

LORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual parish council meeting held on

Wednesday 2nd May 2018.

Meeting opened: - The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Mrs C Poate (chair), Mrs G Postlethwaite (vice chair), P Deeks, C Edmunds, N Young, J Cruickshank.

Cumbria County Councillor and Allerdale District. Alan Bowness (CCC)

Clerk: Mike Milner, plus 14 members of the public.

Apologises for absence: S Irlam (LPC), T Annison (ADC)

35.00 Apologises for absence

35.01 As noted above

36.00 Declarations of interest. None

37.00 To read and approve the minutes of the last annual general meeting of Lorton parish council held on Wednesday 3rd May 2017.

37.01 Minutes proposed for acceptance by P.D and 2nd by G.P and unanimously accepted by the council. Chairman signed as a true copy.

38.00 Chairman's report.

38.01 Cllr C.P presented her report. A copy of which is attached at the end of these minutes.

39.00 Election of Chairman

39.01 Cllr P.D proposed that Mrs C Poate be returned as chair for the coming year, this was 2nd by Cllr G.P and unanimously agreed by council. Cllr C.P accepted the position and thanked Cllrs for their support. Acceptance of office form signed.

40.00 Election of Vice chairman.

40.01 Again Cllr P.D proposed that Mrs G Postlethwaite be returned as vice chair, which was 2nd by Cllr C.P and unanimously agreed by council. Cllr G.P accepted and thanked Cllrs for their continued support.

41.00 Receive and approve the Lorton Parish accounts for the year end March 2018.

41.01 Clerk confirmed that former clerk had handed over the accounts for the year 2017/18, duly audited by John Stephens as required.

41.02 Clerk explained that government external auditors had changed to PKF and they had changed the rules of presentation. As Lorton had neither income or expenditure that exceeded £25k the council could complete and forward a certificate of exemption. He and the chair then duly signed that certificate.

41.03 Clerk then showed Cllrs the annual Internal Audit report signed by J.S

41.04 Clerk then went through the annual Governance Statement and ticked boxes 1 to 8 in the Yes column. That was then signed by chair and clerk.

41.05 The annual accounting statement for 2017/18 was then presented and approved by the council and duly signed by the clerk and chair.

41.06 Clerk to complete the minute reference boxes on forms where appropriate, forward relevant documents to PKF and arrange for all documents on parish website.

Cllr Alan Bowness then made a report which would be put into main parish council minutes, as he wished to leave the meeting. He left the meeting at 8.05pm

42.00 Receive parish organisations reports.

42.01, Lorton Tennis Club, currently 102 members of the private club, Winter tennis popular, they play in West Cumbria league. Court 2 is to be re-laid with artificial all weather TigerTurf.

42.02 Lorton Table Tennis club has a regular attendance on club nights in Yew Tree Hall of between 15 to 22 participants and they contribute £730 income to the hall.

42.03 Lorton Garden club has 75 members and runs various garden visits in the local area and also further afield.

42.04 Film Club have had 8 films in the past year in Yew Tree Hall. They need 20 people to break even each film night which they achieve.

42.05 Bowling Club, indoor at the hall, they need at least 6 members to be present to make it worth unrolling the mat on a meeting night. New members being sort.

42.06 Women's Institute has 17 members and the club provides a varied programme over the year and visit other WI clubs.

42.07 Yew Tree Hall. The hall is used 4 or 5 days a week, the upstairs toilets have been refurbished and the cellar cleared out with the aid of post flood grants. The hall now has a full premises licence, which required a full fire risk assessment and upgrading of the system. The kitchen refurbishment is now coming about, with the aid of grants totalling £9k. Still need to refurbish the ceilings and chairs. Hall is run entirely by local volunteers.

42.08 Melbreak Communities, a brief report about energy projects and then the local school polytunnel which Cllr G.P has been actively involved with over the last couple of years.

43.00 Public Participation.

43.01 Member of the public raised the issue of trees and shrubs growing over the pathway around Winder Hall and Lorton Hall. The area between the stables and gates causing pedestrians to have to use the roadway. After a discussion of the precise whereabouts and which properties were involved, Cllr P.D to approach the property owners.

43.02 A member of the public raised the question of accurate reporting in council minutes and correspondence to LDNPA. A minute of 15th Feb only recorded 3 reason of support, but a letter of 16th Feb quoted 4. As the minute note and letter were written by the previous clerk who was not in attendance to pass comment, the chair advised the questioner that future minutes and correspondence would be checked for such discrepancies.

That concluded the business of the meeting and the chair thanked all present for their respective contributions and closed the meeting at 8.42pm.

Page 3 (3 of 3) signed chairman.....4th July 2018

Attachment: copy of chairman’s statement. 2 pages.

Lorton Parish Annual Meeting - May 2nd 2018

Chairman's Report

Welcome everyone to our Annual Parish Meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mike Milner, in his new role as Clerk to our Council. After almost 7 years Dave Smith, our previous clerk, decided to retire, and although we did convey our thanks to him at the last council meeting in March, not everyone in the community may have been aware of his departure. The clerks' role is a busy one, and he did a great job. We are extremely lucky to have Mike on board and look forward to working with him. I would also like to welcome our two new councillors, Nick Young and Julian Cruickshank who have joined us recently.

The council has met every 2 months over the last year, with additional special planning meetings held when necessary. Planning issues attract attendance at meetings as often there are diverse views in the community. The opportunity to share these views and discuss the impact of applications on the wider community remains an important role for the council. Over the past year Lorton Council has considered several applications, some of which have generated strong feelings.

Lorton is a lively village, with a range of sporting and social organisations. We will hear more details from these groups in due course. Activities only happen due to the enthusiasm and commitment of residents who give their time to develop, run and support the clubs, and to the many residents who turn up in all weathers to join in.

To remain sustainable, we believe that the village needs a range of residents / age groups: young families with children attending the school; working people; and those lucky enough to have retired. So one of the challenges is how to maintain a diverse community when house prices are generally beyond the reach of most young families.

Acting on suggestions from the community, the council started to explore the possibility of developing a Neighbourhood Plan. A detailed article was published in the Winter Parish News Letter outlining the issues involved in developing such a plan. Initial thoughts are that Lorton is not large enough to undertake this complex process. Three councillors are continuing to look into it, but it would require inputs from many more residents to form a working party to take the process on. As yet no one else has made any response to the council about the article.

Following the floods of 2015, Cumbria County Council Highways Department received a large budget to undertake resurfacing work, over Cumbria as a whole. Starting at the beginning of September 2017, resurfacing work took place in both High and Low Lorton, and surrounding roads. Disruption was inevitable with limited alternative routes available, and there was considerable frustration at the poor signage which caused unnecessary problems for everyone. Lorton Shop was particularly affected and lost trade due to the diversions. Subsequent interaction with our MP has highlighted the problems caused by certain contractors, so hopefully lessons have been learnt. We do now have road surfaces which are the envy of other areas.

Responding to residents' concerns, the Council organised a Litter Picking event on Sunday 21st April. Coordinated by Councillor Peter Deeks, approximately 11 bags of rubbish were collected by a group of councillors and volunteers. Gloves and litter pickers were provided, and safety maintained at all times by traffic marshals. Thanks to all those who participated, in particular Councillor Postlethwaite, who collected 6 bags of rubbish on the roadside near Armaside.

Richard McCree has started his regular mowing and tidying our verges and pathways. I would like to express our thanks to Richard; in the face of variable weather he does an excellent job.

At previous annual meetings mention has been made of a proposal to move the Lorton School Adventure Playground to a new site at the top of the Parish field giving additional space within the school yard. The existing school equipment needs to be updated, so discussions have been on going between the council and Lorton school. After some considerable debate it now seems most likely that the School has decided to refurbish the playground on its existing site, and not move into the Parish field. The two swings which belong to the council, on the field, will undergo their annual inspection (undertaken by the school) hopefully will remain there for general use.

On March 10th The Parish field was once again in use for the final few yards of the Annual Lorton School 10K race. This event has grown in popularity, and attracted 250 entries this year, with 234 runners actually taking part. Raising £1,811 for Lorton School, this event would not happen without the support and contribution of many local residents, offering car parking, providing the essential safety Marshals , road signage, and of course much needed refreshments served by members of the WI. This event really reflects the positive nature of our community.

A plea for parking! As always, parking in the village is a challenge, especially when events are being held at the Yew Tree Hall, or weddings and funerals are taking place at St. Cuthbert's. The majority of drivers do park considerately, in places where there is adequate space for vehicles to pass. Working farmers regularly pass through the village with tractors and trailers, muck spreaders etc, so can I just remind everyone to try and ensure that space is always adequate for access and turning. This also affects Emergency vehicles and you never know when you might need one.

The next Parish Newsletter will be published in the Summer... (let's hope we have one). If anyone has any items of interest of issues to include, please get in touch with our clerk. As always, we welcome attendance at your Parish Council meetings where there is an opportunity to share your views and support your council.

Finally, I would like to thank all the councillors together with County Councillor Alan Bowness and Tony Annison, Allerdale District Councillor, for their continued support and contribution. They are all working folk who lead busy lives but have also found the time to give their services to the council.

Chris Poate