

Loweswater Parish Council

Minutes of the annual parish meeting of Loweswater Parish Council held on Thursday 7th March 2024 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, M Astley, R Thompson, K Leck, P Battrick and Cumberland Unitary Councillor Jill Perry.

Clerk, Mike Milner. One member of the public.

Apologies, L Meadley (LPC)

Chair read his annual report.

No other parish club or society reports.

Meeting closed at 7.36pm

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Thursday 7th March 2024 at Loweswater village hall commencing 7.36 pm.

655.00 Apologies for absence, as noted above.

656.00 Declarations of interest. None

657.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Loweswater Parish Council held on Thursday 5th January 2023, as a true record.

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

658.00 Public Participation. One member of the public present, who wished to discuss an issue in agenda item 10 broadband availability.

Chair brought agenda item 10 forward to the next item.

659.00 Fibrus update, Mockerkin position with broadband.

659.01 The chair invited the member of the public to state his concerns, which started with the observation that he always thought he was a Loweswater resident but it transpires he is Blindbothel resident. Clerk immediately interrupted the proceedings to point out public participation was for Loweswater residents only, not residents from other parishes, however having seen the email traffic on the topic he would allow the contribution.

659.02 the basic problem was the member of the public was not included in the Fibrus supply option of Fibre To The Property (FTTP), there was a meeting on 10th April, but no one knew about it and should not Loweswater be attending and take action about the non-supply problems.

659.03 clerk with the chair's approval proceeded to confirm that Buttermere, Lorton and Loweswater as parishes were in a joint arrangement liaising with a Fibrus manager, who had attended a Buttermere meeting. The issue of properties not been included in the new FTTP programme was something clerk was fully aware of. The Buttermere chair and vice-chair were blighted similarly by the current proposals, so it was a problem that would not be 'marginalised'.

Clerk was waiting for Fibrus to provide the list of all properties to be offered FTTP and those not included and then a solution would be sought with Connecting Cumbria.

659.04 clerk volunteered to contact Fibrus using his contact, establish who Blindbothel were in contact with and also what the April 10th meeting involved, virtual or face to face. Once he had established that he would email the member of the public and Cllr Adam Baker at Blindbothel clarifying all names, dates and pull everything together.

659.05 Member of public and Loweswater chair were happy with that proposed solution. Member of the public left the meeting.

660.00 Police Matters.

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

661.00 Applications for development.

661.01 Oakbank Fold 7/2023/2246 discussed at last meeting, approved. The Whinfell Caravan Site 7/2023/2165 the opening of the caravan site for year-round use from March to November. Council objected, but planning officer approved the change, not for permanent dwelling short term holiday use only. Moongate Farm 7/2024/2025 a compliance with local occupancy condition, approved no official consultation.

661.02 There had been two outstanding appeals by LDNP Enforcement team, E/2021/0046 and E2020/0277 concerning 5 mobile structures used as holiday lets, their continued use had been appealed to the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol. Prior to this meeting the Inspector had finally returned her decision both appeals had been refused, use must cease.

662.00 Matters concerning Cumberland Councillor.

662.01 Cllr J P advised that there was a drive to increase recycling, include food waste etc. It was pointed out that Loweswater did not have a recycling regime, everything goes into one bin. She updated on Community panel and advised that the council now had 9 jet patching machines. A pot hole was now defined as being 40mm deep with SHEER face and 30cm wide.

Chair thanked her for her attendance and invited her to stay, she accepted the offer and side she would stay until 8.30pm.

663.00 Visitor management update.

663.01 clerk advised that North Area Representative Peter Walter had attended the Buttermere parish council meeting on Tuesday. He had also had an email from Tony Watson, Head of Visitor Services, confirming that all Safer Lakes Officers are about to become part of the LDNP permanent structure. The wardens employed would now have greater job description to allow for more interchange ability.

663.02 There was an improved bus timetable for the shuttle bus this season, which was now in circulation. TW will attend the Buttermere May parish council meeting.

664.00 Crummock Water weir removal.

664.01 the planning officer dealing with the proposed weir removal application has finally provided details of the criteria upon which he will judge the application. The planning application has not yet been submitted, so everything was in limbo. The size of the application documentation will take some considerable time to upload by planning department to their website, therefore UU will provide a copy to Buttermere to circulate to all 4 parishes.

665.00 Progress reports, clerk

665.01 bank mandate not revised due to bank red tape. Solution in process.

665.02 minute 648.04 the 4 parishes in Melbreak Valley use Melbreak Communities website and that all parishes will now contribute £50 per annum for a web hosting charge.

666.00 Councillors reports. No reports.

667.00 Correspondence.

667.01 At Mockerkin street light no7 has been reported as unlit. Repair requested.

667.02 A request has been made for a mirror to assist exit from a Mockerkin drive. Government guidelines are against such mirrors on safety grounds. Resident should approach Cumberland directly.

667.03 clerk had received email about the back road from Scales Bridge to the church and Kirkstile Inn, he had taken images and forwarded to Highways, E1/182576 on 8th Jan and he had since received confirmation repairs had been made. He would investigate when next in parish.

667.04 chair had noticed that NALC had created a new contract for clerk's and he had enquired did clerk need a revised contract, it only applied to new employees not existing.

667.05 GNNA have written and thanked Loweswater Parish Council for its £150 donation to their charity.

667.06 circulated all Peter Walter North District Area reports.

667.07 clerk had circulated fluoridation email.

667.07 Invoice received from Melbreak Communities for £50 hosting charge 2024.

668.00.00 Payments for approval.

M Milner Intpay138, £148.56, salary February, no expenses. Paid 5/03/2024

HMRC PAYE Intpay139, Clerks tax £37.20, February, PAYE. Paid 5/03/2024

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

HSBC February bank charge £8.00.

M Milner Intpay 140, £177.36, salary March 2024 £148.56, expenses £28.80

HMRC PAYE Intpay 141, £37.20 PAYE March.

Melbreak Communities Intpay 142, £50.00 web hosting charge.

HSBC March bank charge £8.00.

All approved

Meeting closed 8.19pm. Councillors and clerk requested Cllr Jill Perry that when she left building at 8.30pm, would she switch the lights off and shut the doors.

669.00 Date and time of next meeting Thursday 2nd May 2024 at Loweswater Village Hall. This will be preceded the Loweswater Parish Council AGM, which will start at 7.30pm.