

LORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 9th Jan' 2019

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

Present: Cllrs Mrs C Poate (chair), Mrs G Postlethwaite (vice chair), P Deeks, J Cruickshank, S Irlam.

Cumbria County Councillor and Allerdale District. T. Annison (ABC) A. Bowness (CCC)

Clerk, Mike Milner but no members of the public.

Apologises, P Jaques. Clerk advised that Cllr N Young had tendered his resignation.

115.00 Apologises for absence

115.01 Apologises as noted above.

116.00 Declarations of interest. None

117.00 To read and approve the minutes of the last meeting of Lorton parish council held on Wednesday 7th November 2018.

117.01 Resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.

118.00 Public Participation.

118.01 There were no issues from the November meeting to report on and no members of the public present to raise issues.

119.00 Police Matters.

119.01 Clerk had received a report from the local PCSO but there were no logged activities for Lorton area, so nothing to report. No matters or concerns to report to the police.

120.00 Planning Applications.

120.01 Clerk initially advised that the planning application 7/2017/2129 for land adjacent to Croft Barn had been approved and a schedule 106 signed. It was this event which had led to Cllr N.Y resigning from the parish council. Clerk clarified other issues with the application.
120.02 application 7/2018/2333 and 7/2018/2334 both concerned the Old Wesleyan Chapel, one covered the fact it is a listed building. Councillors agreed no objections to the app'.

121.01 Cllr A.B (CCC) advised that Cumbria had been allocated a £12m exceptional grant for road repairs, but it had to be spent by March 2019. For ABC that is £1.6m so all projects costed and approved into next year are being done now where possible to free up funds for next year's budget. He also stressed that CCC were trying to reinvent the "working together" scheme. Clerk advised that Lorton had been advised of that at the time.

121.02 Cllr T.C advised about ABC's desire to devolve street lighting cost to parish councils. Clerk advised that all equipment would have to be fit for purpose. Cllr T.C stressed funds available for community projects.

Chair thanked both for their input and invited them to stay, which they both accepted.

122.00 Presentation of accounts to 31st December 2018.

122.01 Clerk had circulated the accounts electronically prior to the meeting. He confirmed he has to present quarterly accounts, these being for the 9 months to the end of the 3rd quarter. They are not required to be subject to an internal audit, therefore produced the end of year bank statement confirming that his figures confirmed the bank reconciliation figure. There were no questions raised so chair duly signed the bank statement to confirm accuracy of accounts.

123.00 Discuss and resolve the Lorton PC precept figure for financial year 2019/20

123.01 Clerk had circulated the draft budget for the coming financial year. The precept figure for the last year had been £5500.00. Clerk advised that the parish council precept was an uncapped figure, but he advised against requesting unwarranted increase.

123.02 Cllr P.D advised that there would be a need to repair benches, or at least treat the wood work. Also last year there had been the unexpected need to remove an ash tree. He suggested that a small increase on a regular annual basis to cover inflation and unexpected works was a prudent action and suggested a 2% increase of £110 to £5610.

123.03 The council resolved to set the precept at £5610. Clerk to complete the forms received from ABC and return before the 18th January deadline.

124.00 Discuss and resolve clerk's salary from April 2019.

124.01 Clerk advised that his contract of employment stipulated an annual salary review. He was currently on SCP salary scale 23 at £11.05 per hour. That salary rate is now £11.28 per hour and he asked that be his rate of pay from April 2019. He confirmed that all other parish councils he acts as clerk for were paying that rate from April 2019. From April the SCP scale figure is changing from SCP 23 to SCP 14, that is a NALC adjustment.

124.02 Council resolved to agree the salary adjustment from April 1st 2019. Chair was concerned that clerk was not being paid for hours truly worked as she was aware of recent lengthy researches he had undertaken on behalf of the council. Clerk to keep a time sheet, he is currently contracted for 15 hours per month.

125.00 Lorton parish grounds maintenance contract, annual review.

125.01 Cllr P.D confirmed that the current contractor, Bigfoot, took on the contract at the start of the 2018/19 season at the old contractor's agreed price, which was higher than that tendered by Bigfoot, and that contract runs until the end of this coming season. The general consensus of councillors was that Bigfoot had completed a successful first season of work and the clerk should confirm his services at the current contract price for this coming year.

125.02 Brief discussion about the village field which the school use. Chair C.P advised Cllr J.C that the school had the use of the field FOC, but it was their responsibility to cut and maintain the field, not the parish council. If the parish council was to take on that responsibility, then they would have to charge the school an annual rent like the tennis club.

125.03 Chair to contact the school head and establish if there had been a change of circumstances now it is part of an academy.

126.00 Parish village meeting date and parish council annual meeting, date change to Wednesday 8th May, due to parish council election date on Thursday May 2nd.

126.01 Clerk explained that it was more appropriate to have the annual village meeting on a separate night to the parish council AGM meeting. This year due to there being English parish council elections on Thursday 2nd May, if the parish AGM at which the chair and vice chair are elected preceded the normal parish council meeting there would have to be another meeting between 8th and 23rd May, to confirm the councillors status. To avoid that the AGM and parish council meeting for May was being moved to Wednesday 8th May.

126.02 The parish council meeting scheduled for 6th March would be held after the annual parish meeting. At this annual parish meeting all local community groups would do their reports and the parish council chairman would do her annual report. At the conclusion of the annual parish meeting the normal parish council meeting would follow straight afterwards.

126.03 Cllrs thought of making annual parish meeting possibly a more informal affair with wine and cheese, but clerk objected to alcohol being available.

126.04 Chair to advise all local groups and clerk to do a leaflet for noticeboards to publicise the date and format of the annual parish meeting.

127.00 Progress reports, clerk

127.01 Lorton Newsletter, Christmas edition printed and distributed. The article by Cllr G.P about cutting of farm hedgerows after Christmas prompted an email of support.

127.02 Cllr Pam Jaques has been booked on to a councillor's training course 4th March.

127.03 On 13th November there had been a problem with flooding at Sewerage Corner, Low Lorton. Highway's had investigated the problem, established it was a blocked culvert under the road for Wythe Gill. Duly cleared.

127.04 Clerk had received an email about the siting of security cameras to combat crime in Lorton at more isolated buildings. Clerk had circulated details of a company who had supplied a similar system in Satterthwaite Parish. Number plate recognition. He explained how the system worked. It was felt that there could be 2 suitable locations, one in Low Lorton and one in High Lorton. All agreed that residents of the village should be consulted for their views on the use of number plate recognition and the data protection aspects explained, also who can access the material if needed. Clerk to get more details and article to be written for next edition of Lorton newsletter.

127.05 At the March meeting of the parish council clerk will present an updated version of the councils standing orders. They will be circulated beforehand.

127.06 Clerk explained he had been involved with a complaint of rubbish from Cross Gates development which was finally established as rubbish from window installers at Vale Cottages. Clerk had made contact with Eden Housing, the owners of Vale Cottages who had taken swift action to get the problem rectified by their contractors. An apology had been given to builders and owners of Cross Gates.

128.00 Lorton Councillors reports.

128.01 Chair advised there was to be a Melbreak Communities coffee morning on Saturday 12th Jan' in Yew Tree Hall.

128.02 Cllr G.P advised that the new playground equipment project at the school was well underway.

128.03 Cllr P.D said the litter pick was an excellent success last year and suggested that another should be organised. Council agreed a good idea, it should be brought up at the village annual meeting and promoted in the next newsletter.

129.00 Correspondence.

129.01 Details of NALC Spring Conference in London, £210 per member.

129.02 Clerk had received an email about the properties built at Brackenrigg in Low Lorton, asking 3 questions about how they fitted into the village. Councillors decided the project required completion before assessing the scheme and its suitability within the environment.

129.03 Clerk had received questions about Braithwaite Bridge road closure, he had established completion date for opening prior to Christmas.

129.04 Clerk had received a letter from Mike and Pam Jaques about the Honister Mine Dual Zip Wire development. Clerk read the letter in its entirety and councillors agreed that clerk should contact Secretary of State stating Lorton's supporting for the "call-in" of the planning committees decision, being requested by numerous groups including the Friends of the Lakes.

129.05 Email from local resident about length of vehicles using Boon Beck Bridge. Clerk to chase Highway's on the matter, already established bridge is cleared for 40 ton weight limit.

129.06 Nominations for Buckingham Palace Garden party nominations. None.

129.07 Clerk had received email concerning the state of the building site at Cross Gates after the demolition of original property. All issues now resolved.

129.08 Invoice from Calc for 2 Good Councillors Guides £7.00 total

129.09 Invoice from Printpoint for 165 Christmas newsletters, £50.00

129.10 Letter form Pensions Regulator, Lorton registered but no employees involved.

129.11 Letter from Great North Air Ambulance thanking Lorton for £200 grant.

129.12 Email from Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner, Peter McCall confirming how good Cumbria police were in a recent nationwide and he was requesting a £2 precept rise per month for Band D payers, across Cumbria.

130.00 Payments for Approval

M Milner Intpay20, £308.79, salary £265.30 exp £43.49

HMRC PAYE Intpay21 Clerks tax £66.20

Printpoint Intpay22 £50, December newsletter printing charge

Calc Intpay23 £7.00, 2 Good Councillor Guides.

All approved.

Meeting closed 9.21pm

131.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 6th March 2019 and it will follow on immediately after the Lorton Annual Village Meeting which will commence at 7.30pm.