

Loweswater Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2nd July 2020 By Zoom video conferencing, which commenced at 7.30pm

Video link Meeting opened: - The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.33pm

Present: Cllrs K Mitchell (chair) K Leck, L Meadley, D Robinson (v.chair), C Todd , M Astley, R Thompson, all by video link.

Cumbria County Councillor and Allerdale District. Carmel Bell Allerdale BC, by video link

Clerk: Mike Milner, no members of the public via video link.

233.00 Apologies for absence. None

234.00 Declarations of interest. None

235.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Loweswater Parish Council held on Thursday 7th May 2020, as a true record.

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

236.00 Public Participation.

236.01 Clerk advised there had been no requests from the public seeking access to this particular meeting.

237.00 Police Matters.

221.01 Clerk again this month advised that the Cumbria Police website at Area Map option came up with Error 404 code. Therefore, no reports but councillors could subscribe to a Cumbria Police Newsletter online if they so wished.

221.02 Cllr C T reported that he had had fencing and a gate damaged deliberately, reported to the police and crime number received.

238.00 Planning Applications. There were no planning applications.

239.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.

239.01 Cllr C B (ABC) advised that she had been monitoring the traffic and camping problems in local parishes and reporting to Trudy Harrison MP. She was keen to see the local economy start reopening. ABC personnel were slowly returning to work so the daily function of the council was returning to normal.

Chair thanked her for her report and invited her stay, C B thanked her for the invitation, but she had a VAT return to complete.

240.00 Parish noticeboard, Thackthwaite Green repair.

240.01 clerk reported that the Thackthwaite noticeboard had rotted so badly at the rear it had fallen off its support posts, narrowly missing the chair's toes when she opened it. It had only been installed 3 years ago and the others installed at same time were perfect.

240.02 Clerk had contacted the supplier in Aspatria, who collected the noticeboard and carried out the repair. Clerk had maintained it was faulty construction and repair should be FOC. After 3 weeks the board was ready to rehang, but the left hand post was rotted, so clerk had contacted a local contractor and they had replaced both posts, noticeboard then returned.

240.03 Clerk advised that he had noticed that all the other noticeboards were in need of spruce up. The company who supplied the boards advised not to use yacht varnish. Cllr M A advised that Danish Oil was the best preservative. It was agreed clerk would buy a tin, then take to Cllr K M she offered to do Mockerkin board, Cllr D Robinson offered to do Loweswater village hall board, Cllr L M's husband was volunteered to do the board in there front garden and Thackthwaite had been refurbished by the manufacture during repair.

241.0 NT and LDNP actions to enforce parking restrictions and vehicle obstruction problems

241.01 clerk advised he had taken part in a meeting hosted by Buttermere parish council at Rannerdale with NT management and ranger. At the end of the meeting the group decided to recommend to Cumbria County Council highways that an "urban clearway" for the whole valley from Lanthwaite to Gatesgarth be explored. Agreed to look into whether such a designation (which is enforceable by traffic wardens) could be limited to times of day and year. Request sent to Cumbria County Council that the double yellow lines be extended to fill the gap between Woodhouse and Cragg House Farm. Explore practicalities of setting up a trial of car parking in the Hause Point field (opposite the small NT free Rannerdale car park) and at Maggies Bridge under the 28 day rule, which this year has been extended to 56 days. look at using wooden posts (and boulders?) to prevent extra parking problems around the Cinderdale free car park.

242.00 Friends of the Lake District Dark Sky project.

242.01 At the Lorton Parish Council virtual meeting the previous evening the chair and Cllr D R had joined to listen to the new Dark Skies, Friends of the Lake District coordinator Jack Ellerby outline his plans. (attached to the end of these minutes are a copy of the J E briefing note)

242.02 Chair K M provided a short but comprehensive precis of the previous meetings discussion. Objective to prevent more light pollution. Light pollution affects wildlife and even a short break during the night can make a difference to wildlife. Clerk to confirm that Mockerkin which is in Loweswater parish, but not in LDNP could be part of the project. At the end of the day it should be a Melbreak Communities driven project and Cllr R T to follow the progress of the project, with Cllr KM assisting in the practical issues within Mockerkin.

243.00 Progress reports, clerk inc Highway's matters

243.01 clerk confirmed that all the accounts documentation was on the website as per the Transparency Code and Exemption Certificate had been forwarded to PKF Littlejohn.

243.02 The footway lighting costs, not street lighting, were to be transferred to the parishes for the 21/22 financial. Clerk was aware that the charge would still be made by ENW to Allerdale who would pay monthly, but twice a year the parishes would be billed.

243.03 Clerk has already sought clarification from Allerdale on how it proposes to publicise the change over and ensure correct charges are made to parishes as old higher usage lights are changed for modern LED lower usage units.

243.04 Broadband project is still being actively pursued, but action regarding creating a separate legal entity is on hold until Openreach's charges for the project are known.

243.05 As a note of interest for councillors clerk advised that a company involved with possibly installing a 25mtr antenna at Whinlatter Pass for the emergency services signal had been in contact with Lorton parish council, clerk therefore anticipated that Loweswater should anticipate similar communication as a replacement for the previous mast application in the parish last year.

243.06 Cllrs advised clerk that Highway's had been very active in patching and filling the road from Loweswater past the lake towards Fangs Brow, but the Loweswater to Thackthwaite road and onward to Lorton is still very bad and it is the cycle route. Clerk to contact Highways.

244.00 Loweswater Councillors reports.

244.01 Cllr R T gave council an update of a recent Melbreak Communities held via Zoom platform. The need to pay for insurance had again been discussed, the Hydro Project based on the beck at Buttermere looks to have become an unviable scheme.

244.02 Chair provided a short update on the Mockerkin Green "wilding" project and Cllrs M A and C T confirmed what actions should be taken and when. Cllr M A to take a soil sample the next morning and that seeds would be available when silage was cut later in the year by Cllr C T. A cutting schedule was discussed and chair to clarify. Currently a local Mockerkin resident was cutting the upper large grassed area, much appreciated by the council and residents, and it was nearly good enough to play bowls on.

245.00 Correspondence.

245.01 Clerk had received the annual ENW Wayleave rental cheque, £22.83 which he had banked on Monday 29th June.

245.02 The council's banker's HSBC had finally confirmed in writing that it had completed its Safeguard Security review and the council was cleared to continue using its bank accounts.

245.03 Information Commissioners Office had written advising that the council's Data Protection registration for the coming year was due for renewal, commencing 4th July 2020. Clerk had paid the subscription and was in receipt of the new registration certificate and a receipt for the £40 he had paid.

245.04 Over the past 2 months clerk had received numerous emails about Corvid 19 and other topics and where appropriate he had circulated them to councillors.

246.00.00 Payments for approval.

M Milner Intpay 43, £280.61, salary £216.52 May/June. £64.09 May/June expenses

HMRC PAYE Intpay 44, £54.20 PAYE

All approved

Meeting closed 8.26pm

247.00 Date and time of next meeting Thursday 3rd September 2020 at 7.30pm

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COPY OF DARK SKIES NOTES ON NEXT PAGE

Cumbria Dark Skies Project – Briefing for Lorton Parish Council 1 July 2020

Light pollution is the outward and upward transmission or reflection of light wasted into the night sky contributing to sky glow and lighting glare.

The three main aims of the Project and associated actions are:

1. *Celebrate and raise awareness of the value of Dark Skies and impacts of light pollution* – giving talks to community groups and organisations, a festival of events is planned for February 2021 (including an event in Lorton with the Cockermouth Astronomical Society), Dark Skies information on our website and regular media communications highlighting relevant issues/latest research.
2. *Preventing more light pollution* – I'm liaising with planners, highways lighting, crime prevent officers and others across the county and have written a lighting policy that will go on our website shortly to try to get better policies in place. We give guidance/comment on planning applications and public projects to try to prevent bad lighting. Do flag up any which concern you if you think we can help where your landscape character would be damaged (we can't comment on everything, so we focus on bigger, more damaging proposals).
3. *Reducing existing levels of light pollution* – the updated website will include a simple home lighting self-assessment and we will promote that with others. The main thing I'm working up is what I've called a Lighting Audit and Action Plan (LAAP) in four communities across Cumbria. I have picked the Melbreak Communities as the more scattered settlement area pilot (it's not been done before to the best of my knowledge). I am seeking funding now for this and would hope to appoint lighting consultants at the beginning of September.

The purpose of the Lighting Audit and Action Plan (LAAP) is to:

- Provide a baseline assessment of external lighting;
- Identify the main contributors to light pollution; and
- Identify priority actions to mitigate the effects of stray/obtrusive light on sky glow.

I would then work alongside a small team of key people from across the four Parishes to approach businesses, organisations and any premises where light pollution was a major issue, and try to fix the problem. I am hoping to secure further funding to pay lighting engineers to do individual assessments as an incentive to these property owners.

Jack Ellerby

Cumbria Dark Skies Project Officer employed by Friends of the Lake District (FLD)