

# **Lorton Parish Council**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4th November 2015**

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

**Apologies:** PCSO Lyall & Cllr. Bowness (CCC)

**Also in attendance:** Cllr. Annison (ABC), Olivia Harrison (Lorton School), one member of the public & Dave Smith (Clerk).

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **153.15 Declarations of Interest:**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **154.15 Minutes of the previous meeting:**

The minutes of the September meeting and the Special Planning meeting held on 15th October were both accepted as an accurate record by the councillors present and the Chair duly signed them.

### **155.15 Public Participation:**

A question was raised about the availability of agendas for meetings prior to the meeting. The Chair stated that the agendas were always displayed on the two notice-boards in the village a week before the meeting. It was agreed that the agendas should be placed on the website prior to the meetings and that if any member of the public requested a copy then one should be emailed to them.

**ACTION: The Clerk to ensure that agendas are placed on the website and sent to any member of the public who requests one.**

### **156.15 Play Area Update:**

Olivia Harrison, Head Teacher of Lorton School, explained that before the school could start fund-raising for the proposed adventure play area, to be sited on the Parish Field, a lease agreement had to be in place between Cumbria County Council and the Parish Council. A variety of concerns and comments were expressed by councillors on the wording within the draft lease document that had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that Cllr. Deeks should read through the document and ask a colleague to do the same prior to submitting a list of proposed changes to the lease for the consideration of the County Council legal team.

**ACTION: Cllr. Deeks to suggest amendments to the draft lease and liaise with the Head Teacher.**

### **157.15 Progress Reports:**

#### **A: The Clerk's Progress Report:**

Actions on the Clerk from the previous meeting:

144.15: Clerk to inform the Selling Agents of the concerns of the Council: Done but no response received.

144.15: Clerk to request traffic monitoring in Low Lorton: Done and response received.

145.15: Clerk to complete and return GDF Call for Evidence form: Done and receipt acknowledged.

145.15: Clerk to drop off poo bags with Chair: Done

145.15: Cllr. Annison to investigate lack of progress made by the Connecting Cumbria project: See below

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

148.15: Clerk to report issues raised to Cumbria Highways & request letters be sent to land-owners: Done

149.15: Clerk to send out all payments: Done

150.15: Clerk to send documents for placement on the Melbreak Communities website: Done

151.15: Clerk to invite Olivia Harrison to the November meeting: Done

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

<b>Correspondence</b>	<b>For information</b>	<b>For action</b>
CALC Newsletter Sept & Oct	X	
BDO End of Audit documentation	X	
LDNPA: Notice of planning approval x 2	X	
Report from Allerdale Parishes LDNPA member: Sept & Oct	X	
Various emails re: Defibrillators in Phone Boxes	X	X
Complaint from local resident re: the view of the council - planning	X	X

Defibrillators in Phone Boxes: The Clerk reminded councillors that he had sent a response of 'No Objections' to the proposal to place a publically accessible defibrillator in Low Lorton phone box. More recently, Les Webb from the Lorton Vale First Responders Group, had informed the Council that they felt there were better places in the village to site a defibrillator. Olivia Harrison stated that the defibrillator in the school will be placed in the pavilion shortly and it is expected that there will be a village training event to show people how to use the equipment.

Complaint: Councillors agreed that they should wait for advice from CALC before responding to the recently received complaint.

**B: Parish Maintenance Report:**

The Parish Benches: The bench at Whitbeck Bridge has now been fully refurbished and put back in place. It was agreed that the maintenance programme for parish benches should be re-visited in Spring 2016.

The Parish Maintenance Contract: The Clerk reminded councillors that the three year period that the Maintenance Contract had originally been let for was now at an end. After some discussion it was agreed that a slightly revised specification should be drawn up and that bids to undertake the work for a further three year period should be sought.

**ACTION: Clerk to add to original specification and send advert for the contract to Cllr. Sloan for placement in the Winter Newsletter.**

**C: Report from the Borough Councillor:**

Cllr. Annison reported that, further to his request for funding towards a missing fingerpost sign at the September meeting, he had now been informed by Cumbria Highways that the funding was no longer available for this type of sign and that an aluminium one would be erected.

With regard to the roll out of Superfast Broadband in the parish, Cllr. Annison stated that there were no set dates for this to happen at present and that he felt this was due to BT wishing to retain commercial confidentiality. Councillors stated that the broadband speed in the village seemed to be decreasing.

As a result of a number of emails he had received from local residents, Cllr. Annison had pushed for a debate on the Allerdale response to the Syrian refugee crisis. The Leader of the Council had agreed that they would follow government guidelines on this issue.

Cllr. Annison reported that as a member of the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee he was currently looking into youth unemployment which in many parts of Allerdale was both high and persistent.

**D: The Melbreak Communities Report:**

Cllr. Aitken informed the meeting that at the last Steering Group meeting two local groups, the Table Tennis Group and the Youth Cafe Group, had been awarded grants to help them purchase equipment. Cllr. Irlam stated that the Emergency Plan Phone Tree had now been registered with a number of emergency organisations.

**E: The Parish Council Newsletter:**

Cllr. Sloan asked that she receive all the outstanding articles by the end of November.

**ACTION: Cllrs. to ensure that all articles are submitted by the end of November.**

**158.15: Planning:**

There was one new application to discuss:

Ref: 7/2015/2238  
Location: 2 Park View Cottages, High Lorton CA13 9UG  
Proposal: Creation of new bathroom within front bedroom space  
Reply by: 13th November 2015

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

**ACTION: Clerk to inform the LDNPA Planning Dept. of the views of the Council**

Councillors were asked to note the following:

Two applications have been dealt with at a Special Planning Meeting 15/10/15:

Ref: 7/2015/2207  
Location: Oak Lodge, Low Lorton CA13 9UP  
Proposal: Proposed roof alterations

Councillors decided to '**Object**' on the grounds that the 45 degree angle of the proposed roof was not in keeping with the existing dwellings in the village and would dominate the immediate surroundings. It was also felt that the proposed pitch of the roof was not suitable for slate, the material that the applicant wishes to use.

Ref: 7/2015/2209  
Location: Land north of Croft Barn, Low Lorton CA13 9UW  
Proposal: outline permission for three dwellings

A response of '**No Objections**' was sent on 18/10/15.

**Notice of grant of Planning Permission:**

7/2015/2138: Cross Gates, High Lorton CA13 9UL - erection of dwelling

7/2015/2152: Hobcarton, Low Lorton CA13 9TB - minor material amendments

**159.15 Report from the Police:**

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

- On the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015 the Police received reports of two males acting suspiciously in the Lorton area. The males were described as being black and driving a red car with a loud exhaust. Police would like to advise members of the public to be vigilant and to report any further sightings of these males or any other suspicious persons or vehicles to them immediately on telephone number 101 or if a crime is taking place call 999.
- On 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015 a damage only road traffic collision occurred on the B5292.
- On the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015 the Police received a report of a cow in the road in the Lorton area. Contact was made with the farmer and it was returned to its field.

Councillors noted the above.

#### **160.15 Highways issues:**

Members of the public and the councillors present reported the following concerns:

1. With the recent leaf fall all the roads in the village now need sweeping
2. The resurfacing of the Boon Beck road was supposed to have taken place during the summer and has still not happened.

**ACTION: Clerk to request that the road sweeper visit the parish and find out when the Boon Beck road will be resurfaced.**

#### **161.15 The Draft Budget 16/17:**

The Clerk took councillors through the various budget headings in the proposed draft budget for the coming financial year. Most of the expected costs associated with each of the budget headings are predicted to be similar to the current year. The overall expenditure is predicted to rise by £37.00p to £5,374.00p and as such no rise in the precept of £5,500 will be required.

Acceptance of the draft budget was:

Proposed: Cllr. Irlam  
 Seconded: Cllr. Deeks

All those present agreed.

#### **162.15 Finance:**

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had now received the End of Year Report from the external auditors and that there were no major issues of concern raised. The End of Audit notice has been placed on the notice-board.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the balance of the account as of the most recent bank statement dated 15th October 2015 was £8,150.32p with all payments agreed at the last meeting having cleared through the account and the second instalment of the precept, £2,749.99p, having been received.

The Clerk reported that following payments were outstanding:

i: R. McCree - grounds maintenance Sept & Oct:	£300.00p
ii: Phil Hartley - bench refurbishment:	£180.00p
iii: The Yew Tree Hall rent 15/16:	£200.00p

All councillors present agreed to these payments.

Taking the above payments into account, the reconciled balance of the PC account as of 4th November 2015 is £7,470.32p.

**ACTION: Clerk to send out all payments.**

**163.15 Items for the next meeting:**

No items were suggested at the meeting.

**164.15 Date of next meeting:**

**Wednesday 6th January 2016 at 7.30pm in The Yew Tree Hall.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

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