

Loweswater Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th July 2023 at Loweswater Village Hall.

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

Present: Cllrs D Robinson(chair) K Leck, C Todd , P Battrick.

Cumberland Council councillor not present.

Clerk, Mike Milner. Plus, Harriet Fear-Davies, Buttermere Parish Council chair.

Apologies, R Thompson, L Meadley. Cumberland Councillor J Perry.

594.00 Apologies for absence, as noted above.

595.00 Declarations of interest. None

596.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Loweswater Parish Council held on Thursday 4th May 2023, as a true record.

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

597.00 Co-opt Peter Battrick, Dubs Fold, Loweswater CA13 ORR to Loweswater Parish Council. Details circulated to councillors and clerk confirms candidate appropriately qualified.

597.01 details of the candidate had been circulated prior to the meeting with a CV. Cllr K L proposed that P. B was co-opted, seconded by Cllr C T and approved unanimously. The chair welcomed P B to the council, who then signed his declaration of acceptance of office, as did Cllr C T who had not done so at last meeting.

The chairman then brought agenda item to the top of the business.

598.00 Crummock Water weir removal report following 3 parish councils meeting held 15th June.

598.01 Chair welcomed Harriet Fear-Davies to the meeting, she is chair of Buttermere Parish Council, and she has been acting as the lead for the parish councils of Buttermere, Lorton and Loweswater, liaising with UU team and interested parties, and drafting the appropriate submissions to the LDNP Planning Office.

598.02 H F-D thanked the chair for the invitation and explained that on 15th June there had been a public meeting organised by the UU team at Loweswater in the afternoon and then a closed meeting for the 3 parish councils. The public meeting had entertained approx. 60 members of the public, she had attended that and made notes and then in the evening attended the parish closed meeting and made notes of that meetings content. She proposed to continue to attend all 3 parish council meetings to keep all parishes informed of progress and the timetable of work and also gauge individual feedback from councillors. She pointed out that at the public meeting the objectors were more vocal, however it was interesting to note that one lone voice of support for the removal produced a large round of applause.

598.03 Removing the weir would result in a 1.35mtr drop in the water level – this seems to be greater than the levels were raised in the early 20th century. This came up at the public meeting; following it some present thought that UU had agreed to look at reducing that drop figure, but she reinforced the comment that what UU were planning was to better explain their water level reduction for the locals, not actually change the level figure.

) signed chairman.....7th Sept' 2023

A brief comment about noise levels when the weir was being dismantled, not known how much work required to remove the structure or level of noise from a concrete crushing plant.

598.04 The current timescale is to submit a planning application in March 2024, although H F-D thinks that is optimistic. The lake level is due to be undertaken in 2026 in a 5/6-month window. There is to be access to the lake at all times but how that is maintained is in the planning melting pot at present. In the same melting pot are discussions with Natural England and Highways. The notes taken by H F-D at both meetings on 15th June have been provided to the UU Team. Now that wildlife and other ecological issues were being appreciated by the UU team and councillors, H F-D hoped that using the talent within the 3 parish councils and teaming that with talking to experts being used by UU, and possibly externally, the removal of the weir could be completed in a manner beneficial to all parties involved, and the long-term environmental benefit of the area's National Park location, although it cannot be disputed that there will be considerable disruption whilst the work is carried out. The parish councils should keep working together to make proposals to UU to minimise and mitigate that. UU team say there will be no change to the level at Buttermere.

598.05 Cllr K L raised the logic behind the weir removal as climate change and water shortages due to drought would indicate that building reservoirs was the order of the day, not removing such facilities. H F-D remarked that she had read the contract that was agreed between UU, NT and EA, all 110 pages, in 2015 which was the basis for removing the weir. Cllr P B said the date of that report raised the question, if that was being considered 8 years later with more up to date climate and water issues being known, would the decision be the same? That set in concrete the decision of 2015 which is driving the project, but surely environmental circumstances have changed and H F-D will create an enquiry along those lines for clerk to submit to UU. Chair thanked H F-D for her attendance, invited her to remain if she wished, but not taken up.

Chair resumed the meeting at agenda item 5

599.00 Public Participation. None present.

600.00 Police Matters.

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

601.00 Applications for development.

601.01 clerk reported nothing to consider at this meeting, but Oakbarn Farmhouse erection of a detached garden store 7/2023/2044, had been approved. He also pointed out Hinterland Glamping vans appeared to be on the move and moving into Lorton Parish at Corn How.

602.00 report of Cumberland Councillor. Cllr J P not present.

603.00 Visitor management report after Buttermere meeting 6th June.

603.01 clerk advised that although the meeting took place, unfortunately the main member of the Safer Lakes Team was unable to attend and likewise due to the local government change, the traffic enforcement officer was now responsible for Barrow in Furness. The resulting meeting had the lead LDNP and NT team leaders, but the conversation was very much based on both agency's major policy stance, which resulted on two Buttermere councillors leaving the meeting. Clerk would keep Loweswater informed of next meeting and who would attend.

604.00 Receive Loweswater Parish Council first quarter accounts. Documents to be circulated prior to meeting.

604.01 Clerk had circulated the documents prior to the meeting, there were no questions raised and the chair confirmed that the bank statement figures tallied with the bank rec'. Accounts were approved unanimously.

605.00 Reaffirm the Loweswater parish council Finance Code, circulated to the councillors.

605.00 Cllrs resolved to reaffirm the Finance Code.

606.00 Reaffirm the Loweswater parish council Standing Orders, circulated to the councillors.

606.00 Cllrs resolved to reaffirm the Standing Orders.

607.00 Progress reports, clerk

607.01 clerk confirmed that the caravan at Mockerkin Tarn had disappeared but the container is still there.

607.02 End of year a/c's all submitted to government auditor Moore's and they had acknowledged their receipt. All correctly displayed on website and in noticeboard.

607.03 The road from Askill Farm towards Loweswater, another section has been resurfaced.

607.04 The joint parish council meeting with UU concerning Crummock Water weir removal had taken place on 15th June.

607.05 Connecting Cumbria had been in touch about local parish councils helping establish landowners and wayleave arrangements to speed up the roll out of broadband across the valley.

607.06 Clerk understands that Cumberland Council was taking onboard a policy about potholes, if it has not been reported they will accept no liability to vehicle damage and that once reported it has 20 days to make a repair.

608.00 Loweswater Councillors reports. None

609.00 Correspondence.

609.01 The annual Data Protection renewal had been received. £40 fee, clerk had made the payment and would be reclaiming in his expenses.

609.02 Zurich insurance had confirmed receipt of the annual insurance premium payment.

609.03 Peter Water has been elected as North Distinctive Area Member to represent the parishes at LDNP level. The clerk had actually invited him to attend the UU meeting which he did and he is demonstrating a very proactive attitude.

609.04 Clerk had received an email about public notices placed in Thackthwaite noticeboard being removed and the emailer enquired if there had been a policy change about notices. Clerk had responded no change he only removed out of date notices or those that were put in by commercial enterprises, but he had pointed out noticeboard not lockable so anyone would access the notices.

609.05 Invoice received from Cluran Landscape for £37.98.

610.00.00 Payments for approval.

M Milner Intpay113, £129.36, salary May, no expenses. 23/5/23

HMRC PAYE Intpay114, Clerks tax £32.40, May PAYE

The above payments made to conform with new HMRC reporting and payment legislation.

M Milner Intpay 115, £129.36, salary June, no expenses. 27/06/23

HMRC PAYE Intpay 116, £32.40 PAYE June.

The above payments made to conform with new HMRC reporting and payment legislation.

M Milner Intpay 117, £205.36, £129.36 salary July, exp £76.00

HMRC PAYE, Intpay 118, £32.40, July tax

Cluran Landscape Intpay 119, £37.98, May gross cut at Mockerin.

HSBC May, June and July monthly bank account charges of £8.00 taken as a standing bank deduction.

All approved

Meeting closed 8.14pm.

611.00 Date and time of next meeting Thursday 7th September 2023 at 7.30pm, at Loweswater Village Hall.

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DRAFT