

Lorton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2nd March 2016

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

Apologies: Cllr. Irlam, PCSO Lyall, Cllr. Annison (ABC) & Cllr. Bowness (CCC)

Also in attendance: Dave Smith (Clerk).

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

11.16 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest.

12.16 Minutes of the previous meeting:

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

13.16 Public Participation:

A member of the public had asked Cllr. Poate about the swings on the Parish Field. What is the impact of the proposed adventure play area going to have on the existing swings and will it be possible to have swings for younger children placed on the field? It was agreed to raise these issues with the head teacher when next she reports back to the council.

14.16 Progress Reports:

A: The Clerk's Progress Report:

Actions on the Clerk from the previous meeting:

- 03.16: Cllr. Annison to investigate with Cumbria Highways the issue of separation of sewage waste and drainage water in Low Lorton: Ongoing
- 04.16: Clerk to forward grounds maintenance quotes to Cllrs: Done (see below)
- 04.16: Cllrs to ensure that all articles for newsletter are submitted by the end of March: Ongoing
- 05.16: Clerk to inform the Head Teacher that the draft Heads of terms Agreement has been accepted by the Council: Done
- 07.16: Clerk to report and follow up a number of issues with Cumbria Highways: Done
- 08.16: 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 Feb	X	
Letter from Pensions regulator	X	See below
Report from Allerdale Parishes LDNPA member: Jan & Feb	X	
Thank you letter from Great North Air Ambulance	X	
HMRC PAYE paperwork for the coming financial year	X	
Queens 90th Birthday medal promotion	X	

Training: As Clerk I shall be attending the CALC Pensions Workshop in Cockermouth on March 24th.

B: Parish Maintenance Report:

Grounds Maintenance Contract : There were two quotes provided to undertake the Grounds Maintenance for the Council. These were:

Richard McCree:	£1.300
Harvey Davidson:	£1,000

After due consideration, Councillors agreed to accept the quote from Richard McCree, the existing contractor.

The Pound: Cllr. Poate informed the meeting that there was still a considerable amount of gravel left on The Pound after the recent heavy rain. After some discussion it was agreed that the views of the grounds maintenance contractor should be sought before deciding what the best way forward should be. Whilst on the site the trees will be looked at to see if Richard McCree thinks they need trimming.

ACTION: Clerk to visit the site with Richard McCree.

Moles and mole hills were also discussed and Cllr. Armstrong will visit the site and try to remove the moles.

ACTION: Cllr. Armstrong to deal with the mole problem.

C: Report from the Borough Councillor:

Cllr. Anison had presented his apologies to the meeting as he had to attend a full council meeting at Allerdale House.

D: The Melbreak Communities Report:

Cllr. Poate informed the meeting that at the last Steering Group meeting there had been a review of the Emergency Plan and how it had worked during the recent heavy rain and flooding. The general feedback was that it had worked well though there was some debate regarding the efficiency of ensuring that equipment, such as pumps for example, was readily available to those who might need it. It was suggested that the equipment list, which was compiled some time ago, might need updating.

There are now a number of volunteers who have agreed to continue the Coffee and Cake mornings and a possible alternative energy project is being looked at.

E: The Parish Council Newsletter:

The Clerk reported that he had now received a number of articles but was still waiting for some others. It was agreed that the deadline for articles should be March 12th with a view to delivering the newsletter from Friday March 18th.

ACTION: Cllrs. to ensure that all articles and photographs are submitted by 12th March.

Cllr. Postlethwaite highlighted the issue of litter in the dyke bottoms in the Parish. There followed a discussion as to how was the best way to deal with the issue. It was agreed that some councillors would undertake litter picking in an informal way whilst the Clerk would approach Allerdale BC for equipment and the Community Payback Team to see if they could undertake some litter picking in the Parish as part of their work schedule. It was agreed that a short article on the problem should be placed in the newsletter.

ACTION: Clerk to contact ABC for equipment and Community Payback Team.

15.16: Planning:

There was one new planning application to consider:

Ref: 7/2016/2035

Location: Greenacre, Scales, High Lorton CA13 9UA
Proposal: Cover existing silage pit
It was agreed that a response of 'No Objections' should be sent.

One planning application had been dealt with between meetings:

Ref: 7/2016/2007
Location: Midtown Cottages, High Lorton CA13 9UQ
Proposal: Replace windows in enlarged openings. New chimney flue.

A response of 'No Objections' was sent with two comments regarding:

1. The proposed new chimney flue has an 'industrial' look and may well not be in keeping with the other properties in the terrace.
2. Will the enlarged window openings be in keeping with the other houses in the terrace?

16.16 Report from the Police:

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

- On the 14th January 2016 the Police received a report of a large tree blocking the highway at Lorton. A Police patrol and highways attended and made the area safe.
- On the 26th January the Police received a report of a tree blocking the highway near to High Lorton on the way to Whinlatter. Highways attended and the area was swiftly made safe.
- Between 9pm 30th January and 11:00 am on the 31st January 2016 a Burglary occurred in the Lorton area. During the incident a quad bike, a Stihl Strimmer and a leaf blower were stolen. Any witnesses or persons with further information should please contact the Police immediately on telephone number 101.
- On the 12th February damage only road traffic collision occurred on the road to Lorton. There were no injuries.

Councillors noted the above.

17.16 Highways issues:

Councillors discussed the recent spate of road works in the area and the issuing of the associated road closures. Concerns were expressed that local residents were not getting the information regarding road closures and there followed a discussion as to what would be the best method of informing people. It was agreed that an article in the newsletter asking people if they wished to be informed and receive the road closure notices then they should let the Clerk have their email addresses.

ACTION: Clerk to compose article for newsletter.

Highways issues reported by councillors were:

- Blocked drains down from Kirkfell House
- Small grassed areas at Crossgates and Whinlatter junction both require levelling and re-seeding (Clerk to discuss with Richard McCree)

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

18.16 Finance:

The Clerk informed the meeting that the balance of the account as of the most recent bank statement dated 15th February 2016 was £6,692.18p with all 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 4:	£355.34p
ii: HMRC PAYE Qtr 4:	£88.80p
iii: D. Smith expenses Qtr 4:	£55.00p

All councillors present agreed to these payments.

Taking the above payments into account, the reconciled balance of the PC account as of 2nd March 2016 is £6,193.04p.

ACTION: Clerk to send out all payments.

19.16 The Queen's 90th Birthday:

Cllr. Poate informed the meeting that there is a proposal for a Tea Party in the Yew Tree Hall on Sunday 11th June to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. After some discussion it was agreed that the most appropriate way to commemorate the event would be to plant a rose in the Yew Tree Hall garden.

ACTION: Cllr. Poate to discuss this matter with the group looking after the garden.

20.16 Items for the next meeting:

- Reports from local organisations (Annual Parish Meeting)
- Parish Leaflet (May Meeting)

21.16 Date of next meeting:

**Wednesday 4th May 2016 at 7.30pm in The Yew Tree Hall
The Annual Parish Meeting will be followed by the May meeting of the Council**

Signed: _____

Chair

Date: _____

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