

Loweswater Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd November 2022 at Loweswater Village Hall.

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

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

Cumbria County Councillor and Allerdale District Cllr. Cumberland Shadow Cllr Jill Perry.

Clerk, Mike Milner.

Apologies, K Leck, A Bowness, (CCC).

450.00 Apologies for absence, as noted above.

451.00 Declarations of interest. None

452.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Loweswater Parish Council held on Thursday 8th September 2022, as a true record.

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

453.00 Public Participation. No members of public present.

454.00 Police Matters.

454.01 No police reports. Clerk had circulated the police e-newsletters. Cumberland Cllr J P advised that she had attended a police awareness course that day. There were to be named police officer's for all specific localities.

455.00 Applications for development.

455.01 Crummock Water 7/2022/0001S0, the documents the clerk had circulated included a file of 217 pages in content. He had obtained 3 hard copies, one each for Lorton, Loweswater and Buttermere parishes. The document from LDNP Planning Department is not as such a planning application it is a request for the Secretary of State to confirm what information will need to be provided in the Environmental Impact Assessment, that will form part of the final planning application. The clerk had applied for an extension from 17th November, to 12th December and clerk would make one submission through Buttermere Parish Council to meet that revised submission deadline. Cumberland Shadow Cllr J P took the hard copy and will return at the January meeting.

455.02 All Cllrs agreed in principle with the removal of the Crummock Water weir.

455.03 The planning applications at Kilndale Farm RUL/2022/0220 and 0221, approved.

455.04 A local resident had queried with the chair, the legality of the new phone mast on Fangs Bank. Clerk had provided all details of FUL/2021/0108 and its approval.

455.05 Another local resident had raised the possibility of the above new mast having a commercial 4G connection for public use. Clerk had put the individual in touch with a contact in Cumbria CC that the clerk has been communicating with since the original application, to get a commercial signal installed.

455.06 Clerk advised that there were various old derelict buildings that had been or were being refurbished on Thackthwaite road. LDNP planning are aware of the works and tracks installed and they had raised complaints files as work contrary to planning legislation. E/2022/0146 and 0249 refer.

455.07 The Hinterlands glamping enterprise is an on going LDNP planning investigation.

456.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.

456.01 Cumberland Shadow Cllr J P advised that the new council plan had been approved in principal and the budget would be agreed in February but was assumed to be in deficit. She had undertaken a Carbon Footprint course via a Teams meeting and she had personally pledged to use an electric bike to attend parish council meetings not her car, but only in summer months.

457.00 Receive externally audited 6 months parish accounts ending 30/9/2022.

457.01 prior to the meeting the clerk had circulated a copy of the relevant ledgers, a copy of the bank statement showing the bank balance at 30/9/2022 and a copy of the bank reconciliation duly signed by the auditor as a true statement of the financial status at the date.
457.02 No questions were raised by Cllrs and it was resolved to accept the accounts.

458.00 Receive proposed budget for financial year 2023/24.

458.01 clerk confirmed that the precept decision would be taken at the January meeting, but he then ran through his budget figures. He had added a £75 figure, which he suggested should be a regular annual sum, to contribute towards the need to replace the laptop that they shared with Lorton parish council. No grants available for new replacement equipment.
458.02 there were no major issues raised by Cllrs, precept for approval in January. Clerk had been in contact with Allerdale and they were continuing to deal with the precept requests, but not sure when and to whom they would transfer the details.

459.00 Report on meeting with LDNP and NT about visitor management held at Buttermere Parish Council meeting.

459.01 clerk had circulated the updated spreadsheet which detailed the issues raised and actions to be followed up on. Cllr M A had sat on the panel as a NT representative on the evening. He and the clerk provided a few statistics that had been provided and Cllr M A explained trespass law, and that aggravated trespass could involve the police. However, campervan owners, were now fully aware of the position and refused to answer knocks on their vehicle doors. If no communication is entered into no action can be taken. Clerk will report back on proposed meetings with the local police and the Highways enforcement team.

460 Progress Reports, clerk.

460.01 The Crummock Weir and unauthorised development on Thackthwaite road had been dealt with elsewhere.
460.02 Mockerkin Tarn, the 40ft container and chalet have still not brought any positive response from Allerdale's enforcement planning team. Cllr R T advised that there was now an additional caravan. Clerk asked for photographic evidence via email or WhatsApp and he would use it to complain to Allerdale that it's their inaction was encouraging further illegal creep of the facility.
460.03 clerk raised the issue of the existing vacancy, after a discussion chair would approach an individual.
460.04 at last meeting clerk advised a £100 penalty had been issued by HMRC. He could report that he had successfully appealed the penalty and that the latest legislation means every month he has to make a submission, payment due or not. Therefore, as he is paid contractually 12 hours per month, he will make that payment to himself, then make an HMRC submission and payment monthly. He would not claim any expenses when making those payments. He has had to apply the same procedure at Buttermere and Lorton.

461. Councillors Reports.

461.01 Chair had attended the Melbreak Community AGM. Steve Irlam had presented a revised Emergency Plan and chair had thanked Melbreak for bench funding cheque.

461.02 Cllr M A advised how successful the Poetry Trail had been and that folk were disappointed that the project had now ceased.

462.00 Correspondence.

462.01 an invoice had been received for the auditor Simone Morgan to cover the 2021/22 end of year audit, £30 and the latest half yearly audit, £30, total invoice £60.

462.02 HMRC using IFF Research request clerk to undertake a survey about Benefits in Kind and payroll expenses. As there are no benefits in kind etc involved at Loweswater the clerk had applied to be excused involvement.

463.03 HSBC had issued by post a lengthy instruction about holding funds in clients account. Obviously not applicable.

463.04 Great North Air Ambulance had sent their usual annual request for a donation. Last year the parish council had agreed a £150 donation, and councillors resolved to make a similar contribution this year.

463.05 The Pension Regulator had been in contact about the parish council's re-enrolment in the mandatory Pension scheme, it is renewable every 3 years. Although no pension scheme or payments involved clerk had renewed the appropriate re-declaration and that has been acknowledged by The Pensions Regulator.

464.00.00 Payments for approval.

M Milner Intpay 93, £295.82, salary £258.92 Sept/Oct. £36.90 expenses.

HMRC PAYE Intpay 94, £64.40 PAYE 2 months.

Simone Morgan Intpay 95, £60.00 auditors fee.

Great North Air Ambulance Interpay 96, £150.00, annual charity donation.

HSBC 2 monthly bank account charges of £8.00 taken as a standing bank deduction. £16.00.

All approved

Meeting closed 8.16pm.

465.00 Date and time of next meeting Thursday 5th January 2023 at 7.30pm, at Loweswater Village Hall.