

Loweswater Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2nd January 2020 at Loweswater Village Hall.

Meeting opened: - The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm,

Present: Cllrs K Mitchell (chair) K Leck (vice chair), R Thompson, L Medley,
C Todd, D Robinson

Cumbria County Councillor and Allerdale District. Neither present

Clerk: Mike Milner, two members of the public.

186.00 Apologies for absence

A Bowness (CCC)

187.00 Declarations of interest. None

188.00 To read and approve the minutes of the last meeting of Loweswater parish council held on Thursday 7th November 2019.

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

7.32 Cllr C. Todd joined the meeting

189.00 Public participation.

189.01 No reports from November meeting and no questions from public present.

The chair advised that John Hudson was present and was involved with agenda item 9, so she brought that item to the next matter to be dealt with.

190.00 Loweswater Valley Broadband letter and response/actions

190.01 The clerk had collated the responses to the circulated letter and provided a spreadsheet showing the properties with positive responses and those who had not responded.

190.02 There was a discussion about the 9 properties which had not replied. From an economic point it would be better for a majority of the properties to be involved. It was decided that the clerk be provided with names and addresses for the known location of the property owners. The clerk to contact all the owners again by 10th January and ask for a reply by 31st January. Any who had not replied by that date would be chased up by clerk to confirm their interest in the project, or not.

190.03 Councillors or J.H to provide contact details in next few days. If the properties were holiday lets controlled by a letting agent, clerk to contact the agent requesting the letters be forwarded on. From a data protection aspect, it would be more professional that the clerk contacts the agents on behalf of the parish council. Clerk to advise those residents who had completed forms indicating their intent to be part of the project of the current situation.

Chair thanked J.H for his contribution and he left the meeting, chair resumed the meeting at agenda item 5.

191.00 Police Matters

191.01 Clerk advised council that the local area map showed no crimes in the area, up to Oct 2019. He confirmed he had written directly to Insp' Rachel Gale about the problems with the Cumbria police website, the manner crimes were recorded and the delay in the events being recorded for public or council reference.

191.02 Insp R G had acknowledged the email, it explained the situation and that the police website was not maintained by the police but a third party company. There was to be a new monthly parish council newsletter circulated and the clerk advised he had received it that morning and would circulate it to the councillors, later that evening.

191.03 Cllr C T advised of the recent problems experienced with parked cars outside the local pub and the lack of enthusiasm call handlers at the 101 number had demonstrated when contacted about the issue. Potential access for emergency vehicles, compromised.

192.00 Applications for development. None for discussion.

193.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.

193.01 Neither present nor anything for clerk to report back to them about.

194.00 Discuss and resolve precept figure for financial year 20/21

194.01 At the previous meeting clerk had circulated budget figures and he again handed out the relevant documents.

194.02 Chair advised that at next agenda item the council would discuss the proposed wilding of the Mockerkin Green and a replacement seat, but both those projects could be funded by reserves as the clerk's figures demonstrated. After a discussion about previous years precept levels Cllr C T asked what a 2% increase would raise the precept by, clerk advised from £2550 by £51, to £2601. It was unanimously resolved the raise the precept to £2601.

195.00 Mockerkin Green Wilding project.

195.01 Chair advised that the volunteer, who had for a number of years cut the green at Mockerkin, had advised that they could no longer provide the service. Council acknowledged the volunteered service provided but now had to consider the options.

195.02 Clerk advised that at other parishes where he employs contractors to maintain village grassed area, costs ranged from £500 for 6 months, to figures in excess of £1000. The precept, minute 194.02, agreed on would not accommodate a cost even at the lower figure. Clerk advised that at Lorton parish, they were following a national trend, much publicised, to wild village greens and verges.

195.03 Chair confirmed that she had been in contact with the councillor at Lorton who is overseeing their project. That councillor also works with Cumbria Highways on their wilding county wide projects, so Loweswater would receive professional advice at no cost. A meeting is being arranged in the next couple of weeks to clarify the timetable of wilding works. Chair advised she had spoken to some of those living by the green and a wild meadow green had not raised any objections.

195.04 Chair sought councillors approval of a figure she could spend to get the scheme organised and seed purchased. Councillors resolved that a figure up to £400 would be appropriate.

195.05 There was one other problem at Mockerkin Green, the bench. Used by cyclists passing through and locals, it was a wooden structure and badly rotted. Clerk had advised that from a health and safety aspect it should be replaced.

195.06 The chair and clerk had looked at options and chair showed the councillors a 3 seater seat manufactured from recycled plastics, which has a 25 year guarantee. Cost was £269 + VAT and an additional £16 for the fixing kit, plus a small delivery charge. Councillors resolved that the seat should be purchased and installed, the old seat being removed. A question was raised about it being accessible for use, by Cllr L M, if the green was to become a wild meadow, but the seats location would not stop access by the public in the proposed scheme.

196.00 Progress reports, clerk

196.01 as per minute 181.02 clerk was still monitoring the situation of the caravan at Mockerkin Tarn. The matter was currently being passed back and forth between Allerdale BC and the owners of the Tarn.

196.02 as per minute 181.04 and the position of Melbreak Communities and its need to have insurance cover, clerk had established that in the hall they were currently meeting in the hall's insurance covered any group using the building if they were a non-profit organisation. Clerk had established a similar fact for Yew Tree Hall and considered the need for insurance was not necessary but had passed his observations to the chair of Lorton parish council who is the chair of Melbreak Communities and the decision was theirs to make.

196.03 Clerk had circulated a set of third quarter accounts to all councillors prior to the meeting, electronically. In line with the parish's Financial Code he had to make available the bank reconciliation for inspection. He had the bank account balances printed off from HSBC bank site via internet banking facility. Chair inspected the bank rec' and the bank figures and signed statements and bank reconciliation acknowledging their correctness.

197.00 Loweswater Councillors reports.

197.01 Cllr C T voiced concerns about the recent road closure that had resulted in the minimum of apparent repair work on the roads in the area of the Kirkstile Inn and down to Muncaster House. Also, the state of the road in areas between Loweswater and Thackthwaite had been noted in an E mail sent to Chair. This particular road is part of the CC cycle route and should be maintained.

197.02 Chair advised that she had already taken photos of those areas and supplied those to the clerk for submission to Highways. If Cllr T D could provide further photographic evidence to the clerk that would reinforce the complaints. Photos to be provided.

197.03 Chair advised Cllr R T would attend the next Melbreak Community meeting on 7th Jan' and that there was a Melbreak Community coffee morning on 11th Jan at Yew Tree Hall.

197.04 Chair had received an email about the grounds maintenance at Thackthwaite Green and the water ingress into the noticeboard. The clerk will resolve the gasket issue once and for all and purchase appropriate gasket material. He did comment that other noticeboards did not suffer a similar problem, but they are not exposed to the elements on all sides as the Thackthwaite Green board is.

197.05 Chair to discuss with Cllr M A about the clearance of shrubs and branches at the green, she confirmed that such materials cut down were left on the site at the rear as part of a wildlife policy, so if Cllr M A could not find time for his team to act, a small working party made up of councillors will tackle the issue raised.

197.06 Chair concluded by reminding councillors that there was a free Cyber Safety Training course available on 20th Jan' at Allerdale BC between 5pm and 6.30pm, if any councillors were interested to contact her as places had to be booked.

198.00 Correspondence

198.01 A letter form Great North Air Ambulance acknowledging the £100 parish donation. Minute 183.02 refers.

198.02 Clerk had circulated other Calc newsletters and Members newsletter as he received them electronically.

199.00.00 Payments for approval.

Clerk had paid Loweswater Village Hall Intpay 34, £90 covering the hall hire for the year 2019 on 17th November with Chair's approval, annual cost that was incorrectly understated by earlier submitted invoice.

M Milner Intpay 35, £268.47, salary £216.52 Nov/Dec. £51.95 Nov/Dec expenses

HMRC PAYE Intpay 36, £54.20 PAYE Nov/Dec

All approved

200.00 Date and time of the next meeting Thursday 5th March 2020 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed 8.28pm

Page 37 (4 of 4) signed chairman.....5th March 2019.