

LORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 6th Mar' 2019

Meeting opened: - The chairman declared the meeting open at 8.30pm, immediately following Lorton Annual Parish meeting.

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

Cumbria County Councillor and Allerdale District. Neither present.

Clerk, Mike Milner and 12 members of the public.

Apologises, J Cruickshank (LPC) T. Annison (ABC)

132.00 Apologises for absence

132.01 Apologises as noted above.

133.00 Declarations of interest. None

134.00 To read and approve the minutes of the last meeting of Lorton parish council held on Wednesday 9th January 2019.

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

135.00 Public Participation.

135.01 Clerk advised that he had no actions to report from the January meeting as no members of the public present.

135.02 Clerk had received an email the previous evening which the author had requested be read out at this meeting in public participation concerning the development adjacent to Brackenrigg. The clerk said he was prepared to read it out but that as it raised issues that the writer thought involved all residents, clerk had spent nearly 2 hours the previous evening studying the LDNP planning website documents and had written to the planning officer with a copy of the email seek clarification of some aspects not clear from the available website documentation.

135.03 Email read out as requested. The clerk then advised the council that the content was not dissimilar to an email sent by a local resident a couple of days earlier to the planning officer and clerk had seen the response to that email. Clerk then read out the information he had received that afternoon from the planning officer, plus he also had a copy of the letter which confirmed that all planning conditions imposed at the approval stage had been complied with. That letter dated 25th February 2019.

135.04 Clerk reminded the councillors and members of the public that the parish council is no different to its residents, it gets asked for its views on development applications as a consultee, it is not part of the final decision making planning body. He confirmed that he had in September 2018 got the council's acceptance of a "Procedures in Respect of Planning Matters." Those were now the basis for the manner in which the parish council dealt with new developments. The parish council will not revisit old planning applications that have received planning approval and legally conform to conditions imposed.

135.05 A member of public requested the council's views on current planning and dealing with old approved applications should be included in the next parish newsletter.

136.00 Police Matters.

136.01 Clerk had received a police report which he read out. No feedback for the police from the council.

136.02 Chair Cllr C.P reported that she had received a request from the chair of Blindbothel parish council asking Lorton parish council to support a revival of the meeting every 10 weeks with the police representative at Cockermouth. After a discussion Lorton parish council decided that such meetings are not productive and would therefore not support the request. Cllr C.P would advise the Blindbothel chair of decision.

137.00 Planning Applications.

137.01 Clerk confirmed that 2 previous applications considered by the council, Old Wesleyan Chapel 7/2018/2334/5 and Kirkfell Cottage 7/2019/2010 had been approved by LDNP.

137.02 Clerk had circulated an application 7/2019/2041 which applied to High Gilbrea Cottage, a property which the council had considered and approved 7/2018/2293. That was withdrawn on 25th Feb' 2019 and this new application submitted.

137.03 Cllr P.D had printed off the original elevation drgs and those for the new proposal. Roof lines were now lower, glazing was less, and footprint reduced. Cllrs agreed that having approved the original application and that this newer application was a better visual proposal, they approved its acceptance unanimously.

138.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.

138.01 neither present so no contribution to record. However, clerk did have an email contribution from Cllr T.A advising that he had had no success in seeking funding streams for Yew Tree Hall.

139.00 Resolve to adopt new Lorton PC Standing Orders.

139.01 Clerk had circulated the new standing orders prior to the meeting. He explained that the changes were cosmetic to wording and also included a section on the new Data Protection Law. There were no changes to parish council procedures, timings or numbers required for proposals or order amendments. It was an exercise to keep the council in line with current legislation.

139.02 Council resolved unanimously to adopt the new standing orders.

140.00 Consider Lorton Tennis Club lease rental for period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2024.

140.01 Cllr P.D explained that the Tennis Club rental figure was due for review. He had taken the January to January figure of retail price index as the figure up to April obviously not available. The increase meant an upward rent review from £150 per annum to £168 per annum, commencing April 1st 2019.

140.02 Lorton councillors approved the increase and the tennis club representative present acknowledged it was acceptable figure. Clerk had drawn up 2 copies of a new memorandum of the rent review, which chair' Cllr C.P signed on behalf of the parish council and clerk witnessed her signature. Copies handed to tennis club representative for trustee signature, one copy to be retained and one returned to parish council.

141.00 Easter edition of the Lorton Parish Council Newsletter

141.01 Cllrs deemed an article on possible installation of Surveillance Cameras to seek residents views was a priority. There would be a chairman's report, plus an item on need for more volunteer first responders. Also, promotion for new members for some of the clubs who had provided reports at the earlier annual parish meeting.

141.01 A litter pick and its inclusion in the newsletter was considered. Last year it had been in June, Cllrs provisionally agreed on the Sunday 14th April for the litter pick, Cllr P.D to confirm, but newsletter may not be circulated by then. Clerk to organise the collection of the litter bags as per last year on Monday 15th.

141.02 Chair' and clerk to liaise on content.

142.00 Progress reports, clerk

142.01 Tenters, the clerk had again been advised of the state of the property and that LDNP planning had advised that the current owner had notified planning that his redevelopment of the site would now require no development application and work was scheduled to commence September 2019.

142.02 Clerk had visited the property with a camera and taken numerous pictures illustrating the serious state of decay that the property was clearly displaying. He had forwarded photographs and emails to LDNP Planning and Allerdale BC Compliance Officer requesting notice 215's be served. Both departments had acknowledged his request.

142.03 Clerk had contacted United Utilities enquiring about how they disposed of their numerous 30mph and national speed limit signs plus the repeaters signs at the sections where they applied for and got temporary speed limits imposed. Thought is could they be used if a successful speed limit through Low Lorton of 30mph was sanctioned, a cost reduction for Highway's.

142.04 Parish council vacancy to be advertised in the next newsletter.

142.05 Clerk had completed and returned to Allerdale BC the precept request form.

142.06 further to minute 125.01 clerk had contacted Bigfoot the grounds maintenance contractor. Bigfoot happy to renew the contract for the 2019 season at the 2018 rate and clerk confirmed the arrangement.

142.07 Clerk still chasing Highway's for Boon Beck bridge signage, but nothing forth coming yet and he assumed it would be put in place when bridge is repaired.

143.00 Lorton Councillors reports.

143.01 Cllr P.D would complete his inspection of the village benches/seats and draw up a list of proposed repairs for them. Question raised about bench in the churchyard. Cllr P.D to inspect but Cllrs were of the opinion it was the churches responsible.

143.02 Cllr P.J reported that she had on Monday attended the first part of a New Councillor's Training module and would be attending the second section on Monday 11th March.

144.00 Correspondence.

144.01 World Heritage status email circulated.

144.02 New National Park Planning Policy Framework circulated, it covered affordable housing units in National Parks.

144.03 Numerous emails about the council elections being held on May 2nd, clerk had resolved all issues, attended a briefing meeting at Allerdale and had all the nomination forms for completion.

144.04 Parish council insurance is currently handled by Community Lincs but underwritten by Zurich Insurance Company. Zurich are taking all business back in house. Clerk waiting for further correspondence and renewal quotation.

144.05 Clerk had received a copy email from a local resident and the reply from LDNP Planning officer about issues with the development by Brackerigg. Not circulated as minute 135.02 to 135.04 covers the issue.

144.06 Chair' reported receiving a letter from the Lorton School head, thanking the parish council for their help in aspects of the new play area. The play area had finally not had to use the Parish Field but the offer was greatly appreciated.

145.00 Payments for Approval

M Milner Intpay24, £352.00, salary £265.10 exp £86.90.

HMRC PAYE Intpay25 Clerks tax £66.40

All approved.

Meeting closed 9.14pm

131.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 8th May 2019 and it will follow on immediately after the Lorton Parish Council Annual General Meeting which will commence at 7.30pm. NOTE due to poll on Thursday 2nd May this meeting has been delayed one week, now 2nd Wednesday of May.

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