

Loweswater Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th Jan' 2021. By Zoom video conferencing, which commenced at 7.30pm.

Video link Meeting opened: - The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm.

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

Cumbria County Councillor and Allerdale District. Cllr A Bowness (CCC), Cllr C Bell(ABC) by video link. Cllr A B(CCC) experienced sound connection problems

Clerk: Mike Milner.

281.00 Apologies for absence.

282.00 Declarations of interest. None

283.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Loweswater Parish Council held on Thursday 5th November 2020, as a true record.

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

284.00 Public Participation. No members of the public present to participate.

285.00 Police Matters.

285.01 Clerk advised that once again the Cumbria Police website at Area Map option continued with Error 404 code.

286.00 Planning Applications.

286.01 Clerk had advised no new applications, just confirmation that Tarn Bank, Mockerkin FUL2020/0208, had been approved by Allerdale Borough Council.

287.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.

287.01 Cllr A B(CCC) could be seen but he could not hear the meeting, so was unable to understand that meeting could hear his every word. Clerk was able to convey the message that the bridge down by the Kirkstile Inn had had a weight restriction imposed by CCC highways.

287.02 Cllr C B (ABC) advised that apart from problems with refuse bin collections, due to icy roads, there was nothing to report from Allerdale. Both Cllrs left the virtual meeting.

288.00 Mockerkin Green, rewilding and grass cutting.

288.01 The chair confirmed that the clerk had obtained three quotations to the tender document he had circulated. There was a discussion about the prices and after careful consideration the councillors opted to employ the services of Cluran Landscape Services and clerk to draw up the agreement and organise.

288.02 This area has been cut by a local resident for a number of years so this will be an additional precept cost amounting to £280 per year if large top area cut 6 times per season.

289.00 Agree precept figure for financial year 2021/22

289.01 The clerk had circulated an updated set of budget figures prior to the meeting and the chair reminded the meeting of the discussions held in November minute 273.03 and she presented figures to demonstrate the cost implications of the 7% increase on Band A and Band H in Loweswater. At Band A, 87p and H £2.61p per year. Even at those new band rates, compared with Buttermere and Lorton, Loweswater were substantially below their council tax charges.

289.02 Councillors were unaware that a Band H council taxpayer in Lorton was already paying double that of a Loweswater taxpayer. It was resolved unanimously that the Loweswater parish council should request a 7% increased precept figure of £2783, which the clerk would do on 8th Jan' the last day to make the application.

290.00 Loweswater Community Broadband Partnership update.

290.01 Chair advised the councillors that in December 2020 following a revised figure of £224k to provide high speed fibre to 7 properties although only 3 were interested. John Hudson had spoken to the few seriously interested property owners and those individuals agreed that the charge was prohibitive. Therefore, on 21st December following discussions with J H the clerk circulated a letter to all property owners who had been involved at the very start of the project in November 2019, advising the Partnership proposal now closed. The parish council would look at potential broadband options as they may become available.

290.02 Cllrs agree that as an expression of their appreciation of the work J H had done over the past year, clerk should purchase a token and send it to J H with an appropriate thank you card/letter. Clerk to organise.

291.00 Progress reports, clerk inc Highway's matters

291.01 Clerk updated councillors on the Lancaster University traffic survey project. A questionnaire has been devised and it will be in the next edition of The Link with both a website link to the survey and also a hard copy in the paper editions of The Link.

291.02 Clerk advised that the badly faded finger post indicating No Through Road just below the Kirkstile Inn had been removed for refurbishment.

292.00 Loweswater Councillors reports.

292.01 Cllr R T advised the councillors of some of the recent topics discussed at the Melbreak Communities meeting. They included the coffee and cake distribution scheme for residents most isolated due to Covid 19, there was a plentiful supply of flood defence equipment, that Buttermere had been granted a further £19700 for the Hydro-electricity feasibility survey, swift boxes for properties in the valley and also the Dark Skies project, which she asked the clerk to update councillors on as there had been a Lorton parish council agenda item the previous evening.

292.02 Clerk advised that Jack Ellerby, Friends of the Lakes Dark Skies representative had advised Lorton that he was having constructive discussions with Allerdale BC and also light unit manufacturer Thorn Lighting about Lorton Parish being used to trial 4 of the new units which are not yet commercially available, so this would be an important development for both the light manufacturer and the user, Allerdale, to assess their suitability and performance in a working environment.

293.03 Clerk requested by councillors to contact Melbreak Communities Group to request a £200 contribution towards the Mockerkin Green replacement seat.

293.04 Chair advised that she had attended the Dark Skies zoom meeting organised by Lorton parish council on 4th December. She had also been advised of a possible public footpath problem at Foulsyke Wood, which appeared to have been resolved.

294.00 Correspondence.

294.01 Clerk advised he had also been involved in numerous email exchanges about the footpath 243017 at Foulsyke Wood and that all agencies from the Cumbria Countryside Access Team to LDNP and local ranger for the area were all aware of the signage problems.

294.02 Loweswater Village Hall had been in touch about a meeting clash date on 6th May 2021 between Loweswater parish council meeting and local elections. Clerk advised that the election officer could have the hall as he suspected that even in May the parish council would still using Zoom to meet.

294.03 Invoice received from Calc for Cllr D R Aspiring Chair training course. £20.00.

294.04 Great North Air Ambulance had sent a letter of thanks for £150 donation from parish.

295.00.00 Payments for approval.

M Milner Intpay 53, £267.92, salary £235.16 Nov/Dec. £32.76 Nov/Dec expenses

HMRC PAYE Intpay 54, £58.60 PAYE

Calc Intpay 55, £20.00 Training course via Zoom.

All approved

Meeting closed 8.09pm

296.00 Date and time of next meeting Thursday 7th March 2021 at 7.30pm

Page 57 (3 of 3) signed clerk pp chairman.....4th March 2021.