

Loweswater Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th July 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, R Thompson. M Astley,
C Todd

Cumbria County Councillor and Allerdale District. Cllr Carmel Bell (ABC)

Clerk: Mike Milner, no members of the public.

140.00 Apologies for absence

D Robinson (LPC) A Bowness (CCC)

141.00 Declarations of interest. None

142.00 To read and approve the minutes of the last meeting of Loweswater parish council held on Thursday 9th May 2019.

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

143.00 Public participation.

143.01 No members of the public present or reports from March meeting.

144.00 Police Matters

144.01 Clerk read out the logs report. He reported that the report records that PCSO has conducted regular passing patrols in the area.

145.00 Applications for development.

145.01 one application circulated 7/2019/2141 the installation of one new 1.2m dish on the Loweswater village hall. Cllrs remarked it would probably create income for the building and may increase coverage in the area. Clerk to advise no objections.

146.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.

146.01 Chair welcomed the parish's new ward councillor for Allerdale. Carmel Bell provided a brief background of her experience and advised that apart from the waste bin collection problems across Allerdale she had no further reports. The chair agreed to move agenda item 9 to the next item to allow Cllr C.B and clerk too combine their input.

147.00 Allerdale BC Statement concerning refuse collection problems.

147.01 Cllr C.B advised that she had been to meetings at Allerdale covering the bins and that the problem was widespread.

147.02 Clerk confirmed that last Friday he had spent over an hour with the Allerdale Commercial Operations Manager. She had been very open and frank and admitted that the system was not operationally appropriate.

147.03 Clerk had asked what the solutions were and why after nearly 3 months no official public statement had been made? He was promised an answer for this meeting. It was confirmed that talks between the hierarchy of Allerdale and the contractor were scheduled for Tuesday 2nd July and from that a statement could be issued.

147.04 As clerk was coming to this meeting he had received the promised call from Allerdale, there was to be a meeting with ward councillors on Friday morning, after which a public statement would be issued acknowledging the problems, that every household in Allerdale would receive a letter explain the agreed changes in the system, agreed with the contractor, plus notification of some services that maybe curtailed to accommodate the new schedules.

147.05 Councillors aired their views about the shortcomings of the system and the discrepancies within Loweswater that that had locals baffled as to why lorries were crisscrossing the area making some collections and not others.

147.06 Clerk advised the chair and councillors that it was now wait and see what solution Allerdale announced on Friday.

Chair thanked Cllr C.B for her attendance invited her to remain but understood if she left, Cllr C.B left the meeting.

148.00 Mockerkin Broadband, cabinet 1, now operational.

148.01 Clerk read out an email from Openreach confirming that cabinet 1 was powered up and speeds in Mockerkin for majority of residents if they have a broadband connection are >24mb but lower than 40mb. A few properties on the Sosgill road have 10-24mb and those down in Loweswater valley <10mb. However the clerk then read an email received that very afternoon about local community hub schemes but they require a local volunteer.

148.02 clerk to register interest in that scheme and forward the email to Cllrs K.L and L.M.

148.03 due to the speeds achieved in Mockerkin, cabinet 13 in the village would be removed.

149.00 Condition of the road past Muncaster House to the church/Kirkstile Inn.

149.01 clerk has been pursuing this directly with local Highways engineer. He read his response, *A highways officer has inspected the road in question, we will make measures to temporary fill any potholes that are more than the council intervention levels. As for any permanent works we have added this section of carriageway onto our future programme works to be done when funding and resources allow.*

149.02 Clerk confirmed the local individual who had raised the issue had been advised of the emails content.

150.00 Progress reports, clerk

150.01 Previous agenda items covered all of the clerks reports except the confirmation that all accounts documents were clearly on display in village noticeboards and had been since 17th June the legal start date for display.

151.00 Loweswater Councillors reports.

151.01 No Cllrs apart from the chair had any reports. Chair advised of her attendance at the Melbreak Community meeting and AGM. That association had £4678 in the bank at the end of the year and like a buffer of £3500 approx'. Their largest source of income was from the Lorton Oil Group (LOG). Chair also advised of the Himalayan Balsam Pull that was currently being carried out every Monday commencing at 10am at Yew Tree Hall, Lorton.

151.02 The Emergency plan telephone tree requires updating and sent to Steve Irlam. The next Melbreak Communities meeting will be at the Yew Tree Hall on Tuesday 17th September.

151.03 Several Loweswater residents had been in contact regarding the media coverage of the purchase of Brackenthwaite Hows by the National Trust – though this is in Buttermere Parish, there was concern that visitor numbers / traffic would increase causing further difficulties with parking - already be a problem with vehicles parked inappropriately in Loweswater. A meeting and walk of the area of concern with National Trust (NT) staff and local residents was attended by the Chair – the NT re-assured those attending that there will be no further active marketing of the area and that they would send relevant updates to the Melbreak Communities website and The Link.
Councillor C.W joined the meeting at 8.25pm

152.00 Correspondence

152.01 Allerdale electoral office had contacted the clerk requesting that all councillors although returned uncontested completed an election expenses form. He had taken the liberty to complete all the forms showing NIL expenses and donations and he would get councillors to sign them at the end of the meeting.

152.02 LDNP Members newsletter circulated by email to all Cllrs.

152.03 There is a Three Tier meeting at Cockermouth 11th July, details circulated to all Cllrs.

152.04 PFK-Littlejohn, government auditors have official confirmed receipt of Loweswater's exemption certificate, and 2018/19 accounts closed.

152.05 Data Protection annual registration fee due 4th July, clerk had paid online and had new certificate. If he had not renewed the fine was £1750, he thought £40 expense was a better outlay.

152.06 ENW had sent the annual wayleave cheque for £22.83, duly banked.

152.07 Clerk had received an email from a local resident about a timber seat at Holme Force, overlooking Holme Wood, Loweswater. The writer felt the bench was in a state of disrepair and enquired whether the parish council responsible for the maintenance. The bench is not parish property, therefore no liability.

152.08 Cllrs were able to confirm it was on land farmed by the Bells, and the seat was placed there by a former resident Doug Beebe who had lived at Graythwaite. A memorial to a late friend placed many years ago. It was confirmed that there was vehicle access.

152.09 Clerk advised he would contact the original email writer, provide him with the history of the seat and suggest that if he wanted to replace the seat then contact the landowner and make arrangements directly with them. No funding though from Loweswater.

152.10 Clerk read out legal notice advice about naming members of the public who made comments in public participation sessions. It was considered bad practise.

152.11 Clerk made aware of return of the caravan at Mockerkin Tarn. He had contacted the appropriate officer at Allerdale, and she confirmed it had a legitimate reason to be there, but she would monitor over the next few weeks.

153.00.00 Payments for approval.

M Milner Intpay 26, £312.32, salary £216.52 May/June. £95.80 May/June expenses

HMRC PAYE Intpay 27, £54.20 PAYE May/June

All approved

154.00 Date and time of the next meeting Thursday 5th September 2019 at 7.30pm,

Meeting closed 8.43pm