and it being replaced by a bin system. Cllrs pointed out that some properties in Loweswater did not have that collection service.

100.02 He mentioned the proposed changes to the maintenance and running of street lighting, currently ABC responsibility. The clerk advised it was on his progress report list and he advised the council that ABC could not just hand the responsibility to the parish, ABC had to do a feasibility report and establish that all lights were "fit for purpose" prior to the parish council being offered the responsibility. Cllr T.A confirmed the clerk's comments and said the project would be at least 3 years away.

At the end of his report the chair asked Cllr A.T if he wished to remain, he accepted the invitation.

101.00 Discuss and resolve precept figure for financial year 2019/20.

101.01 Clerk advised that before the councillors considered the precept could he have his revised contract of employment signed by the chair, minute 88.05 refers and also, he had completed and circulated the 9 month accounts for the parish and he would ask that those were signed by the chair.

101.02, clerk's revised contract confirming salary of £11.28 per hour to commence 1st April 2019 was signed by clerk and chair.

101.03 Councillors raised no queries with the accounts to the end of 31st December 2018, a 9 month period and the chair confirmed that the bank account balance figures agreed with the bank statement figures and duly signed the bank statements.

101.04 Loweswater Cllrs discussed the precept figure. Currently £2500 per annum. There was a discussion about seat repairs not in the budget. Cllr M.A advised he would look at the seat concerned at Mockerkin, and if repairable it would do it, but if the arm was broken then a new bench using recyclable plastic would have to be considered.

101.05 Clerk confirmed that such a seat would be approx. £320 plus the fixing.

101.06 the councillors resolved to increase the budget by 2% raising it from £2500 to £2550 per annum. Clerk to make the appropriate application.

102.00 Mockerkin Broadband cabinet electric supply

102.01 Chair advised the councillors that there had over the past few weeks been regular contact with Matt Fishwick of Openreach about the situation. The problem is getting the power over Snary Bridge. Health & Safety normally require a cable 600mm below the surface, the max obtainable at Snary Bridge is 400mm.

102.03 Clerk read an email received that day from Matt Fishwick confirming the current position. *The agreed solution falls outside of the standard installation practices from ENW's delivery partner (Gallagher) but that only means they need to seek an expert civils contractor to do the work.* The alternative contractor was being sort.

103.00 Discuss and resolve to change all meeting times to 7.30pm

103.01 Clerk was seeking to change the start time for all meetings to 7.30pm from the current 8pm timing. After a short discussion all councillors resolved to change to a 7.30pm start.

103.02 Clerk advised that this year was Local Parish Council elections, although Loweswater is a council returned without need for an election, he had to ensure that certain procedures were followed. If Loweswater held its May meeting on 2nd May, he would have to arrange another parish council meeting between 8th and 28th May to elect a new chairman and acknowledge the new council. Therefore, it was agreed that the May 2019 parish council meeting would be held 9th May, with the formal annual parish council AGM being the first matter of business on that day.

103.03 To tidy up the meeting dates the meeting on 7th March, would start with the annual Loweswater parish meeting, before the March parish council meeting. Again, the start time would be 7.30pm.

104.00 Progress report, inc Highways Matters. Clerk

104.01 Clerk reported that as per minute 89.06, Fangs Brow drains had been cleaned out, but proposed changes to the camber had not yet been made, that would be a weather driven project. Cllrs remarked that two drains still not working properly, but photographic evidence would be provided to the clerk.

104.02 Minute 89.10 the blocked drains in Mockerkin had all been cleaned out and were functioning as designed.

104.03 Root ball minute 89.07 refers, still there and coned off.

104.04 minute note 89.03 clerk noticed Thackthwaite noticeboard was starting to show internal water ingress on the pinboard, clerk to find appropriate gasket and make good.

104.05 street lighting being transferred from ABC to the parish council see minute note 100.02 in these minutes.

105.00 Loweswater Councillors reports.

105.01 Cllrs declared no further individual comments as all dealt with by earlier agenda items.

105.02 Chair did draw attention to correspondence that had been received about a piece of land adjacent to Stubbs Ghyll, Mockerkin. Clerk read an email that he had sent to the resident confirming that the ownership of the land had been a topic of legal concern since 1979. Owners of the property had never clarified at Land Registry, but contracts when exchanged noted the land. Highways claimed the initial 4ft from the kerb side and owners of Stubbs Ghyll had fenced off to that point. The area of land was not substantial and could only be access via Highway's land or Stubbs Ghyll land, so Stubbs Ghyll had claimed ownership under "adverse ownership."

106.00 Correspondence

106.01 Clerk confirmed that LDNP Planning had written confirming all development applications and consultation documents are now electronic only. Loweswater councillors all agreed that the direct link facility provided on documents forwarded by the clerk worked well.

106.02 Correspondence from Mockerkin resident about Stubbs Ghyll land, dealt with at minute 105.02.

107.00.00 Payments for approval.

M Milner Interpay 15, £259.89, salary £212.20 expenses £47.69.

HMRC PAYE Interpay 16, £53.00

All approved

108.00 Date and time of the next meeting Thursday 7th March 2019 at 7.30pm, this will be the Loweswater annual village meeting followed immediately by the normal Loweswater Parish Council meeting.

Please note the May meeting, due to parish council elections will be held on Thursday 9th May.

Meeting closed at 8.48pm