

Lorton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4th January 2017

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

Apologies: Cllr. Edmunds and Cllr. Bowness (CCC).

Also in attendance: Cllr. Annison (ABC), Dave Smith (Clerk) & 2 members of the public.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

01.17 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest.

02.17 Minutes of the previous meeting:

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

03.17 Public Participation:

The Clerk informed the meeting that there had been six responses from members of the public to the letter the Council had received from Phillip Groom of Cumbria Highways in which it was explained why Cumbria County Council would not be implementing a 30mph speed restriction to cover the whole village of Lorton, as requested by the Parish Council.

The two main suggestions put forward by the members of the public who had responded were:

- Seek a speed limit in a much more restricted area within Low Lorton rather than the whole village.
- Place 'Please drive carefully' signs under each of the 'Lorton' signs.

Councillors held a variety of opinions and, though it was agreed that the vast majority of vehicles driving through the village did so in a responsible manner and there had been no recorded incidents of collisions or pedestrian injury caused by speeding cars, there was a perception locally that speeding was a real issue. With this in mind it was agreed that in the response sent to Cumbria Highways a request for a 30mph zone to cover the B5289 through Low Lorton should be made, emphasising the nine new build family homes that are to be constructed in the area, together with a request for additional signage to encourage drivers to drive carefully through the village.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Cumbria Highways with request for speed limit and signage.

04.17 Progress Reports:

A: The Clerk's Progress Report:

Actions on the Clerk from the previous meeting:

79.16: Cllr. Irlam, with support, is to undertake work on notice-board: Done

79.16: Clerk to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner re: new style Police reports: Done & response received.

79.16: Cllrs. to send Clerk any articles/photographs for next edition of newsletter: Done & newsletter issued

80.16: Clerk to inform the LDNPA of the views of the Council and to explain the quorate situation: Done

82.16: Clerk to write to CCC re: speed limit in Lorton: Done & response received

- 82.16: Clerk to report issues to Cumbria Highways: Done
- 83.16: Clerk to inform ABC that there would be no increase in the precept: Done
- 84.16: Clerk to send out all payments: Done
- 85.16: Clerk to inform Wordsworth Trust re: geo-caching box placement: Done

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

Correspondence	For information	For action
CALC Newsletter Nov, Dec/Jan	X	
Allerdale Budget Consultation email	X	X
Report from Allerdale Parishes LDNPA member: Oct & Nov	X	
Insurance cover for Melbreak Communities: document 2	X	X
Letter from G N Air Ambulance thanking Council for grant	X	X
Letter from CCC re: request for speed limit in Lorton	X	
Letter from PCC re: new style of Police report	X	

B: Parish Maintenance Report:

Parish Benches: The Clerk confirmed that he would be meeting with the contractor, Richard McCree, shortly to discuss the work for the coming season.

C: Report from the Borough Councillor:

Cllr. Annison reported that he had been approached by an elector in the Parish to try and ensure that his planning application, 7/2016/2245 Croft Barn residential dwellings, was heard by the LDNPA Development Control Committee and not just taken on Officer recommendation. Cllr. Annison had spoken to the Chair of the Authority and had ensured a hearing by the Development Control Committee. At the hearing it had been agreed that there should be a site visit and this will be undertaken on January 11th. The Clerk informed the meeting that no letter had been received as yet inviting a member of the Parish Council to attend the site visit, one was on its way. It was agreed that Cllrs. Postlethwaite and Aitken should represent the Council at the visit.

ACTION: Cllrs. Postlethwaite and Aitken to attend the site visit.

Cllr. Annison also reported that in the Allerdale Council Plan 17/18 it was proposed that large swathes of land, some of which was within the National Park, should be made available for further wind turbine development. He informed the meeting that the Conservative group on the Council would oppose this proposal.

D: The Melbreak Communities Report:

The Clerk reported that he had responded to a second briefing note from Mr. Poole with regard to insurance cover for the Melbreak Communities Group, once again explaining that the view of the Council and the Insurance Company was that the group should take out its own insurance cover.

Cllr. Postlethwaite reported back from the Coffee morning at which Community Energy schemes were discussed with Phil Davies from Cumbria Action for Sustainability leading the discussions. There had been an excellent turn out and it is expected that a steering group will be formed to take forward the idea of a local community energy project. The next Coffee and cake session is to be held on January 17th.

E: The Parish Council Newsletter:

The Chair asked councillors if they could provide articles and photographs for the Spring edition of the newsletter by March 1st. It was agreed to continue with the 'adverts' in the newsletter.

ACTION: Cllrs to send Clerk any articles and photographs.

ACTION: Clerk to send out 'invoices' to Border Hydro and the Wheatsheaf.

05.17: Planning:

There were no new applications to be considered at the meeting.

Two applications have been dealt with between meetings:

Ref: 7/2016/2293
Location: Yew Tree Hall, Lorton CA13 9UJ
Proposal: Refurbishment of existing ladies toilets including full height timber stud partitions and additional toilet for male and female use to allow lower ground floor male toilets to be made redundant.
Reply by: December 15th 2016

A response of '**No Objections**' was sent.

Ref: 7/2016/2301
Location: Fife Lodge, Low Lorton CA13 9UP
Proposal: Repairs and renewal of a previously existing garden boundary fence.
Reply by: December 20th 2016

A response of '**No Objections**' was sent.

There was one FOR INFORMATION ONLY application:

Ref: 7/2016/2284
Proposal: Proposed access tracks
Location: Gillbrae Farm, High Lorton CA13 9TX

Councillors duly noted the above.

06.17 Report from the Police:

Cllr. Deeks reported that on the Police website there had been three incidents logged in the Lorton area during November:

1. Arson involving a motor vehicle on the B5289.
2. An anti-social behaviour incident in the area of the Parish Field
3. An unspecified incident

The Clerk reported that he was not able to access the online road traffic incidents via the portal given in the Police Report.

07.17 Highways issues:

Councillors reported that the Street Sweeper had visited the Parish before Christmas, though it was noted that there were areas within the village where leaves had once again built up. It was also reported that further works had been undertaken by the Gulley Cleaning Team and that works had also been undertaken on the culvert in the High Mill Bridge area. Work on the Boonbeck Road was continuing with some of the some of the culvert covers having to be re-aligned.

Cllr. Deeks reminded Councillors that he still had all the equipment for litter collection that had previously been requested from Allerdale BC. It was agreed that the issue of litter in the village and surrounding area should be discussed at the March meeting.

08.17 Finance:

The Clerk informed the meeting that the balance of the account as given in the most recent bank statement dated 15th December 2016 was £8,633.66p with all but one of the payments agreed at the last meeting having cleared through the account.

The Clerk reported that the following payments were outstanding:

i: D. Smith - salary Qtr 3	£356.50p
ii: D. Smith - expenses Qtr 3	£82.00p
iii: HMRC PAYE Qtr 3	£89.00p
iv: Firpress Printers (Winter Newsletter)	£99.00p

All councillors present agreed to these payments.

Taking the above payments into account and the payment yet to clear the account, the reconciled balance of the PC account as of 4th January 2017 is £7,982.16p.

ACTION: Clerk to send out all payments.

09.17 Reports from other meetings:

There were no reports from other meetings to hear.

10.17 Items for the next meeting:

- Litter picking

11.17 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 1st March 2017 at 7.30pm in The Yew Tree Hall

Signed: _____

Chair

Date: _____

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