

Lorton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6th January 2016

Present: Cllrs. Poate (Chair), Postlethwaite, Sloan, Deeks, Aitken, Irlam & Armstrong.

Apologies: PCSO Lyall & Cllr. Bowness (CCC)

Also in attendance: Cllr. Annison (ABC), two members of the public & Dave Smith (Clerk).

The Chair wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

01.16 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest.

02.16 Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the November meeting was accepted as an accurate record by the councillors present and the Chair duly signed them.

03.16 Public Participation:

A member of the public raised concerns about recent flooding in the Low Lorton area. Sewage water, together with excess water from the highway drains, had been backing up and resulted in the flooding of a residence and the garden area. Concerns were expressed with regard to the lack of separation of sewage waste and drainage water, but it was explained that in Low Lorton, and many other areas, there was no separation.

ACTION: Cllr. Annison is to investigate this situation with Cumbria Highways.

04.16 Progress Reports:

A: The Clerk's Progress Report:

Actions on the Clerk from the previous meeting:

155.15: Clerk to ensure that agendas are placed on website, notice-boards and sent to any member of the public who requests one: Done

156.15: Cllr. Deeks to suggest amendments to the draft lease and liaise with Head Teacher: Done (see below)

157.15: Clerk to re-jig grounds maintenance specification and send advert for placement in newsletter: Done

157.15: Cllrs to ensure that all articles for newsletter are submitted by the end of November: Done

158.15: Clerk to inform the LDNPA of the views of the Council: Done

160.15: Clerk to request road sweeper visit from ABC: Done and road sweeper has visited

160.15: Clerk to find out when traffic monitoring and resurfacing work will be undertaken in the village: Done but no response

162.15: Clerk to send out all payments: Done

A list of correspondence received, as below, was read out and duly noted by councillors.

Correspondence	For information	For action
CALC Newsletter Dec/Jan	X	
Letter sent to local residents after Complaints Meeting	X	See below
Report from Allerdale Parishes LDNPA member: Nov & Dec	X	
Letters from ABC re: precept and Council tax	X	X
Request from Great North Air Ambulance for donation	X	X
Notice from The Pensions Regulator	X	X

Councillors agreed to make a donation to the Great North Air Ambulance of £100.

Complaints meeting: The letter below was sent to a local resident following a Complaints Meeting held on 26th November 2015:

Dear Ian,

Lorton Parish Council: Complaints Committee Meeting - Thursday 26th November 2015

I would like to thank you and Nick Young for attending the above Complaints meeting and placing your concerns before the Complaints Committee.

After due consideration the members of the Committee agreed with the Clerk to the Council that Lorton Parish Councillors had followed the Code of Conduct that applies to all Parish Councils and the Standing Orders of Lorton Parish Council when coming to their decision on the planning application in question (7/2015/2209). Though the decision of the council was not one that you agreed with, it was reached in a fair and appropriate manner.

With regard to the implication within your complaint that there was bias in the decision made by councillors, members of the Committee found this to be without foundation.

However, there were issues raised by yourself, or that came out during the course of the meeting, that the Committee felt should be addressed by the wider council. These include:

- Better publicity for all Parish Council meetings: an email list of subscribers will be set up and any one giving the Clerk their email address will receive the Parish Council papers a week before any meeting. This service will be promoted in the Newsletter that is delivered to every house in the Parish.*
- Summing up by the Chair: at the end of a discussion on a planning application the Chair of the meeting will summarise the pros and cons of the application for the benefit of councillors, the minutes and members of the public in attendance.*
- Councillor statements (justifications): for contentious applications each Parish Councillor will be asked what they feel the response of the Council should be to the Planning Authority and give reasons for their decision for the sake of clarity.*

I know I speak for the members of the Committee when I say that I hope you feel that the Parish Council and Parish Councillors are approachable and have dealt with your complaint in a reasonable way. I look forward to seeing you at future Parish Council meetings.

This matter has now been concluded.

B: Parish Maintenance Report:

The Parish Maintenance Contract: The Clerk informed councillors that there had been two expressions of interest in the grounds maintenance contract 2016. To date one quote has been received and a second one is expected shortly, i.e. before 1st February. Once both quotes have been received they will be forwarded to Councillors for their consideration with the formal acceptance of one of the quotes to take place at the March meeting of the Council.

ACTION: Clerk to forward quotes to Councillors.

C: Report from the Borough Councillor:

Cllr. Annison reported that he was continuing his work on the Licensing and Overview & Scrutiny Committees at the Borough Council as well as working on a programme to attract new businesses into Allerdale. He stated that anyone needing assistance as a result of the recent flooding should contact him directly.

There followed a discussion regarding the building of new houses on floodplains in light of the ongoing Strawberry How planning application for 200 houses. This proposal is to be sited just off the Lorton Road in Cockermouth and, if it gets the go ahead, will impact on Lorton residents. Cllr. Annison stated that he felt the

application will go ahead if the developer can convince the authority that engineered solutions to the drainage and flooding issues will be put in place.

D: The Melbreak Communities Report:

Cllr. Poate informed the meeting that Ian and Cheryl Aitken had decided to step back from the running of the Coffee and Cake mornings and that new volunteers were being sought to ensure the continuation of these fund-raising sessions.

Cllr. Irlam stated that whilst there had been no need for a full implementation of the Emergency Plan during the recent floods, there had been a partial 'dry run' to see if the phone tree system worked. Whilst there had been some issues with regard to contacting second home owners, overall the 'dry run' had proved successful.

E: The Parish Council Newsletter:

Cllr. Sloan stated that due to a variety of other commitments in the coming months she would not be able to find the time to work on the Spring edition of the newsletter. The Clerk has agreed to receive the articles and forward them to the printers for publishing.

ACTION: Cllrs. to ensure that all articles and photographs are submitted by the end of March.

05.16: The Playing Field Heads of terms Agreement:

Cllr. Deeks informed the meeting that he had re-considered the draft Heads of Terms agreement as proposed by Cumbria County Council to cover the use of a part of the Parish Field by Lorton School. He felt the document required no alterations and recommended that it be agreed by the Council. This was agreed by the Councillors present.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the Head Teacher that the document had been agreed by the Parish Council and that the Chair was happy to sign the agreement on behalf of the council.

05.16: Planning:

There were no new planning applications to consider.

06.16 Report from the Police:

A written report had been received in which it was stated that there had been six incidents reported since the last meeting detailed as below:

- On the 7th November 2015 the Police received a report of a cow on the road at Lorton. A Police patrol attended and the cow had returned to its field.
- On the 8th November 2015 the Police received a report of a tree fallen in the road at Lorton. Highways were informed, attended and made the road safe.
- On the 6th December the Police received reports of a road being washed away at Lorton. Highways were made aware and attended the area.
- On the 7th December the Police received a call regarding a suspicious vehicle seen in the Lorton area. The details given regarding the vehicle was that it was a dark coloured transit van and contained two males. The males were reported to be knocking on doors claiming to be from an insurance company. The Police would like to take the opportunity to remind members of the public to be cautious regarding strangers and only to let people with legitimate identity enter their homes. If in doubt please contact the Police on 101 or phone 999 if a crime is taking place.
- On the 16th December 2015 the Police received a report of an abandoned vehicle in the Lorton area. The insurance company for the vehicle was contacted and they recovered the vehicle.
- On the 1st January an incident of assault occurred in the Lorton area. Police investigations are ongoing into this incident.

Councillors noted the above.

07.16 Highways issues:

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had already reported the following concerns:

1. Low Lorton crossroads (junction B5289 & U2199) – top layer of tarmac to replace 10m x 3m x 0.05m (long, wide, deep)
2. Tenters Lane High Lorton (U2207) – Hole in road to fill and foundations of Brewery House to prop up with concrete 4m x 2m x 0.5m
3. Whinlatter Road B5292 adjacent to Kirkfell House – beck draining into gullies either side of road but gullies not draining so water in road.
4. Whinlatter Road B5292 north west of Hole Mire – – beck / field draining into gullies either side of road (two locations) but gullies not draining so water in road.
5. Whinlatter Road B5292 above Scale Ghyll bridge – beck / field draining onto road and not into gullies so water in and across road at several locations.
6. Low Lorton crossroads (junction B5289 & U2199) – water exits from gully on the west side of the junction then flows in the road to the next gully where it drains away (the pipe between is clearly blocked)
7. Low Lorton Bridge (U2199) - Water exits from a gully opposite the house “Brackenside” then flows in the road to the next gully where it drains away (the pipe between is clearly blocked)

Additional issues raised by councillors included pot holes on the B5292 close to the High Armaside junction.

ACTION: Clerk to report and follow up the above issues with Cumbria Highways.

08.16 Finance:

The Clerk informed the meeting that the balance of the account as of the most recent bank statement dated 15th December 2015 was £7,470.32p with all payments agreed at the last meeting having cleared through the account.

The Clerk reported that following payments were outstanding:

i: Firpress Printers:	£159.00p
ii: D. Smith Salary Qtr 3:	£355.34p
iii: HMRC PAYE Qtr 3:	£88.80p
iv: D. Smith expenses Qtr 3:	£75.00p
v: Great North Air Ambulance (see above)	£100.00

All councillors present agreed to these payments.

Taking the above payments into account, the reconciled balance of the PC account as of 6th January 2016 is £6,692.18p.

ACTION: Clerk to send out all payments.

09.16 Items for the next meeting: No items were suggested at the meeting.

10.16 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 2nd March 2016 at 7.30pm in The Yew Tree Hall.

Signed: _____

Chair

Date: _____