

LORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd July 2019 Held at Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton 7.30pm

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

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

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

Clerk, Mike Milner and 6 members of the public.

Apologises, Cllr Carmel Bell (ABC), Cllr P Jaques (LPC)

165.00 Village grass cutting regime, an introduction by Tanya St Pierre on how wildlife would benefit from a change of cutting regime.

165.01 Chair explained that following on from minute 161.03 local resident Tanya St Pierre who is Project Manager for Cumbria Wildlife Trust's "Get Cumbria Buzzing" challenge, has written a full page article on the topic for the summer edition of Lorton's newsletter and how Lorton could embrace the project on its grass verges. Tanya then explained to the council and public present details of the project. The Cumbria project involves an area of 115 hectares, or half the size of Maryport, of verges across the county and she was working with Highways England who have allocated £1m in the north west to the project. The ultimate end is to reduce the time spent cutting the verges, create a diverse suitable habitat for bees, butterflies and other small mammals, plus provide the visual attraction of colourful flowers when they are in season.

165.02 During a Q&A session it was explained that cut and drop cutting did not work and that neither would a scorched earth approach or using chemical treatments, the only way was to start the strategy, seed at the appropriate time of the year and over time let nature do its thing. It was agreed that the scheme and its progress must be adequately publicised in the newsletter. The current terms used by contractors dictating how and when they maintain the parish verges will need to be amended to accommodate the project when the contract is renewed.

At 7.55pm chair thanked Tanya for her presentation and Tanya left the meeting.

166.00 Apologises for absence

166.01 Apologises as noted above.

167.00 Declaration of interest. None

168.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th May 2019, as a true record.

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

169.00 Public Participation.

169.01 per minute 151.01, clerk to ensure item about old planning applications would be covered in Summer Edition of newsletter.

169.02 clerk raised the issue of Cass How as minute 151.03, he had as requested investigated the issue and that would be dealt with at agenda item 9 later at the meeting.
169.03 There were no further issues raised by the public present.

170.00 Police Matters.

170.01 Clerk read an email from the PCSO concerning the parish using the website and area community map for information, the email clearly stating it would be updated every month.
170.02 Clerk read latest updated material from area map for Lorton, incident date April 2019, updated May 2019. Now July. No further police report.

171.00 Planning Applications.

171.01, clerk advised he had received notification of 4 approvals, 7/2019/2041, High Gilbrea Cottage; 7/2019/2044, Wheatsheaf Caravan Park, all year round opening approved; 7/2019/2088, 1 Wythe Gill Mews (Brackenrigg) garage approved; 7/2019/2096. New House Farm stable block changed to accommodate event guests.

171.02 Clerk had been advised about one agricultural gateway 7/2019/2121 on the B5292, parish council have no provision for consultation on such applications. He stressed that point as he had been made aware of 7/2019/2123 a similar agricultural gateway on land adjacent to Rothersyke, that land having been subject to failed residential dwelling applications in the past. Clerk had raised the issue of no notification with LDNP planning, receiving an apology for not being included in the circulation. Clerk again stressed that he had looked at the application it was correctly presented quoting agricultural use legislation planning references and Lorton had no consultation provision.

171.03 New application 7/2019/2119 Oak Lodge. Cllr P.D had printed off the plans and clerk had received an extension of time to provide council comment following this meeting.

171.04 After discussion it was unanimously agreed that the principal of accepting the development was approved, but councillors requested that the clerk advise planning of its concerns about the first floor balcony shown on the eastern and southern elevations which provide the applicant with a view into/over neighbouring property and also the intrusion of security lighting which is sensor activated and currently very bright. By extending the building exterior, so moving the position of such lighting would make it even more intrusive for neighbours.

172.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.

172.01 Cllr A.B (CCC) that he had nothing specific to report for Lorton, but he did stress that when it came to Highways matters, could all issues be direct to Highways via the clerk who would use the HIMS website reporting facility. He had advised the clerk of the local engineer's name and email details.

173.00 Cass How licences and environmental agency's involvement.

173.01, chair acknowledged that the owners of Cass How were present and she would ask for comment after the clerk's report.

173.02 Clerk had, as requested, researched the use of Temporary Event Notices (TENS). He briefly advised how often they could be requested in a year and the length of time they could be valid. Clerk stressed that the issues raised at the last meeting were not a parish council matter, but an issue for Allerdale BC and the Environment Agency.

173.03 Clerk pointed out the EA material he had contained detailed sections about noise pollution and its first recommendation was that local residents should tactfully approach the person/business organising the event and explain concerns etc. Clerk had been made aware that such representations have been made since the last parish council meeting, so no further action was necessary by the parish council.

173.04 Having read all the documents the clerk thought it appropriate to point out to council and residents that there was a back stop position that residents could use to ensure that events were as promised noise wise and event timings. It is a downloadable smart phone app, which he had successfully used at other parishes when barking dogs were the problem. The app registers location, time etc, but users have to register its use with Allerdale and EA prior to the event. Registration covered one event, not blanket use *ad infinitum*. Two councillors aired their continuing concerns to the owners of Cass How, but clerk advised again that there was the back stop of the sound recording app, which they or any close resident to the venue could employ if they considered any undertakings about noise levels or timings were potentially not going to be adhered to by the event organisers.

173.05 Chair invited comment from Cass How owners, the owners of Cass How expressed their view that they had communicated with the nearby residents and were aware of their views.

174.00 Parish bench renovation/refurbishment update.

174.01 Cllr P.D had been in contact with David Brindle who had refurbished 3 of the benches last time. He charged then £250 and he had promised to get back to Cllr P.D in 10 days to confirm the benches and cost of repair.

174.02 The bench by the sewerage works corner is an old railway station seat and has an inset for a plaque. Could a slate one be installed? The suggestion was made that it should read "Lorton Halt."

175.00 Progress reports, clerk

175.01 minute 157.01 refers, chair and clerk confirmed that they had a prospective resident for co-option as a parish councillor. Details to be circulated.

175.02 All parish accounts submitted as per 156.06 and all on noticeboard as required and on the website.

175.03 Clerk has received confirmation that Boon Beck Bridge will be repaired in August dates to be confirmed, minute 160.04 refers

175.04 cyclist dismount signs have been removed, minute 160.05 refers, but poles still in situ.

175.05 all election paperwork completed, minute 160.06 refers, but Allerdale have requested all councillors complete and sign election expenses forms even though returned with no expenses. Clerk has completed all forms they just require individual signatures which he will get at end of meeting.

175.06 Clerk still investigating the removal of debris in Boon Beck and River Cocker, but a response is not proving very forthcoming, from any agency.

175.07 Clerk provided details of his visit to Allerdale offices about the problems with waste bin collection. Allerdale BC currently in discussions with the contractors directors, all acknowledge system not fit for purpose.

175.08 Cllr S.I asked if clerk had received a response from UU about the supply of 30mph speed discs. Clerk to continue to chase.

176.00 Lorton Newsletter content

176.01 Clerk ran through items he already had, Cllr G.P to supply a dark night report, all material by the middle of next week. Chair to provide her report.

177.00 Lorton Councillors reports.

177.01 No councillor had any reports, but chair reported on church event on 13th July and also there are to be continued Himalayan balsam pull meetings every Monday until 22nd July starting at Yew Tree Hall at 10am.

178.00 Correspondence.

178.01 Clerk had circulated Landscape Character Supplementary planning document.

178.02 Clerk circulated Geoff Davies Members newsletter.

178.03 Confirmation of road closure above Boon Beck road, culvert repair works.

178.04 Notification of 4 week road closure by Brackenrigg at Sewerage Works Corner during August.

178.05 Data Protection registration due for renewal 4th July, clerk has paid, and £40 cost is in his expenses claim, council has new certificate.

178.06 PKF-Littlejohn have officially acknowledged receipt of accounts exemption certificate and accounts now completed for 2018/19.

178.07 Lorton PC are entitled to a representative on the Yew Tree Hall committee and Cllr Steve Irlam has again volunteered to be that person.

178.08 The Pension Regulator has requested the completion of registration for a further 3 years which clerk has done, no fee involved, just legal requirement as Lorton parish councillor is an employer.

178.09 Harvey Davidson has submitted his invoice for grass cutting May/June 2019 £350 in total.

179.00 Payments for Approval

M Milner Intpay35, £362.70, salary £270.80 May/June exp £91.90.

HMRC PAYE Intpay36 Clerks tax £67.60

Harvey Davidson, Bigfoot, Intpay37 £350 grounds maintenance May/June 2019

All Payments approved

Meeting closed 8.53pm

180.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 4th September 2019 at 7.30pm