

## **Loweswater Parish Council Meeting**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 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, R Thompson, L Meadley. M Astley. Cumberland Councillor, J Perry.

Clerk, Mike Milner. Plus, Harriet Fear-Davies, Buttermere Parish Council chair. 1 member of the public.

Apologies. None all present.

**612.00 Apologies for absence**, as noted above none.

**613.00 Declarations of interest.** None

**614.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Loweswater Parish Council held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023, as a true record.**

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

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

**615.00 Crummock Water weir removal report update. Buttermere chair Cllr H F-D attending.**

615.01 Chair welcomed Harriet Fear-Davies to the meeting, she is chair of Buttermere Parish Council, and will update the Councillors on events since her last update at the parish council's July meeting. On the UU website there was now a PowerPoint presentation explaining how Crummock water levels had changed over the past century with the addition of new weirs and where they forecast levels would establish themselves on completion of the proposed project. One of the land owners concerned by UU's proposals is actually taking legal advice and has been checking out local archives for the old documents concerning changes over the past century. There is to be an online discussion between the land owner's barrister and UU which the Buttermere chair will attend and hopefully be granted permission to report back on the meetings content. One issue raised has been the closure of the National Trust Scale Hill car park. UU have considered various alternative sites but it is felt that the Loweswater church field car park would, if upgraded by UU, be the best solution. There is easy access to the lake from the field, a minibus transfer is also being considered, and obviously at the end of the project the church will have the benefit of an upgraded car park facility at no cost to the church parochial council. It has become obvious that UU did not realise the extent of the wetland environment and Natural England along with Cumbria Wildlife Trust have arranged a site visit to establish the significance of the wetland and how lowering the water level will affect that. It was agreed that the Buttermere clerk would email the local highway's management team to ensure that, as decisions about traffic management during the project were made, they are shared with the local parish councils and can be discussed before they became implemented. It was also agreed that the clerk should contact LDNP senior planning management to enquire what planning considerations would govern their planning decision, because such a project is not really covered by the local planning plan. There was a final reminder that there were two pop in meetings arranged for the 26<sup>th</sup> September and 27<sup>th</sup> September, one being at Cockermouth and the second at Loweswater village hall. Loweswater chair thanked Harriet for her attendance and the update.

2<sup>nd</sup> Nov' 2023 Chair resumed the meeting at agenda item 4

**615.00 Public Participation.** None present, member of the public had left the meeting.

**616.00 Police Matters.**

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

**617.00 Applications for development.**

617.01 clerk had queried the container in the field adjacent to the vicarage at Loweswater. It transpired that there was planning approval for it 2021/2305 the enforcement officer had spoken to the container owner and building was due to commence later this year.

617.02 the property Moongate planning application 2023/2137 concerned a change of local occupancy criteria. A majority of councillors objected to the larger catchment area proposed so the clerk had submitted on behalf of the parish council an objection. Clerk thanked Cllr P B for his extensive research with regard the original planning application for the barn development as a dwelling.

617.03 clerk advised the councillors that he had finally received a report from the environment agency on the material content contained in the track up to Pottergill. The environment officer confirmed with the clerk that he had spoken to both the contractor and the landowner and seen invoices to cover the purchase of the material used and the environment officer was satisfied that content within that material was within tolerance for foreign bodies.

617.04 finally the clerk had circulated application concerning Oakbank 2023/2107 which concerned solar panels and a garden shed, no councillor has raised any concerns so the clerk had submitted a no objection email to the planning depart.

**618.00 report of Cumberland Councillor.**

618.01 Cllr J. Perry was able to advise that finally after many many weeks the binmen's strike and Allerdale had been called off. It may take a few weeks to resume the normal collection service. She was able to announce that the Cumberland Council had held their first team unity panel, there was funding available for local community and projects applications below £1500 could be decided at local level. Local community groups would be invited to local council events. After her report the chair invited her to remain for the rest of the meeting, an invitation she accepted.

**619.00 visitor management report after bank holiday. Further actions.**

619.01 The clerk had in August circulated a LDNP survey about visitor management over the past holiday season, the visitor management team have requested one collective response from each parish council and the clerk handed to each councillor a copy of that survey. The councillors started to rank from section one the order of priority for the various scenario. They agreed that each scenario could justify being number one. They finally decided that dogs out of control and litter, dog poo and dog poo bags were joint number one, however trying to rank the other eight was problematical.

619.02 therefore they moved to section 2 and again had difficulty in deciding ranking the option. Looking at section 3 and then back at section two they decided that from section 2 maintaining footpaths and bridleways was a top priority and consequently from section three the priority would be develop plans for improvement and maintenance of walking and cycling infrastructure. Question 4 of the survey asked what had been the greatest benefit and they unanimously agreed it was the Safer Lakes team. As for question number 6 and number 7 it was considered a simple no applied to both.

619.03 it was finally decided that as one of the options was that the author of the questionnaire was prepared to accept a personal email response, the clerk will compose the email, circulate to councillors and then submit.

**620.00 Progress reports, clerk**

620.01 clerk reported that since the last meeting as he had moved house and been offline most of his attention had been with the planning application objection, already dealt with earlier in the meeting and numerous emails with regard to the Crummock Water Weir removal.

**621.00 Loweswater Councillors reports.**

621.01 councillors also commented that with the holiday period apart from the Crummock water project there was nothing of significance to report. However, Cllr RT did remind the clerk that when the grass contractor mowed the Mockerkin green wildflower meadow it was a cut and collect exercise. Clerk confirmed he would email the contractor that evening to reaffirm that requirement. Cllr PB asked for clarification of the area being mowed.

**622.00 Correspondence.**

622.01 clerk had received a road closure notice for the Thackthwaite road, U2200, which he had circulated. Cllr PB advised that so far during the road closure dates access had been freely available for cycles and pedestrians and on many occasions vehicles.

622.02 invoice received from Cluran landscape £37.98.

**623.00.00 Payments for approval.**

M Milner Intpay120, £119.96, salary August, no expenses. 18/8/23

HMRC PAYE Intpay121, Clerks tax £29.80, August PAYE 18/8/2023

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

M Milner Intpay 122, £174.96, salary September £138.96, expenses £36.00

HMRC PAYE Intpay 123, £34.80 PAYE September.

Cluran Landscape Intpay 124, £37.98, August grass top cut at Mockerkin.

Cluran Landscape Intpay 125, £37.98, Sept' top cut.

HSBC August and September monthly bank account charges of £8.00 taken as a standing bank deduction.

All approved

Meeting closed 8.26pm.

**624.00 Date and time of next meeting Thursday 2nd November 2023 at 7.30pm, at Loweswater Village Hall.**