

Loweswater Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2nd November 2023 at Loweswater Village Hall.

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

Present: Cllrs D Robinson(chair), C Todd, P Battrick, R Thompson, L Meadley. M Astley.
Cumberland Councillor, not present.

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

Apologies. K Leck, (LPC) J Perry. (CC)

625.00 Apologies for absence, as noted above none.

626.00 Declarations of interest. None

627.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Loweswater Parish Council held on Thursday 7th September 2023, as a true record.

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

628.00 Crummock Water weir removal update. Buttermere chair Cllr H F-D attending.

628.01 Cllr H F-D proceeded to advise on the current position. The September drop-in sessions had taken place and the timetable for submission of the planning application was still March 2024. There was an explanation of rights of way and bridges during and after the construction plus information on the car parking and construction traffic. With regard Park Beck, no landowner agreement could be reached upstream of UU land, so no island. UU however do own the river bed upstream and there is some necessary maintenance work which had been withdrawn from the project, which could now be done.

628.02 Lorton Cllr T St P and Loweswater Cllr M A had with H F-D met with Natural England and explained the locations of wetland areas that NE were unaware of, evidenced after the meeting by images from Cllr T St P. NE appeared to have taken the information onboard. NE would also investigate the Dipper population and evidence of Otters being found. UU have confirmed that they are undertaking ecology surveys, but will not share until all are completed and an accurate report can be provided.

628.03 There are still concerns about what level the water will finally be set at. The plan is to restore the outflow so it is consistent with the gradient of the Cocker, which UU says is consistent with the natural bed level prior to the timber weir. Newly discovered historical documents however indicate that may be incorrect. It is clear that the outlet was excavated when the first timber weir was installed. Cllr H F-D will provide the historical documents to UU without making any definitive observations, UU can make their own interpretations of the information, but cannot claim that details the parishes had, were withheld.

628.04 Cllr H F-D then mentioned the Reservoir Act and the Impounding Licence. There is currently no such licence, however the Environment Agency have told UU to disapply the Reservoir Act.

628.05 Cllr H F-D then advised she had inserted a 2 page letter in The Link and the project now had a fully resourced link on Melbreak Communities website to keep all residents fully updated. She reminded all though that UU website is main source of information.

628.06 Cllr H F-D concluded her update by advising that the clerk had made contact with the relevant Cumberland Highways contact who would be responsible for traffic movements and arrangement to accommodate the inspection of the local roadways to assess their degradation due to the project traffic, which would then be repaired at UU's cost. The clerk was also trying to obtain from the LDNP Planning Office, the criteria that that department would be using when they assessed the final planning application. No response yet.
628.07 all Cllrs were content that the progress of the project from the parish council's aspect was progressing in an appropriate manner. The chair thanked Cllr H F-D for her attendance and the report and she left the meeting 7.47pm.

629.00 Public Participation. None present.

630.00 Police Matters.

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

631.00 Applications for development.

631.01 7/2023/2183 Oakbank Farm. The clerk had circulated the relevant docs and Cllrs had raised no objection, therefore no objection submitted. Clerk had been advised application approved.

631.02 clerk had received a response from planning with regard to 7/2023/2137 Moongate Barn, which the application had asked for a variance on the catchment area for local occupancy S106 condition. The parish council had objected, but planning has approved the application.

631.03 7/2023/2165, Whinfell Caravan Park. This application, the clerk pointed out was not in the parish but in Blindbothel just below the Thackthwaite hamlet on the parish boundary. It was a change of use from March to November to all year-round use. There was very little detail with the application and after a discussion councillors decided that they should object to the application and clerk to make an appropriate submission.

631.04 7/2023/2172 High Cross, replacement windows, clerk confirmed application had been approved.

631.05 clerk concluded by advising the parish council that the 2 appeals which the applicant had made, which LDNP Enforcement team had fought in relation to the unofficial laying of tracks, appeals Q9495/c/23/3317683 and 3317684 which had both been widely objected to by the parish council and numerous local residents had both been dismissed on 11th September. The enforcement notices are upheld. Cllrs requested that the clerk follow up this decision to see what action is now made to enforce the decision.

632.00 report of Cumberland Councillor.

632.01 An apology had been received, but clerk advised if a report was received, he would forward it.

633.00 Receive externally audited 6 months parish accounts, ending 30/9/2023.

633.01 The clerk had circulated all the ledger documents, the bank rec' etc prior to the meeting and invited questions from Cllrs. None made via email and none at this meeting so accounts, audited by external auditor were unanimously approved.

634.00 Receive proposed budget for financial year 2024/25.

634.01 clerk advised that he was not requesting a precept figure this evening that would be for the January, but he had circulated the figures and his observations prior to the meeting. There was a discussion about clerk's additional work while dealing with the Crummock Water weir removal, but the debate to discussed at January meeting.

635.00 Progress reports, clerk

635.01 clerk commented that aside from numerous emails about Crummock Water weir, he had also been somewhat occupied with his wife's immediate surgery, successful so far, so he could only report that after the visitor management questionnaire, discussed at September's meeting, which he had submitted and Emma Moody had acknowledged, little else to report.

635.02 clerk however confirmed though that he had been in a recent email exchange with the Fibrus team's project manager who were working with Connecting Cumbria, to get a highspeed broadband fibre to properties in Melbreak which obviously included Loweswater. He was requested to obtain the address list that was being offered to establish which properties are included. It was noted that Mockerkin had the option.

636.00 Councillors reports.

636.01 Cllr L M raised the question about whether the new mobile communications mast on Fangs Brow was going to have a public 4G supply. Clerk didn't know if EE were proposing to make that supply available, but he would enquire of the agent who made the planning application.

636.02 Cllr C T asked about what happened to the road closure, circulated by the clerk which would have involved his farm access, but never materialised. Clerk only comment was the system of information and accurate notifications, since the promotion of the "Queen of Road Closures." Nothing more to add. No other Cllrs reports.

637.00 Correspondence.

637.01 clerk had circulated the newsletter from Peter Walter the North Distinctive Area Representative.

637.02 Invoice received from external auditor for half yearly accounts, £30.00.

637.03 Invoice from Cluran Landscapes, final Mockerkin Green cut both levels, £101.28.

637.04 Confirmation from Cumberland, precept second instalment had been paid, clerk confirmed receipt.

637.05 numerous Crummock Water email exchanges.

638.00.00 Payments for approval.

M Milner Intpay126, £107.80, salary October, no expenses. 17/10/2023

HMRC PAYE Intpay127, Clerks tax £27.00, October PAYE 17/10/2023

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

M Milner Intpay 128, £179.72, salary November £150.92, expenses £28.80

HMRC PAYE Intpay 129, £37.80 PAYE November.

Simone Morgan, Interpay 130, £30.00, half yearly audit.

Cluran Landscape Intpay 131, £101.28, Final cut at Mockerkin Green both levels

HSBC October and November monthly bank account charges of £8.00 taken as a standing bank deduction.

All approved

Meeting closed 8.14pm.

639.00 Date and time of next meeting Thursday 4th January 2024 at 7.30pm, at Loweswater Village Hall.

Page 105 (3 of 3) signed chairman.....4th Jan' 2024