

## **Loweswater Parish Council Meeting**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Nov' 2020 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 all by video link.

Cumbria County Councillor and Allerdale District. Cllr A Bowness (CCC) by video link

Clerk: Mike Milner, one member of the public via video link.

#### **264.00 Apologies for absence.**

**265.00 Declarations of interest.** None

#### **266.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Loweswater Parish Council held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020, as a true record.**

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

Chair at this point brought agenda item 10 to next item.

#### **267.00 Loweswater community broadband partnership update.**

267.01 John Hudson provided a precis of the current situation as there were now only 3 firm interested parties on pursuing the community project. He then advised that as it stood Openreach would probably only consider providing a service that included 6 properties as the 3 additional properties would be on the route of the new fibre facility.

267.02 Openreach currently in process of repricing the project but will potentially expect all 6 properties to participate. 2 councillors are property owners and they indicated that if cost was similar or greater than original quote, they would again not be taking up the offer.

267.03 Council agreed that on receipt of the revised quotation the clerk, after consultation with the chair and J H, to write to the 6 property owners and indicate the new charge and establish if they want to proceed indicating that all 6 had to agree.

Chair thanked J H for his time and effort and J H departed the meeting.

**268.00 Public Participation.** No members of the public present to participate.

#### **269.00 Police Matters.**

269.01 Clerk advised that again the Cumbria Police website at Area Map option continued with Error 404 code. The police circulate regular electronic newsletters for various areas and it very apparent that like many organisations they consider social media as the best method of contacting the public. The clerk asked if there was any councillor who wanted to take on social media duties – no takers at this point.

#### **270.00 Planning Applications.**

270.01 Clerk had advised LDNP, Tarn Bank, Mockerkin FUL2020/0208, no objections.

270.02 Oakbank Lodge 7/2020/2226, councillors agreed that they as consultees had no objections to the development, however they did request that the clerk in his response to planning indicate that the bat report attached to the application was not applicable to the property, but that of another building on an earlier development and therefore was a new bat report appropriate.

### **271.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.**

271.01 Cllr A B (CCC) advised that he had now mastered Zoom. He advised that all councillors, himself included, were asked to notify parish councils that they report problems using the online Highways Integrated Management Systems (HIMS) as that way all the problems were logged in a central location and could be dealt with in a more efficient way. Talks were also underway about the creation of one or two unitary councils to replace the current 7 district councils in Cumbria.

271.02 Cllrs asked Cllr A B if he could investigate the schedule for the road through the valley past Loweswater being repaired, but although he said he would enquire, clerk should make a similar enquiry using HIMS. At the end of his session chair thanked him for his attendance and invited him to remain. Following a busy week, he elected to leave the meeting.

### **272.00 Receive internal audited 6 months parish accounts ending 30/9/2020**

272.01 Prior to the meeting clerk had circulated a copy of the half yearly accounts, with a duly signed bank reconciliation sheet by the auditor confirming all in order. No councillors had any questions, and the accounts were accepted.

### **273.00 Receive proposed budget for financial year 2021/22**

273.01 prior to the meeting clerk had circulated councillors with a copy of the current year's budget comparison and what was proposed for the coming financial year.

273.02 With a budget shortfall of £456 for this financial year, together with the previously proposed purchase of a new seat for Mockerkin Green, £430, plus the new expenditure of ground maintenance budgeted at £280 per year there would be a shortfall of income over expenditure, of nearly £1100 for 2021-22.

273.03 after a lengthy discussion it was proposed that if needs be the sum of £500 should be transferred from the reserve account and that a 7% increase be made to the precept request. Cllr R T and the chair would look at the current Mockerkin seat and consider the option of a basic 2 tree trunk stumps with a plank as a seat being an acceptable alternative, as discussions had arrived at the conclusion the biggest users of the seat were passing cyclists. Precept to be confirmed at January meeting.

### **274.00 Dark Skies update.**

274.01 Chair advised that she and Cllr R T had reviewed the 9 streetlights in Mockerkin, with the FoLD project lead and Melbreak Communities Dark Skies lead and then after consultation with the Friends of the Lakes Dark Skies Project leader circulated Mockerkin residents using the village WhatsApp group message facility. The over whelming majority of residents had responded and indicated that they wished the number of streetlights to remain unchanged.

274.02 The number of junctions, bends and narrows in the area's roads, lack of footpaths and safety of children in the winter all influenced the decision. Therefore, light numbers would remain, but potentially Allerdale would replace with new, low kelvin, LED units as the current older sodium lights failed.

### **275.00 Mockerkin Green, rewilding and grass cutting.**

275.01 Chair advised that the start of the rewilding had commenced, and that Cllrs C T and M A had been in action with machinery and seeds.

275.02 Clerk had received one quote for the grounds maintenance contract, and he was awaiting a further quotation from a contractor. Cllrs suggested a local contractor and Cllr D R would provide the clerk with contact details.

### **276.00 Progress reports, clerk inc Highway's matters**

276.01 Minute 259.02 clerk attended Calc/Allerdale meeting and the proposed transfer of the electricity charge for running street lighting would not be passed to council tax payers as proposed.

276.02 minute 260.01 clerk had photographed the signs and got Highways confirmation that they would be repaired. However Cllr C T had raised with the clerk three sign posts that had appeared by the bridge over the River Cocker down by Kirkstile Inn, 2 posts now displayed an 18 ton weight limit sign but the third sign advised traffic to follow "Directed Traffic Signs." Clerk had raised this with Highways as the road over the bridge is a dead end and there are therefore no alternative signs to follow.

276.03 The caravan at Mockerkin Tarn has disappeared.

276.04 The Thackthwaite road has been visited by Highways pothole repair team, Cllr D R did advise that cycling down the route was now a much safer adventure.

### **277.00 Loweswater Councillors reports.**

277.01 Chair advised that some Mockerkin residents were in contact with Openreach to get an even faster broadband supply.

277.02 Clerk had received an email from Dean parish council clerk about the bus shelter, which is in a dilapidated state and virtually roofless, on the A5086 at the end of the road from Ullock. The question was asked was it used? After using the Mockerkin WhatsApp message group the chair had established that those attending Keswick school would use it if it were safe and weatherproof. Dean PC clerk advised.

277.03 Chair and other councillors raised concerns about the blocked drains from Fangs Brow along the valley road to Loweswater village hall. Clerk to report on HIMS.

### **278.00 Correspondence.**

278.01 Invoice received from Calc for training course £40 for Cllr D R.

278.02 Zoom, 2 invoices, Loweswater contribution £2.88 per invoice.

278.03 Allerdale precept 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment £1300.50 received 1/10/2020

278.04 Great North Air Ambulance grant request received Cllrs resolved £150.00p

278.05 All relevant material received by email circulated to councillors.

278.06 Invoice from Simone Morgan covering 19/20 year end audit and recent 20/21 half yearly audit, £60, each audit fee £30.

### **279.00.00 Payments for approval.**

M Milner Intpay 48, £328.02, salary £293.76 Sept/Oct. £34.26 Sept/Oct expenses

HMRC PAYE Intpay 49, £70.40 PAYE

Calc Intpay 50, £40.00 Training course via Zoom

Great North Air Ambulance Intpay 51 £150.00 Charity grant

Simone Morgan Intpay 52 £60.00 audit fees year end 19/20, half yearly 20/21.

All approved

Meeting closed 8.43pm

### **280.00 Date and time of next meeting Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30pm**

Page 54 (3 of 3) signed clerk pp chairman.....7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021