

Loweswater Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th November 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), R Thompson. M Astley,
C Todd, D Robinson

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

Clerk: Mike Milner, one member of the public.

170.00 Apologies for absence

L Meadley (LPC), A Bowness (CCC)

171.00 Declarations of interest. None

172.00 To read and approve the minutes of the last meeting of Loweswater parish council held on Thursday 5th September 2019.

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

173.00 Public participation.

158.01 No reports from September meeting.

174.00 Police Matters

174.01 Clerk advised no reports on the Cumbria police website. He was aware that the police were to issue a monthly newsletter and hopefully by the Jan' 2020 meeting he would have an example to demonstrate what info and local detail was available.

175.00 Applications for development.

175.01 There were no applications to consider but LDNP had confirmed that Lowside, Thackthwaite, 7/2019/2197 replacement of a septic tank with package treatment plant had been approved.

176.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.

176.01 Cllr C.B (ABC) was present and reported that apart from the Allerdale household bin collection service now working as scheduled, due to the coming election there was not much else happening. She advised the chair that she would like to stay and hear the broadband agenda item. The chair decided to bring that agenda item as next business.

177.00 Community Broadband project for isolated properties in and around Loweswater, update.

177.01 Member of the public John Hudson updated the council with the latest position and the chair read out the letter that was proposed for circulation to the properties at the western end of the Loweswater valley identified as having poor broadband speeds.

177.02 The council agreed that the letter required a sentence about how those being approached about the project could check their own 4G. J.H would provide the appropriate information to the clerk who would then print and post the letters within the next 2 weeks. It was agreed that the letter would only be circulated to properties in the western valley area.
177.03 Cllr C.B to see if Allerdale B C had a specific officer responsible for 4G signal / reception and advise the clerk.

Chair thanked Cllr C.B for her attendance, both she and J.H left the meeting at 8pm. Chair resumed the meeting at agenda item 8.

178.00 Receive internally audited 6 months parish accounts ending 30/9/2019

178.01 Clerk had distributed the audited accounts and various ledgers for the period prior to the meeting, electronically. He indicated to the chair that the accounts had been audited and signed off as correct by the parish's internal auditor.

178.02 No councillor raised any issues or questions and councillors resolved to unanimously accept the accounts.

179.00 Receive proposed budget for the coming financial year 20/21

179.01 Clerk had again circulated all councillors with the current budget update and what he was proposing for 2020/21. He was forecasting a deficit of £293 this year, but the expenditure included the Thackthwaite Green fence of £480 and that as the accounts showed a balance of £5697 at 30th September he was not concerned.

179.02 He then ran through the 20/21 budget which indicated a deficit of £274 so he proposed at this part of the discussion no precept increase. Chair raised the issue of a salary increase for the clerk, which the clerk advised was governed by NALC over a countrywide basis and his contract allowed for that, but he did know of any figure.

179.03 Clerk then advised the council that he had discovered that morning that the volunteer who cuts Mockerkin village green would not be able to continue over the next 1 to 2 seasons. Therefore, clerk would need to obtain 2 tender quotations for consideration at the Jan 2020 parish council meeting. They would cover 6 cut and drop sessions over 2020, April – September. He thought a regular contract could be £540 per season.

179.04 Cllr M.A thought the council should consider the wild meadow approach. National Trust were doing it and Cumbria Highways on their verges too, to improve habitat for small wildlife, flowers and bees.

179.05 After a discussion the council decided to pursue the wildlife route, something government were interested in doing, therefore clerk to contact a known expert and seek their advice as to actions required. Using this ecological method could have the potential added advantage of not having to raise the 20/21 precept. Budget proposals would be confirmed at January 2020 meeting.

180.00 Approve revised Loweswater parish council Finance Code.

180.01 Clerk had again circulated the 9 page double page per sheet document prior to the meeting. Councillors resolved to accept the latest code as presented.

181.00 Progress reports, clerk

181.01 Clerk confirmed earlier comments by Cllr C.B (ABC) that Allerdale household waste collection service was now back on schedule.

181.02 The caravan at Mockerkin Tarn was clearly still in situ. Clerk was monitoring the problem with Allerdale enforcement team, who were in discussions with the Tarn owners about its use and that a more permanent structure should be used, with appropriate planning permissions in place. Clerk to continue to monitor the situation.

181.03 Clerk had a note to discuss the Mockerkin village green grass cutting, but that would appear to have been discussed at 179.03/05 above.

181.04 Both Loweswater and Lorton council chair' had brought to his attention the situation of insurance for Melbreak Community organisation. The insurance is due for renewal July 2020 and he would explore options with Zurich who are the insurers for the parishes covered by Melbreak Community.

182.00 Loweswater Councillors reports.

182.01 Chair had various reports. She advised councillors of the latest Melbreak Community meeting. The state of its bank balance approx. £4700 in credit, it was to have a new logo which was on the website. There was a coffee morning this coming Saturday at the Loweswater village hall and finally next meeting was Tuesday 7th Jan.

182.02 Allerdale BC are running a cyber security awareness evening, for local councillors, on 20th January at 5.30pm at Allerdale House.

183.00 Correspondence

183.01 Clerk had received an enquiry about a public footpath in the Sosgill area, whose land it was on. Clerk with help of chair was able to resolve the issue raised.

183.02 The Great North Air Ambulance had sent their normal annual request for a donation towards their charity funding to maintain their service. Clerk advised it had been normal for the parish to support the charity with a £100 donation. After a brief discussion it was resolved to continue the donation and that it remains at £100.

183.03 Clerk had details of the CALC AGM 9th November.

183.04 ACT had forwarded details of its Community Resilience & Neighbourliness programme.

183.05 Simone Morgan who acted as internal auditor for the parish had submitted her invoice for the audit for end of year audit 2018/19 completed in April 2019 and the recent half yearly internal audit carried out to end September 2019. £30 for each audit, £60 in total.

183.06 Clerk had circulated various relevant members reports and Calc newsletters.

183.07 There was to be a Calc organised planning training session at Cockermouth Town Hall on 4th Dec 2019 at 1.30pm.

184.00.00 Payments for approval.

M Milner Intpay 30, £259.02, salary £216.52 Sept/Oct. £42.50 Sept/Oct expenses

HMRC PAYE Intpay 31, £54.20 PAYE Sept/Oct

Great North Air Ambulance Intpay 32, £100.00 donation

Simone Morgan Intpay 33, £60.00 audit fee for year end 18/19 and half year 19/20.

All approved

185.00 Date and time of the next meeting Thursday 2nd January 2020 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed 8.35pm