

Loweswater Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th September 2024 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 (vice-chair),
L Meadley. M Astley.

Cumberland Councillor,

Clerk, Mike Milner.

Apologies. J Perry, Cumberland Cllr.

703.00 Apologies for absence, as noted above none.

704.00 Declarations of interest. None

705.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Loweswater Parish Council held on Thursday 4th July 2024, as a true record.

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

706.00 Crummock Water, weir removal, Planning application update.

706.01 Clerk reported that the September anticipated planning application had not materialised. His feedback from UU was that a new bridge over the River Cocker was under discussion with various agencies, new date for application, December 2024. Cllr M A reported that there were no issues as far as NT were concerned.

707.00 Public Participation. No members of public present.

708.00 Police Matters.

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

709.00 Applications for development.

709.01 clerk had circulated the document involved with 7/2024/2124 concerning Askill Farm and its latest retrospective application.

709.02 clerk confirmed that the latest retrospective application meant the applicant would withdraw the summer camping aspect, no small tents "on spec." The applicant though would re-site the large bell tent, yurt, from its current position to a position lower in the field down by the ruins and operate all year round. The circulated plan showed the proposed site.

709.03 There followed a discussion about lack of a revised business plan. Cllrs M A and C T both highlighted the problems facing farmers trying to make a living from just farming income and diversification was now part of the economic mix to ensure farms remained part of the landscape.

Cllr K L joined the meeting.

709.04 the discussions continued on economic viability and noise etc. The chair asked for a show of hands to decide the position as to whether the new proposal of re-siting and operation all year round was acceptable. Majority in favour of the proposal. Clerk to advise planning.

710.00 Matters concerning Cumberland Councillor. Cllr not present.

711.00 Visitor management reports to report back to the Safer Lakes Team.

711.01 Clerk apologised that unfortunately at the Buttermere evening's Tuesday meeting Tony Watson, LDNP Head of Visitor Services had been unable to attend owing to unfortunately being mugged and requiring remedial shoulder surgery. However, he could report that the area at Gatesgarth had once again this visitor season been a major issue with parking. Not helped by social media promotion of "an infinity pool" which was a myth but visitors came to add to the congestion. The shuttle bus services between Buttermere to Honister had been cancelled once the school holidays started as passage through Gatesgarth was impassable the majority of the time.

711.02 The Head of Visitor Services will attend Buttermere on December 3rd and Loweswater and Lorton chair will be invited along with NT personnel. Cllrs admitted that the lack of a long hot summer had contributed to a not overly busy problem fraught season in 2024.

712.00 Progress reports, clerk

712.01 Clerk advised that he had updated the Data Protection contact details.

712.02 At the last meeting Cllrs had commented that Fibrus seemed to be applying for road closures and not then using them. This was a complaint repeated at Lorton Parish Council and also Oughterside and Allerby. Clerk had written to the local area manager Libby Bateman about the issue. It appears that many of the closures are for inspection of manholes and of existing ducting runs for new fibre optic cables. Apparently, the contractors on site have to assume that the worst-case scenario will occur and have to request a closure to cover that eventuality. It appears that the majority of cases are proving to be basically trouble free, so minimal disruption.

713.00 Councillors reports.

713.01 Cllr R T had attended the Melbreak Community meeting with the Chair Cllr D R and she advised, an exceeding busy time. Mostly concentrating on the very active, ever expanding Melbreak Wildlife Group. They had the following projects on the go, Swifts, Barn Owls, Hedgehogs and have received a grant from the Lake District under Defra's FIPL – (Farming in Protective Landscapes) for a Curlew Recovery Project. Find details on their website. Had a superb display at Loweswater Show and lots of interest in the things they do. Continue to work with the Eco Church project. There are more bookings this winter for home assessments under the Net Zero Project, helping with finding the cold spots in peoples' houses. The Emergency Plan is up to date and thank fully not needed! A new group, Melbreak Orchards and there will be a launch family day Sunday 13th of October to celebrate the Apple! Melbreak continue to promote their monthly Coffee and Cakes initiative. It has given a small grant to help kick-start the Malt House Club. Planning to provide a series of creative workshops for this winter.

714.00 Correspondence.

714.01 Clerk had circulated North Area monthly newsletters from Peter Walter.

714.02 circulated further road closure requests by Fibrus.

714.03 North Area representative Peter Walker is to hold a meeting Wednesday 11th September at Braithwaite. New LDNP CEO and any questions you want to ask. Cllr P B volunteered to attend the meeting.

714.04 2 invoices received from Cluran Landscape both for £39.60 to cover July and August Mockerkin Green cuts.

715.00.00 Payments for approval.

M Milner Intpay156, £148.76, salary August, no expenses claimed.

HMRC PAYE Intpay157, Clerks tax £37.00, August PAYE

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

M Milner Intpay 158, £221.05, salary £148.56 September. £72.49 expenses. July/August

HMRC PAYE Intpay 159, £37.20 PAYE September.

Cluran Landscape Intpay 160, £39.60. August Mockerkin cut.

Cluran Landscape Intpay 161, £39.60. September Mockerkin cut.

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

All approved

Meeting closed 8.09pm.

716.00 Date and time of next meeting Thursday 7th November 2024 at 7.30pm, at Loweswater Village Hall.

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