

Loweswater Parish Council

Minutes of the annual parish meeting of Loweswater Parish Council held on Thursday 3rd March 2022 at Loweswater village hall at 7.30pm followed by the March parish council meeting.

Meeting opened: - The chairman declared the parish meeting open at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs D Robinson (chair), C Todd , K Mitchell, M Astley, L Meadley, R Thompson, K Leck, and C Bell.

Clerk, Mike Milner.

Apologies, A Bowness.

The chair D R read his annual report (a transcript of that report can be found after these minutes.)

Meeting closed at 7.37pm

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Thursday 3rd March 2022 at Loweswater village hall commencing 7.38 pm.

Present: Cllrs D Robinson (chair), C Todd , K Mitchell, M Astley, L Meadley, R Thompson, K Leck,

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

Clerk, Mike Milner.

Apologises, Cllr A Bowness (CCC).

388.00 Apologies for absence, as noted above.

389.00 Declarations of interest. None

390.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Loweswater Parish Council held on Thursday 6th January 2022, as a true record.

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

391.00 Public Participation. No members of public present.

392.00 Police Matters.

392.01 No police reports. Clerk had circulated the police e-newsletters.

393.00 Planning Applications. none

394.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.

394.01 Cllr C B (ABC) up dated the councillors on her recent actions with the Allerdale planning office and its newly appointment enforcement officer who has been in post just 3 weeks. She has asked that the Mockerkin Tarn chalet and container are brought to the top of the enforcement officer's in tray. At the conclusion of her report the chair invited her to stay but she departed.

395.00 Grass Contractors increase per grounds maintenance contract conditions.

395.01 Clerk advised the councillors that under the terms of the ground maintenance contract, the contractor had a right to review his annual price. Clerk had been in touch with the contractor and the RPI on 16th Feb'2022 was 5.5%. Contractor, bearing in mind the rapidly escalating fuel costs would appreciate an increase based on that figure from £30 per cut ex Vat, to £31.65 and the £50 charge for the lower section of the green, would rise to £52,75.

395.02 Cllrs unanimously approved the increase inline with the conditions of the contract.

396.00 Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations June 2022

396.01 There was a very detailed discussion on how the parish should celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and where. Numerous options were considered, but councillors finally decided that on Thursday 2nd June 2022 there would be an official tree planting ceremony of a cherry blossom tree, sourced by Cllr M A, and that planting would take place at 11.30am in the grounds of The Grange, Loweswater. Chair had approached a local resident to officiate. Then the celebration would move on to Loweswater Village Hall for a bring and share Platinum Jubilee lunch to commence at 1.30pm, chair to organise use of the church field for parking.

396.02 Chair to design a flyer A5 size for distribution within the parish, distribution discussed and resolved. The flyer would be also printed A4 size for display in noticeboards. The event would also be promoted in the Link. Cllr. LM agreed to be the point of contact for coordination and enquiries.

396.03 The clerk would be responsible for the printing of flyers and noticeboard material. He would also source a suitable brass plaque A5 size landscape format, which Cllr M A would provide a suitable oak plinth for, cut at an angle to facilitate display and reading. Leaflet design and plaque to be resolved before the May meeting.

397.00 Progress reports, clerk

397.01 The precept request as per minute 380.04 for £2866 had been submitted to Allerdale and acknowledged.

397.02 The Mockerkin Green issue as per minute 383.01, still ongoing.

397.03 The issue of the grit and muck on Fangs Brow, minute 383.05 refers, had been taken up with Highways who advised it was an Allerdale issue, therefore clerk had approached Allerdale, job No 12384086 referred. Clerk advised that road cleaned by 8th Feb'. Certainly, it was clear on Friday last week and again as clerk used Fangs Brow this evening.

398.00 Loweswater Councillors reports.

398.01 Cllr R T proceeded to give a report on the Melbreak Community meeting she had attended on 10th January. Topics covered were, confirmation the committee now had a Facebook page, there had been an update on the Dark Skies project and that Buttermere now had advanced the Hydro Electric project and a private company created to further progress the scheme. There was also a session on a Poetry Trail, which Cllr M A was apparently well versed on and he could perhaps create something for the Loweswater Platinum Jubilee celebration.

398.02 Cllr K M had once again attended Calc and Allerdale virtual Team meetings covering the Unitary Council changes, plus the progress of the underground nuclear waster storage in Cumbria and also one on climate change.

398.03 Chair then advised that he had attended the Buttermere Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 1st March and heard an update from Jane Saxon, the NT Area Manager for the north and west areas. A similar system as used last year will be in place and same email reporting system.

398.04 The shuttlebus would again run from Cockermouth however this year it would run over an enlarged route between Cockermouth and Buttermere to include Loweswater and up Fangs Brow. Last year it was free, but it was proposed to charge £2 per adult this year, but children and concessions would be free. The bus would be a 22/27 seater. This year the temporary pop up camping sites and car parks only had a 28 day licence not 56 as the past 2 years.

399.00 Correspondence.

399.01 The replacement bench request located by Loweswater lake which Cllr M A had advised was on NT land at the Jan' meeting had been referred to NT to resolve.

399.02 Cllr C B (ABC) had advised she was now representing the parish as an Independent Cllr.

399.03 All appropriate emails received were circulated to Cllrs, but clerk was not forwarding the numerous Platinum Jubilee offerings he was receiving.

400.00.00 Payments for approval.

M Milner Intpay 79, £406.44, salary £352.44 Jan/Feb/March. £54.00 expenses
HMRC PAYE Intpay 80, £88.20 PAYE 3 months

All approved

Meeting closed 8.58pm.

401.00 Date and time of next meeting Thursday 5th May 2022 at 7.30pm, the meeting will be held in Loweswater Village Hall and will commence with parish council AGM.

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The chair's Parish meeting report follows.

Loweswater Parish Council Chairman's Report – March 2022

Welcome all to the 2022 Loweswater Annual Parish meeting. This is my first annual report as Chair of Loweswater PC and I would like to express my thanks to Kathryn Mitchell for her help in the transition.

I took over in a very interesting time due to the Covid 19 pandemic, when I took over, we were meeting via Zoom but now we are back to face to face meetings, and with a realistic hope that the worst is very much behind us, but there may still be a few bumps along the way. We are still using Zoom, or similar to continue attending other relevant meetings, , such as the Melbreak Communities and CALC; and necessary training such as, in my case 'New and Aspiring Chair'

Community broadband, despite herculean efforts from John Hudson to investigate solutions the costs were deemed to be prohibitive, and it was decided to look at potential broadband options as they may become economically available.

Recently there appears to be a glimmer of hope with a planning application for a 4G mast on Fangs Brow.

The Dark Skies project run by The Friends of the Lake District has been ongoing, including a presentation via Zoom from Jack Ellerby. Lorton have had new lighting installed and appear to be happy. Loweswater is unaffected, not having any lights, and in Mockerkin there have been some discussions with residents expressing a wish to retain the number of lights

Which brings onto several issues with Mockerkin.

The rewilding project for the green is ongoing and we should start to see the results in the next few years.

We now have new seat, and we are very grateful to the Melbreak Communities for a £200 grant and publicity on their website

On a less happy note, there are persistent problems around the tarn, the latest count being a chalet and a shipping container. The clerk has had ongoing discussions with Allerdale Planning Office, along with support from Carmen Bell but it does appear to be a bit of struggle.

Highways

We have had some resurfacing work on the road by the lake, although some sections remain in an interesting state. Fangs Brow remains a challenge in wet weather, and the lower half has been especially muddy from trailer traffic.

The source of a persistent leakage of water on the lakeside road was eventually located and appropriate action taken.

As ever we have had a number of applications including

Oakbank Farm and Hudson Place Farms changes of use to dwellings were approved with no objections

An unusual application at Fangs Brow for the creation of wetlands, which is now complete.

Also, at Fangs Brow an emergency service 4G telephone mast which was approved with conditions – painting of cabins.

Holme Woods.

The National Trust have an obligation to fell diseased larch trees and are planning to move the wood to a site in Palace How. Concerns have been raised by residents over the volume of traffic on narrow roads through the village and impact on wildlife.

The latest information is that work will not be underway until July and ways of minimising the number of lorry trips are being considered.

Traffic and visitors

We have again had a very busy visitor season with international travel limited by the pandemic, although Loweswater by and large has not been as affected as Buttermere. There have been a number of incidents of illegal camping and I know of one local who was verbally abused after informing offender, but in my experience the response via the CVAAlerts email address has been good. Jane Saxon attended the Buttermere meeting this week and it appears to be more of the same for this year.

Following a review of current finances, the 2022-23 precept will be increased by an agreed 3%, it was felt that residents would be financially challenged with recent inflation, particularly with regard to fuel prices.

Finally, I would also like to thank my fellow councillors, together with our Allerdale District Councillor Carmel Bell, and County Councillor Alan Bowness, for their contributions and assistance. Especial thanks to Kathryn & Rachel as VC and also attending the Melbreak Communities meetings, and of course Mike for his help in supporting and guiding me through my first few months in this unfamiliar role.

David Robinson
Loweswater Parish Council Chair
March 2022.