

LORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 4th March 2020 Held at Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton 8.15pm Immediately following Lorton Annual Parish meeting.

Meeting opened: - The chairman declared the council meeting open at 8.15pm

Present: Cllrs Christine Poate (chair), Glenis Postlethwaite, Peter Deeks, Julian Cruickshank, Tanya St. Pierre, Steve Irlam, Pam Jaques.

Cumbria County Councillor and Allerdale District.

Clerk, Mike Milner with 9 members of the public.

Apologises, Alan Bowness (CCC), Carmel Bell (ADC)

238.00 Apologises for absence

238.01 Apologises as noted above.

239.00 Declaration of interest. None

240.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th January 2020, as a true record.

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

241.00 Public Participation.

241.01 No reports from previous month. Member of the public raised the issue of a barbed wire stock fence running down the public footpath 242015. Clerk to investigate and if necessary, contact Cumbria County Pathways Team.

242.00 Police Matters.

242.01 Clerk advised no reports of crime in Lorton area on the police "Your Area" crime map. Cllrs quick to advise a quad bike had been stolen about 3 weeks ago. Clerk advised police data only up to December 2019.

243.00 Planning Applications.

243.01 Clerk read out an email exchange he had with LDNP Planning Dept about Croft Barn, and its current outline planning permission. It confirmed under the terms of Section 106 agreement/planning condition the local occupancy units could be developed without then preceding to develop the affordable ones. Provided the development as a whole was commenced the planning permission would never lapse. With regard the 2 affordable units, that requirement could be requested to be varied, if planning refused that request, that decision could be appealed.

243.02 High Mill House 2020/2041. Cllrs acknowledged that this property over the years has been sympathetically renovated, including a water mill and machinery. There were no objections to this new application. However, Cllr J C requested that the clerk clarify that planners have considered total heritage status of the property when considering the latest development.

243.03 3 Broomcroft 2020/2035. Cllrs noted that this was the third development proposed for this building. Clerk had pointed out to LDNP planning by email on 26th February that again this applicant had supplied drgs and plans that do not truly reflect the proposed development and corrected elevations had been requested. As these have not been supplied Lorton parish council unanimously agreed to object to the proposal. Clerk will object and quote NPPF 39, 40 and 43, the latter because, *the right information is crucial to good decision-making*.

244.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors. Neither present.

245.00 Mode of address of councillors on official documentation.

245.01 Cllr P D had brought to the clerk's attention the mode of address on minutes. There was no uniformity, Mr, Mrs, Ms or use of Christian names. After a discussion it was agreed christian and surnames for all councillors. As per detail at start of these minutes.

246.00 Street lighting questionnaire.

246.01 Clerk since putting this agenda item forward at Cllr J C's request, had received lengthy correspondence and details of proposed changes to the manner in which "footway" lighting is charged to Allerdale residents. Currently the general Allerdale council tax contribution pays for lighting. Now however there are proposals that local parish councils should pay for the electricity in their parishes.

246.02 Clerk had asked for further information about Lorton lights, location and bulbs currently installed, which had been supplied. All Cllrs agreed that this proposal was something best considered by all councils in Allerdale as a collective and that clerk to organise with Calc. There must be uniformity about "fit for purpose" at hand over.

247.00 Easter edition of the Lorton Parish Newsletter.

247.01 Cllrs considered various topics for inclusion. The proposed changes of lighting cost from District Council to Parish Council responsibility, also an update on the verge "wilding" project. All contributions to clerk for 26th March.

248.00 Progress reports, clerk

248.01 Clerk had confirmed that Lorton parish council had in the past donated to the Great North Air Ambulance, £150 per annum. He had contacted the charity and confirmed all details as before for future donations. The Cllrs resolved unanimously to continue the charity donation but at the increased amount of £200. Clerk will organise that payment.

248.02 Lancaster Uni have agreed to provide an undergraduate to look at the traffic problems and air quality as per minute 233.04. The graduate is named James Taylor, he has a 12 month period to complete his project and has been invited to the next Buttermere parish council meeting 26th May.

248.03 Clerk had submitted the parish precept as per 229.01

248.04 Clerk has been investigating the Melbreak Communities insurance situation at the request of the Melbreak committee chair, Chris Poate who is also chair of Lorton parish council. The question was initially asked if the 4 parishes that are in the Melbreak Communities group could share the insurance between their parish polices. Clerk has studied the Melbreak insurance currently in place, it has a section covering employees, they have no employees. Clerk has viewed the Loweswater village hall insurance policy and the clauses that specifically cover use of the hall by uninsured local groups who are a non-commercial body, ie they do not make or intend to make a profit, also a hirer who is working to the benefit of the community, either social or financial. That clearly covers Melbreak Communities committee meetings and is standard risk cover applying at other public buildings. Yew Tree Hall.

248.05 There were concerns about creating community plans and requesting people to take actions in the case of an emergency. Clerk explained he had been involved with community plans at other parishes and that Action in Cumbria had been instrumental in promoting the government message of creating community emergency plans. Nowhere was the issue of insurance raised, it was not an action that was designed to create increased insurance sales and commission for brokers. It was to ensure that in an emergency situation, which could be flood, airplane crash, major road accident in a community, people would have a plan of action, a system of checking on old and vulnerable residents and a central meeting point. A plan to ensure that folk knew where medicines were, what was needed in an emergency overnight bag if appropriate, an attempt to stop confusion. A community plan not a blame game insurance policy sales promotion. Clerk was advising Buttermere, Lorton and Loweswater that they should not be accepting any responsibility for something considered unnecessary. He would be writing to Blindbothel clerk accordingly and also Melbreak Communities committee advising insurance unnecessary. If they wished to organise a group activity, if it involved the church, school or was in a specific parish the current insurance in place should be consulted about any actions, just as a parish currently does when organising a litter pick.

248.06 Cllrs resolved that clerk to confirm his findings to Melbreak committee and that no insurance contribution would be provided.

248.07 Grounds contractor, Bigfoot had finally supplied copies of its current insurance and certificate of registration to remove waste from any work he did on the council's behalf in the parish.

249.00 Lorton Councillors reports.

249.01 Cllr T St. P provided an update on the work that was being done with the Lorton verges. She provided printouts of the proposed Interpretation Panel. Cllrs commended her efforts; she would liaise with the clerk for firmer costings once artwork finalised. Also look at obtaining timber support posts as used in the interpretation board illustration. She confirmed clerk had obtained confirmation from LDNP Planning's approval for the sign, by email, without requiring an official application.

249.02 Cllr P D to organise a litter pick. He would email councillors and volunteers and establish a date. Clerk then would arrange appropriate insurance and ask Allerdale for more litter picking sticks and collection bags.

249.03 Cllr G P enquired about contacting BT and using the redundant telephone box for a change and exchange facility. Chair C P advised that council had already discussed that as an option but had requested the box be removed.

250.00 Correspondence.

250.01 Circulated details of Workington Town Council's V.E Day celebration proposals.

250.02 Clerk had received an emailed, circulated about "Local Electricity Bill" Cllr S I proposed that the council support the bill, seconded by Cllr G P and Lorton council resolved to support the Parliamentary Bill. Clerk to make the appropriate submission.

250.03 Clerk had received an email about continuing parking problems at Whinlatter. This was a matter discussed with Whinlatter Manager in March 2018. It is a police and enforcement officers responsibility, not the parish councils. No further action.

250.04 The parish council's bank HSBC have contacted the clerk about an account safety review and confirmation of the way it conducts its account actions. He has initial phone interview for 17th March 2.30pm. He has already completed same exercise at Buttermere, and he has similar request at Loweswater.

250.05 Email received about condition of road in the area of Birkett Cottage. Matter already been assessed, and repairs refused by Highways, but clerk to tackle the issue on receipt of requested photographs of the area.

251.00 Payments for Approval

M Milner Intpay53, £341.10, salary Jan/Feb/March £406.00 exp £54.36

HMRC PAYE Intpay54 Clerks tax Jan/Feb/March £101.60

Great North Air Ambulance Intpay55, £200, charity donation

All Payments approved

Meeting closed 9.44pm

**252.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 6th May 2020 at 7.30pm
The meeting will start with the Lorton annual general parish council meeting.**

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