

Lorton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1st July 2015

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

Apologies: PCSO Lyall

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

130.15 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest.

131.15 Minutes of the previous meeting:

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

132.15 Public Participation:

Cllr. Annison introduced himself to those present and informed the meeting that his main focus in his new role as Borough Councillor for Crummock Ward was to ensure that rural issues and communities were dealt with and listened to. He is now a member of the Communities Scrutiny Committee where he intends to hold the ruling group to account and to make sure that any funding available gets out to rural communities rather than the urban areas of Allerdale.

One of the areas that the Scrutiny Committee will be looking at is how well elderly people 'perform' in their communities. The 'Ageing Well Process' is being developed to ensure that the appropriate support services are in place for elderly people no matter what type of community they live in.

Other issues raised by Cllr. Annison included a damaged signpost in Embleton Parish, near Hundith Hill, that indicates the way to Lorton, the condition of the Old Mosser Road over to Loweswater which he is discussing with Cumbria Highways and street-lighting, which was felt not to be a problem in Lorton at present.

Cllr. Annison asked all those present if they could think of any small-scale projects that might be able to be funded by Allerdale Borough Council.

The Chair thanked Cllr. Annison for his report.

133.15 Planning:

There were three planning applications to be considered by councillors:

Ref: 7/2015/2138
Location: Cross Gates, High Lorton CA13 9UL
Proposal: Erection of dwelling

The outline planning application was spoken to by the applicant, Sarah Lawler, and her architect. SL explained that it was intended to build a three/four bed, 'dormer bungalow' on the site as indicated in the plans. She and her husband wished to down-size and hoped to move into the new build themselves and

place Cross Gates, their current house, on the market. If they are successful in receiving outline planning permission then a fully detailed application will be submitted.

After some discussion councillors agreed that they had '**No Objections**' to the application.

Ref: 7/2015/2111
Location: Boon Beck Barn, High Lorton CA13 9TZ
Proposal: Change of use of agricultural field to provide parking spaces etc in association with dwelling

The application was spoken to by Mrs. McDowell, the applicant. She explained that they needed to develop parking spaces for two vehicles to the side of their property, Boon Beck Barn. She had discussed the application with the Planning Officer from the LDNPA, Cumbria Highways regarding access onto the highway, and the local farmer.

Councillors noted that parking was an issue in this part of High Lorton and had '**No Objections**' to the current application.

Ref: 7/2015/2110
Location: Oak Lodge, Low Lorton CA13 9UP
Proposal: proposed roof alterations

After some discussion regarding roof height and the creation of additional living space, councillors agreed that the application was probably the best way forward for a property that had been developed in a piecemeal fashion in the past. Thus it was agreed that there were '**No Objections**' to the application.

An application to carry out work on trees protected by a tree preservation order was then discussed.

App No: T/2015/0075
Location: Holemire House Barn, High Lorton
Works: Fell 1 silver birch, 1 ash, crown raise line of trees and reduce hedge height.

Councillors agreed that they had '**No Objections**' to this application.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the LDNPA of the views of the Council.

Councillors were then asked to note the following grant of planning permissions:

7/2015/2073: Lorton Tennis Club - flood-lighting to Court 2
7/2015/2083: Lorton Village Shop - various improvements to building plus extension
7/2015/2065: 2 Swinside Cottages - extension to rear
7/2015/2068: Land to the S of Lime Tree House - construct flag footpaths*
*Condition No. 3: Footpath hereby permitted shall be constructed of porous material.

There then followed some discussion on the two most recent Lorton Complaint updates, 19 & 20, as they related to Land to the South of Lime Tree House. It was agreed to wait until July 10th to see if the applicant had installed the false chimney as required to do so by the LDNPA. If this work had not been done by then the Clerk is to write to the Authority to urge them to prosecute the applicant for non compliance.

ACTION: Cllr Deeks to contact the Clerk on July 11th to inform him as to whether the required works have been undertaken. If not, the Clerk is to write to the Authority as above.

133.15 Proposed housing developments - Low Lorton:

The Clerk read out a letter from Tony Cresswell in which he stated that he was currently looking into the possibility of building some six or seven houses on the land that he owns immediately to the north of his house, Croft Barn in Low Lorton. He has been in discussion with the Armstrongs from Terrace Farm who are also looking at the possibility of building two houses on land directly opposite the Croft Barn land. Discussions are currently ongoing with the LDNPA regarding affordable homes and local occupancy restrictions on new builds within the National Park. TC feels that it may be some time before either of the potential developments progresses but he wanted to make the Parish Council aware at an early stage of these potential developments in a spirit of openness.

134.15 Progress Reports:

A: The Clerk's Progress Report:

Actions on the Clerk from the previous meeting:

122.15: Clerk to deliver all paperwork associated with the election to ABC before 4th June: Done

123.15: Clerk to order No Parking sign: Done

123.15: Cllr. Deeks to undertake a new inspection of the Parish Benches: Done

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

126.15: Clerk to report issues to Cumbria Highways: Done

127.15: Clerk to send out all payments: Done

127.15: Cllr. Sloan to provide bank with paperwork associated with becoming a new cheque signatory: Done

Correspondence	For information	For action
CALC Newsletter June	X	
Salary information from Lamont Pridmore	X	
No Parking sign from Slingsby (Passed to Cllr. Deeks)	X	
Report from Allerdale Parishes LDNPA member: May	X	
Confirmation from Aon of insurance cover with Employers Liability Certificate	X	X
CALC Allerdale meeting information	X	X
LDNPA: Lorton Complaint Update 19 & 20	X	X
Email from Anna Clark Low Lorton re: footpath in the valley	X	
LDNPA Parking Charges	X	
Email from the Yew Tree Hall Committee requesting a Parish Councillor rep to sit on their management committee	X	X

It was agreed to contact Anna Clark and suggest that she get in touch with the LDNPA regarding this matter.

ACTION: Clerk to respond to local resident and send Larry Cowper a copy of the email.

Cllr. Irlam agreed to be the PC representative on the Yew Tree Hall Management Committee.

ACTION: Clerk to inform Bob Baird.

B: Parish Maintenance Report:

The Pound Wall: Cllrs Deeks & Irlam are to install the 'No Parking' sign shortly.

The Parish Benches: Cllr. Deeks had undertaken a new inspection of the Parish Benches and it was agreed that, at present, the only one in need of urgent attention was the one at Whitbeck Bridge. Cllrs Deeks and Irlam are to dismantle the bench which will then be collected and refurbished by the contractor used previously.

ACTION: Cllrs. Deeks & Irlam are to undertake works on the bench and inform the Clerk when it is ready for collection.

C: The Melbreak Communities Report:

Cllr. Aitken informed the meeting that the coffee and cake sessions were still being well attended and that the AGM of the group was to take place the following week.

135.15 Report from the Police:

A written report had been received in which it was stated that there had been one incident reported since the last meeting, this being a report of a cow loose on the road.

There followed some discussion regarding the non attendance of PCSO's at Parish Council meetings. Councillors agreed that unless there was something specific that they wished to discuss with the PCSO or another officer then they were content to receive the written reports on the assumption that the officer had other duties to perform.

136.15 Highways issues:

Cllr. Armstrong informed the meeting that the fingerpost in High Lorton opposite Lorton Hall had been damaged and that one of the indicator fingers was currently sitting on the ground.

ACTION: Clerk to report the above issue to Cumbria Highways.

137.15 Finance:

The Clerk informed the meeting that balance of the account as of the most recent bank statement dated 15th June 2015 was £7,216.86p with all payments agreed at the last meeting having cleared through the account.

The Clerk reported that following payments were outstanding:

i: R. McCree - grounds maintenance My and June:	£300.00p
ii: D. Smith Salary Qtr 1:	£355.34p
iii: HMRC PAYE Qtr 1:	£88.80p
iv: D. Smith expenses Qtr 1:	£118.25p

All councillors present agreed to these payments.

Taking the above payments into account, the reconciled balance of the PC account as of 1st July 2015 is £6,354.47.

ACTION: Clerk to send out all payments.

138.15 The Transparency Code for Smaller Councils:

The Clerk informed the meeting that as from 2017 the annual accounts for Parish Council with an income of less than £25,000 were no longer to be externally audited by a firm of accountants and paid for by the government. To ensure continued transparency in the operation of Parish Councils and the expenditure by them of public funds, the government is telling all local councils that all the paperwork associated with council meetings and income and expenditure should be made available, for the public to view, online. Thus the public will, to all intents and purposes, become the external auditors for the council.

The Clerk has discussed this issue with the Melbreak Communities web master and he does not foresee any problems with the placement of more documents online for the council. As from this meeting the minutes,

the Clerks Report and the Bank Reconciliation will all be placed on the Melbreak Communities website under the Lorton Parish Council tab. Other documents that will be placed on the site include the Register of Assets, the Standing Orders of the Council and the Financial Regulations.

139.15 Items for the next meeting:

- Dog Fouling in the Parish

Councillors agreed that there should be a standing agenda item, 'Report from the Borough Councillor'.

140.15 Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 2nd September 2015 at 7.30pm in The Yew Tree Hall.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chair

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