

## LOWESWATER PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Held at Loweswater village hall at 7.38pm Immediately following Loweswater Annual Parish meeting.**

Meeting opened: - The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.38pm,

Present: Cllrs K Mitchell (chair) K Leck (vice chair), R Thompson, L Medley,

C Todd, D Robinson, M Astley

Cumbria County Councillor and Allerdale District. Neither present

Clerk: Mike Milner, one member of the public.

**201.00 Apologies for absence** A Bowness (CCC) C Bell (ADC)

**202.00 Declarations of interest.** None

**203.00 To read and approve the minutes of the last meeting of Loweswater parish council held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020.**

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

**204.00 Public Participation**

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

The chair confirmed that John Hudson was present and was involved with agenda item 8, she therefore brought that item to the next matter to be dealt with.

**205.00 Loweswater Valley Broadband letter and response/actions**

205.01 clerk advised council that despite further letters to owners of properties that had not previously responded to the project, there had been no further communication.

205.02 J H advised the council that he was prepared to continue pursuing the project using the Community Group scheme and/or the Rural Giga byte scheme. The clerk was to contact all those who have expressed interest in the project confirming that J H was pursuing the project on behalf of Loweswater parish council and that with their approval the clerk would pass on their contact details so J H could contact individuals and move the project on.

205.03 J H requested that the clerk, in his contact with the those interested, stressed that there is still no financial commitment on anyone's part at this stage. J H did comment on other possible options that maybe available, but nothing was concrete.

205.04 Chair K M thanked him for his attendance and looked forward to further reports on the project. J H left the meeting.

**206.00 Police Matters**

206.01 There were no police reports on the police "Your Area" website page.

**207.00 Applications for development.** None for discussion.

**208.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.**

208.01 Neither present.

**209.00 Mockerkin Green wilding project.**

209.01 Chair K M had a meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January at Mockerkin Green with Tanya St. Pierre who is advising on the project. K M advised the talks covered seed quantity, measuring the area from the air, that the green would need mowing in April, then again July before being harrowed in September.

209.02 Cllrs agreed that if Cllr M A could provide a collection of local seeds from NT current established wildflower meadows in the area, that would be an excellent achievement.

209.03 Cllrs M A and C T had the necessary equipment to successfully harrow the green and both pointed out that if it was harrowed in September it would not look a muddy area as grass would soon regrow. Cllr M A to provide some pictures of current NT wildflower meadows in bloom, which the council can put into a document to be circulated to the immediate local residents advising of the proposals and timescale of works and that in three to five years it should be a well developed and splendid community asset. The document should manage residents expectations.

209.04 Clerk to liaise with chair' K M about looking at the current Mockerkin Green seat, confirm the state of the slab for fixing the seat and order the seat.

**210.00 Progress reports, clerk**

210.01 minute 196.01 clerk was waiting confirmation about whether rubbish at Mockerkin Tarn was still by the caravan. Reported as still being there so clerk to contact Allerdale and ask for action to get material remove.

210.02 Clerk had circulated details of the proposed changes that Allerdale want to make with regard the to the charging of Footway Lighting. Currently paid for by council tax collected by Allerdale. The proposal is that parish councils should pay for the lighting in its parish boundary, from the village precept. Allerdale estimate lights in Mockerkin will cost £260.10 and Sosgill £39.20, although the Sosgill light is thought to be in Blindbothel parish.

210.03 Clerk advised that all parishes in Allerdale were using Calc as a central discussion forum to establish criteria about the proposals and how parishes establish that lights if/when handed over are fit for purpose.

210.04 Clerk has purchased gasketing material and is tackling the water ingress at the village noticeboards, but the boards being timber and due to the recent heavy rain are swollen, making remedial action difficult.

210.05 Lancaster Uni have allocated the undergraduate, James Taylor, to oversee the traffic survey and air quality project. He has been invited to Buttermere parish council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May and Cllr M A will be Loweswater parish council representative for the project. Clerk will include Cllr M A in all email correspondence on the project.

210.06 Clerk has been investigating the Melbreak Communities insurance situation at the request of the Melbreak committee chair, Chris Poate who is also chair of Lorton parish council. The question was initially asked if the 4 parishes that are in the Melbreak Communities group could share the insurance between their parish polices.

210.06 continued, Clerk has studied the Melbreak insurance currently in place, it has a section covering employees, they have no employees. Clerk has viewed the Loweswater village hall insurance policy and the clauses that specifically cover use of the hall by uninsured local groups who are a non-commercial body, ie they do not make or intend to make a profit, also a hirer who is working to the benefit of the community, either social or financial. That clearly covers Melbreak Communities committee meetings and is standard risk cover applying at other public buildings. Yew Tree Hall.

There were concerns about creating community plans and requesting people to take actions in the case of an emergency. Clerk explained he had been involved with community plans at other parishes and that Action in Cumbria had been instrumental in promoting the government message of creating community emergency plans. Nowhere was the issue of insurance raised, it was not an action that was designed to create increased insurance sales and commission for brokers. It was to ensure that in an emergency situation, which could be flood, airplane crash, major road accident in a community, people would have a plan of action, a system of checking on old and vulnerable residents and a central meeting point. A plan to ensure that folk knew where medicines were, what was needed in an emergency overnight bag if appropriate, an attempt to stop confusion. A community plan not a blame game insurance policy sales promotion. Clerk was advising Buttermere, Lorton and Loweswater that they should not be accepting any responsibility for something considered unnecessary. He would be writing to Blindbothe clerk accordingly and also Melbreak Communities committee advising insurance unnecessary. If they wished to organise a group activity, if it involved the church, school or was in a specific parish the current insurance in place should be consulted about any actions, just as a parish currently does when organising a litter pick.

210.07 Cllrs resolved that clerk to confirm his findings to Melbreak committee and that no insurance contribution would be provided.

210.08 Cllrs advised the clerk that there has been no repair work to the Thackthwaite road and there were still problems with potholes from Kirkstile Inn down to and past Muncaster House.

210.09 Cllr K L advised that all drains down the Fangs Brow section of road were in need of cleaning, water is just gushing out of all of them.

### **211.00 Loweswater Councillors reports.**

211.01 Cllr R T had attended the recent Melbreak Communities committee meeting and made a report of the actions of the group.

211.02 Cllr D R had contacted the clerk about the next stage of the United Utilities local project and enquired if Calc had anymore information. Clerk had obtained a January 2020 PowerPoint presentation and supplied that to Cllr D R, Cllr D R to circulate the presentation to all Loweswater councillors.

211.03 Chair K M advised that she was concerned about the whereabouts of 2 large stone stoops which had been down Sosgill road, but Highways have done some repair work and the 2 substantial stoops are no longer there.

211.04 Chair received an enquiry about supplying a defibrillator to Loweswater, but as there are already 2 in the area, she declined the offer. Cllrs asked if they could swap the defibrillator for a bench for Mockerkin Green, the reply would be no.

211.05 Chair had attended a Cyber Security Course hosted by Allerdale and found it very interesting. She would circulate the appropriate paperwork.

211.06 Clerk was requested to investigate a common email address theme for all councillors, so they did not have to use their own personal email's for council business.

### **212.00 Correspondence**

212.01 Clerk had circulated the email about the new Bylaws for smaller lakes, from the Friends of the Lakes.

212.02 Geoff Davies members report received and circulated.

212.03 The clerk had received an email and circulated about a Parliamentary Bill covering Local Electricity supply. It concerns the distribution of electricity generated by local community projects. Obviously Melbreak Communities have just helped form a community company to exploit the potential of generating electricity in Buttermere Beck. The councils support for such a bill would be appreciated, Lorton and Buttermere have indicated support. Loweswater parish council resolved to support the bill and clerk to register that fact.

212.04 Clerk has completed the redeclaration with Pension Regulator, completed 21/2/20.

212.05 Workington Town Council organising community VE Day celebrations

212.06 Workington Town Council offering funding for community Big Lunches.

212.07 Council's banker's HSBC have been in contact about carrying out a business details update, initial telephone interview is booked for 17<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm. Clerk has already done similar exercise at Buttermere and now he has Loweswater and Lorton to do.

### **213.00.00 Payments for approval.**

M Milner Intpay 37, £268.47, salary £324.88 Jan/Feb/March. £113.67 Jan-Mar expenses  
HMRC PAYE Intpay 38, £81.20 PAYE Jan/Feb/March

All approved

**214.00 Date and time of the next meeting Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 7.30pm, which will commence with Loweswater Parish Council AGM.**

Meeting closed 8.44pm