

Lorton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6th July 2016

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

Apologies: Cllr. Armstrong.

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

48.16 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest.

49.16 Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the May meeting held on 4th May and the special planning meeting held on June 2nd were accepted as an accurate record by the councillors present and the Chair duly signed them.

50.16 Public Participation:

It was agreed that issues raised by members of the public present should be addressed under the appropriate agenda item.

51.16 Proposals for a new post box in Lorton:

The Clerk read out an email from David Clapperton of the Royal Mail:

'We have received a complaint from a local resident requesting that the current post box outside Lorton Village Shop be replaced with a box with a larger aperture which could therefore accept larger envelopes.

The complainant wishes to be able to post C4 size mail generated by his business in the box which would mean us either removing or blocking off the existing box and then replacing it with a new model lamp type post box at some other location in the village.

The complainant states that he has had conversations with a number of villagers and claims some consensus of opinion in favour of replacing the box. I therefore write to ask for the opinion and guidance of the local Parish Council on the following points.

In the first instance, I would like to confirm independently that there is indeed a local consensus for the replacement of the existing box as I do not wish, for a variety of reasons, to remove it from service on the strength of a single request.

Secondly, the replacement box would be of a more modern design of the box which it could be said was unsympathetic to the setting in which it might find itself – indeed it is quite the antithesis to the existing box in its local stone pillar – but unfortunately, there is no alternative.

Thirdly, if it is the wish of the local residents to proceed with a new posting box, I would like to ask for your help to identify a suitable site. I visited the village last week and struggled to find a central site on public ground which would not cause nuisance or danger to local residents or those either using or servicing the box.

Finally, there is an option to leave the existing box at the shop as it is and replace the box at Low Lorton (CA13 78) instead. We would look to paint the existing box black, seal it permanently and replace it with the new one directly in front of or beside the old one – adjacent to the Parish notice board. This option would avoid the problem of finding an alternate site and would be equally central to the area. This would be our preferred option, if any.

I would like to be in a position to make a decision by the end of the month and so would be grateful if you could let me have any feedback from the Council at your earliest opportunity.'

There followed a wide ranging discussion during which a number of emails from local residents opposed to the replacement of either of the existing post boxes with a modern style of box with a wider aperture.

A number of alternative solutions were also discussed. These included dropping larger parcels and envelopes off at the shop for collection or the mobile post office that visits the village on Fridays.

It was eventually agreed by all the councillors present that they would not support the closing up of either of the two existing post boxes though, if the Post Office was able to identify a suitable site for a new style box, it would welcome the installation of a third box. The reasons for this decision were that there was no local support for the replacement of one of the existing boxes and that the two existing GR boxes were a valuable part of the village heritage and should not be closed or removed.

Action: Clerk to write to Mr. Clapperton and Mr. Johnson (the resident who requested the new box) explaining the views of the Council.

52.16 Cycling issues in the Parish:

Cllr. Postlethwaite raised her concerns about both the numbers of cyclists riding through the locality and the attitude of many of the individual cyclists which can be both aggressive and inconsiderate. In particular, it was the problems caused by cyclists riding in large groups the Cllr. Postlethwaite was concerned about. Her concerns were echoed by other councillors present and members of the public.

In attendance was John Scrivens who used to provide a helpline for C2C cyclists for Sustrans but, along with the local area manager, has recently been made redundant. John explained that if members of the public came across cyclists who were acting in an irresponsible or inconsiderate manner they should report the incident to Cumbria highways. If cyclists are observed breaking the law then the incident should be reported to the police.

It was agreed that C2C cyclists were not usually to be found riding in large groups and were usually riding through the area on Thursdays and Fridays. It was acknowledged that the business that cyclists provided for the village shop was essential for the financial well being of the shop. It was further acknowledged that the national increase in people taking up cycling was a good thing though it was having an impact on the number of local people riding through the Parish.

ACTION: Shop to put up posters asking, in a positive way, cyclists to ride with consideration for local residents.

53.16 Progress Reports:

A: The Clerk's Progress Report:

Actions on the Clerk from the previous meeting:

35.16: Clerk to inform ABC that Cllr. Edmunds has been co-opted: Done

36.16: Clerk to contact Phil Hartley re: Parish Field gate & notice-board: Done (see below)

36.16: Clerk to liaise with School and Chair re: newsletter articles: Ongoing (see below)

36.16: Clerk to request sweeping of area where recycling bins used to be: Done

37.16: Cllr Deeks to assess which of the Parish Benches next needs to be refurbished: Ongoing

- 38.16: Clerk to inform the LDNPA of the views of the Council: Done
- 40.16: Clerk to report issues to Cumbria Highways: Done
- 41.16: Clerk to send out all payments: Done
- 42.16: Clerk to invite John Scrivens to next PC meeting: Done

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

Correspondence	For information	For action
CALC Newsletter May & June	X	
AON Insurance: Certificate of Employers Liability Insurance	X	
Report from Allerdale Parishes LDNPA member: May & June	X	
CALC Invoice: Good Councillors course	X	X
LDNPA Local Plan Review: various emails & attachments	X	
Pensions Regulator: confirmation of compliance	X	
LDNPA Local Development Scheme	X	
LDNPA Statement of Community Involvement	X	
CCC & EA Flood Investigation Report - Lorton	X	

Cllr. Edmunds reported that he had enjoyed the Good Councillor training session, invoice above, and had found it useful.

ACTION: Clerk to forward to ABC a copy of Cllr. Edmunds Declaration of Pecuniary Interests form.

B: Parish Maintenance Report:

Parish Benches: Cllr. Deeks to recommend which bench should be next for refurbishment if required.

Parish Field Gate: Phil Hartley has now repaired the gate.

Parish Notice-board: Phil Hartley to address slight leakage on one side of the notice-board. Cllr. Irlam has volunteered to help.

Grounds Maintenance: work ongoing

ACTION: Clerk to pass on Cllr. Irlam's details to Phil Hartley.

C: Report from the County & Borough Councillors:

Cllr. Annison informed the meeting that as a member of the ABC Development Control Committee he had ensured that there would be no parking charges at the new Lidil store in Cockermouth. He was also continuing to raise the concerns of rural communities within the council.

Cllr. Bowness informed the meeting that CCC were now not going to be reimbursed for much of the additional expenditure related to the flood recovery work. He also explained that the Cumbria highways teams were now back on the regular highways maintenance work though they were still trying to catch up with the backlog caused by the floods. The County Council contract for gully cleaning has now come back 'in house' and it is expected that a better service will be provided. Three new specialist vehicles are to be purchased by Cumbria Highways. These vehicles will allow for 'hot fill' to be used when pot holes are being refilled with tarmac. This should provide a longer lasting repair.

Cllr. Irlam asked Cllr. Bowness if Cumbria Highways would like a copy of his map of drains within the Parish. It was agreed that it should be sent to David Harrison at Cumbria Highways.

Concerns were raised regarding blocked drains on the B5292 from Kirkland House to Fairfield and the section of road affected by the floods at the bottom of Tenters Lane. (See Agenda Item 56.16).

ACTION: Cllr. Irlam to forward copy of drains map to Cumbria Highways.

D: The Melbreak Communities Report:

Cllr. Poate reported that Cumbria County Council and the Environment Agency were to hold a meeting in the village to discuss the Flood Investigation Report for Lorton. There are now representatives from both Buttermere and Loweswater Parish Councils who will be attending the Melbreak meetings. The Community Flood and Resilience Group is to look at refreshing the Emergency Plan.

E: The Parish Council Newsletter:

The Clerk expressed his concerns that he had heard nothing from the school with regard to the summer edition of the newsletter. It was agreed that Cllr. Postlethwaite should provide an article on the school poly-tunnel and that Cllr. Edmunds should complete the questionnaire.

ACTION: Cllr. Poate to contact the Head Teacher to discuss.

F: Parish Leaflet:

Cllr. Poate informed the meeting that there used to be a leaflet about the village, aimed mainly at tourists, and she wondered if it was time to produce another one. It was agreed that this was good idea and that funding could be applied for to cover the associated costs.

ACTION: Cllr. Poate to set up a sub-group to take the leaflet idea forward.

53.16: Planning:

There were no new planning applications to discuss at the meeting.

Two planning applications had been dealt with between meetings at a Special Planning Meeting held on June 2nd.

Ref: 7/2016/2124

Location: Tenters, Tenters Lane, High Lorton CA13 9TY

Proposal: Demolition of existing derelict Tenters property and erection of new large family dwelling and ancillary buildings.

A response of 'Object' was sent for the following reasons:

1. The scale of the building, both in terms of volume and mass, is considered to be too large for the site and is viewed as an over-development.
2. The pitch of the roof, at 45 degrees, is too steep for a slate roof and not in keeping with local design.
3. The proposed design of the building bears no relation to the existing local vernacular buildings. It will look out of place.
4. The proposed drainage to the nearby watercourse may well exacerbate flooding problems downstream that are already a real cause for concern.

Concerns were also raised about the scale of the work to be undertaken and the impact it will have on local traffic. However, despite the decision to 'Object' councillors did want to make it clear that they welcomed the proposal to undertake development on the site which has been left derelict for too long.

Ref: 7/2016/2127

Location: Land to the south of Lime Tree House, Low Lorton CA13 9UW

Proposal: Variation to condition 7 on approval ref: App/Q9495/A/12/2185398 to remove chimney stack and installation of gable window in second floor level of southern elevation.

A response of 'Object' was sent for the following reason:

The original application for this development described the proposed house as being in the style of a traditional Lakeland Cottage and it was on this understanding that the application was granted permission by

the LDNPA. Traditional Lakeland cottages have chimney stacks, and the Council see this as being an integral part of the design, and do not have second-storey windows in the gable end.

Councillors were asked to note the following:

Notice of Grant of Planning Permission:

7/2016/2067: Riverside, Low Lorton -first floor extension

7/2015/2295: Horse Shoe Cottage, High Lorton - replacement windows & door

7/2016/2064: Bridge End Cottage, Low Lorton - erection of new porch

7/2016/2071: The Old Vicarage, Lorton - removal of accommodation condition

7/2016/2094: Kirkfell House, High Lorton - new house in garden

54.16 Parish Field Agreement:

The Clerk informed the meeting that the County Council legal team had advised the head teacher that a Licence rather than a Lease would be a better form of agreement to use for the Play area on the basis that the school will not have exclusive possession of the ground. A redrafted heads of terms has now been submitted to reflect the change.

After some discussion councillors agreed to the suggested change as:

Proposed by: Cllr. Deeks

Seconded by: Cllr. Irlam

Cllr. Poate duly signed the document.

ACTION: Clerk to send the signed agreement to CCC.

55.16 Report from the Police:

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

- On the 11th May a report was made to the Police of a fallen tree in the road between the areas of Hopebeck and Whinlatter Pass. Highways were informed.
- On the 21st May the Police were informed of an injured female who had fallen off her bike in the area of Whinlatter. The Mountain Rescue Team assisted and the female was taken to hospital for treatment.

Councillors noted the above.

56.16 Highways issues:

Highways issues reported by councillors were:

- Pot holes along the length of Church Lane.
- Blocked drains on the B5292 from Kirkland House to Fairfield
- The section of road washed away by the floods at the bottom of Tenters Lane is now ready for repair.

It was also agreed that the worsening state of the B5292 at Scawgill Bridge, as reported after the last meeting, should be reported again in light of the fact that the Tour of Britain would be using this stretch of road during the summer.

Cllr. Poate reported that the No parking sign was currently being used by the Yew tree Hall to try and ensure that local farmers were not impeded by inconsiderate parking.

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

57.16 Finance:

The Clerk informed the meeting that the balance of the account as given in the most recent bank statement dated 15th June 2016 was £8,172.10p with all payments agreed at the last meeting having cleared through the account.

The Clerk reported that the following payments were outstanding:

i: R. McCree - grounds maintenance May & June:	£330.00p
ii: CALC Training:	£29.50p
iii: Cllr. Poate - reimbursement for QE2 rose:	£25.94p
iv: D. Smith Salary Qtr 1 (16/17):	£356.50p
v: D. Smith Expenses Qtr 1 (16/17):	£86.00p
vi: HMRC PAYE Qtr 1 (16/17):	£89.00p

All councillors present agreed to these payments.

Taking the above payments into account, the reconciled balance of the PC account as of 6th July 2016 is £7,255.16p.

ACTION: Clerk to send out all payments.

58.16 Reports from other meetings:

Cllr. Edmunds reported back from the Allerdale Three Tier meeting at which the West Coast Travel Plan was discussed. The plan aims to support the introduction of environmentally friendly vehicle hire in the western Lake District.

ACTION: Clerk to forward details of the Plan to councillors.

It was noted that two meetings were to be held in the Parish before the next Parish Council meeting, these being:

- Flood Investigation Report meeting: 7th July 2016
- Superfast Broadband meeting: 6th September 2016

59.16 Items for the next meeting:

- Reports from Meetings
- Parish Leaflet

60.16 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 7th September 2016 at 7.30pm in The Yew Tree Hall

Signed: _____

Chair

Date: _____