

LORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 8th Jan' 2020 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 P Deeks, J Cruickshank, Mrs T St Pierre.

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

Clerk, Mike Milner with no members of the public.

Apologises, S Irlam, P Jaques

220.00 Apologises for absence

220.01 Apologises as noted above.

221.00 Declaration of interest. None

223.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 6th November 2019, as a true record.

223.01 Resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record. Cllr J C indicated that minute note 206.11 on penultimate line the word NO should read NOW. Clerk and chair initialled the amendment.

224.00 Public Participation.

224.01 Clerk had no reports from November to clarify.

225.00 Police Matters.

225.01 Clerk had circulated the correspondence about the new police newsletter. There were no crimes recorded on the Area Crime map for Lorton to report on.

226.00 Planning Applications.

226.01 following the last meeting clerk had submitted the council's objection to the Croft Barn application. 7/2019/2230

226.02 3 Broomcroft, after the last meeting clerk had submitted the objections to application 7/2019/2201. This application had been withdrawn and application 7/2019/2306 submitted. This had been considered over the Christmas period by councillors and clerk had made a submission with specific recommendation as the plans made available were not dimensioned and could not be scaled as not on A3 paper.

226.03 Lorton school, application 7/2019/2280, had submitted an application to move the position of its heating oil tank. As this was received 2 weeks before Christmas with a submission date of 25th Dec, clerk had not circulated the application. Notification received that morning confirming application approved.

226.04 High Gilbrea Cottage 7/2019/2299 application approved.

226.05 Clerk has written to LDNP Planners requesting an S215 notice be served on the owners of the property known as Land south of Lime Tree Cottage, no action on the development for nearly 2 years and site becoming an eyesore on main road through Lorton.

226.06 Clerk had written to Allerdale Housing Services about how the properties for low cost occupancy had their value established. Housing Services advised that in Allerdale it would be set at a maximum of 70% of the property value, however as Lorton was in LDNP the properties in that area were set by the LDNP Planning Officer.

227.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.

227.01 Cllr A B (CCC) advised that he had attended a recent Highway's meeting where they were advised that if freezing conditions were forecast then gritting lorries would be sent out early afternoon, even if the frost or snow not anticipated to be much later. It was more cost efficient.

227.02 He also advised that Highway's had undertaken the installation of road temperature sensors which were now reporting directly to the Lillyhall centre, also cameras were now watching traffic flows and road surface conditions. He reminded Cllrs that the team who respond to pot hole repairs are also the same as the gritter teams, therefore when gritting or on snow plough duty, road repairs cannot be maintained.

227.03 The Highway's team were keen to get local people involved with litter picking, verge clearing etc and would be running training courses and also make safety equipment available. Suitably equipped they would be covered by CCC insurance.

227.04 Cllr G P asked if Cllr A B had any discretionary funding available, he advised that he would have a small pot in April and invited her to make her request for monies asap. Chair thanked Cllr A B for his attendance, invited him to stay, but he had another meeting to attend.

228.00 Presentation of accounts to 31st December 2019.

228.01 Clerk reminded Cllrs that as per their Finance Code he had to provide them with quarterly bank reconciliations. He had circulated the bank rec' and accounts prior to the meeting. There were no questions and Chair duly checked the bank statement figures and those of the bank rec' sheet and signed both pieces of paper.

229.01 Discuss and resolve the Lorton PC precept figure for financial year 2020/21.

229.01 again clerk had circulated the budget figures prior to the meeting. After a discussion Cllr P D proposed that a 2% increase be requested, currently £5610, which would raise the precept request to £5722, seconded by Cllr J C and duly resolved.

230.00 Grass verge seeding programme update.

230.01 Cllr T St P advised that there were visible signs of growth already in the areas treated and seeded at the end of autumn 2019. She had a written management plan and that she would meet up with Harvey and visit the locations covered to ensure he appreciated the plan.

230.02 She discussed the prospect of community involvement by the school children, but before starting such a programme and their school polytunnel she would monitor how the scheme developed this spring and summer. She would get some artwork designs for notices that could be printed up on plastic and fixed around the scheme areas so visitors to Lorton and residents could understand the wilding project. If she let the clerk have them before the March meeting, he could get some prices for presentation at that meeting.

231.00 Parish seats renovation update.

231.00 Cllr P D advised that he was aware of the repairs to benches 3 and 4 but had, due to the pressure of work, been unable to make contact with David Brindle to establish a continuing works schedule of varnishing the remaining seats. He would do so and hoped that there would be no major refurbishment work necessary in the coming year.

232.00 Feedback on December edition of Lorton newsletter.

232.01 No adverse feedback, some views on street lighting and "Dark Skies". It was decided that the Spring newsletter material should be presented to the clerk for compilation and submission to the printer by Thursday 26th March, to enable printing and distribution before Easter which is 12th April.

232.02 Printed numbers to increase to 175, there are now additional properties in Lorton, also the March parish council meeting is preceded by the Lorton Annual Parish meeting at which local clubs and societies make presentations, it would be an opportunity to perhaps devote a page of the newsletter to their activities and contact details.

233.00 Progress reports, clerk

233.01 with reference to minute 213.00 road signs declaring "Lorton Village Open" now in council care and a thank you to Cllr P J's husband who went to Carlisle to collect them.

233.02 Clerk, Cllrs C P and P J all attended a very informative planning seminar on Wednesday 4th December at Cockermouth Town Hall.

233.03 No further news on Tenters building repairs. Work was supposed to have started in October, but no action so far. Clerk will chase planning if no action by early spring. All works promised are withing permitted development requirements, so planning can only issue an S215 to the owners.

233.04 No further information on Lancaster Uni traffic survey, 215.06 refers.

233.05 Melbreak Communities Insurance and the cost being split between the 4 parishes, minute 215.07 or incorporated in their insurance policies. Clerk has had various email exchanges with Melbreak committee, he proposes to request sight of their insurance document and request a risk assessment of its activities. If only 4 meetings and coffee mornings held in YTH or at other insured village halls, then such activities are covered by those locations insurance.

233.06 Clerk has spoken to Harvey, Bigfoot Grounds maintenance, reminding him that parish need copies of his insurance and waste disposal certificate.

234.00 Lorton Councillors reports.

234.01 Only report was from Cllr C P who advised there had been a Melbreak Community meeting the evening before and main topic was the insurance position. Also reminded Cllrs that there was a Melbreak Community coffee morning this coming Saturday.

235.00 Correspondence.

235.01 Invoice received from David Brindle; repair of parish benches £495.00.

235.02 Invoice from Printpoint £53.00 165 copies of December Lorton newsletter.

235.03 Invoice from CTM Carlisle £126.54 for road signs Lorton Open.

235.04 Clerk had received emails about the wall enclosing the field opposite Meadow Bank Farm B&B . Clerk has visited, photographed and contacted Highway's for their input, owner of wall also now established as it will be their responsibility.

235.05 Clerk had circulated all electronic newsletters from Calc and Parish Member LDNP.
235.06 Invoice from Calc covering Cllr P J's Effective Councillor training course £35.00.
235.07 Email received about street lighting in Lorton, it supported additional lighting if for safety reasons, but no more sodium(orange) lights and could they be replaced. Clerk confirmed that Allerdale were intending to transfer the cost of running the lights from the 21/22 financial year to parish councils at a cost of probably £30 per light per year. Initially Allerdale had wanted to transfer all costs including maintenance and replacement, but as a new light costs with pole £2700, no small parish's precept could accommodate that sort of expenditure.

236.00 Payments for Approval

M Milner Intpay47, £341.10, salary Nov/Dec £270.80 exp £70.30.
CTM Carlisle Ltd Intpay48, £126.54 road signs
D Brindle Intpay49, £495.00 repairs to parish benches
Printpoint Intpay50 £53.00 December edition Lorton Newsletter
HMRC PAYE Intpay51 Clerks tax Nov/Dec £67.60
Calc Intpay52, £35.00 Cllr training course fee
All Payments approved

Meeting closed 8.37pm

237.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 4th March 2020 at 7.30pm
The meeting will start at 7.30pm with the annual parish meeting, Chair C P to invite all local clubs and societies to attend and make their annual summary of activities if they so wish.

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