

LORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 2nd Sept' 2020

Using the Zoom virtual platform format

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

Present: Cllrs, Chris Poate(chair), Glenis Postlethwaite (vice-chair), Pam Jaques, Julian Cruickshank, Steve Irlam, Tanya St Pierre.

Cumbria County Councillor and Allerdale District. Neither present.

Clerk, Mike Milner. Plus 2 members of the public.

Apologises, Cllr Alan Bowness (CCC)

289.00 Apologises for absence

289.01 Apologises as noted above.

290.00 Declaration of interest. None

291.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 1st July 2020, as a true record.

291.01 Unanimously resolved to approve the minutes as a true record.

292.00 Public Participation.

292.01 Chair asked the two members of the public present if they had any specific issues to raise. One was Blindbothel parish councillor, so attending to see what that council and Lorton had in common, no specific issue to raise. Other resident had emailed clerk about various issues.

292.02 The issues raised with the clerk were discussed. The clerk had reported the damage to the heritage signpost, the issue with the area surrounding the former phone box site had been cleaned up. The existing tree stump in that area cannot just be simply removed as it is under a wall. Potholes in a section of road, the chair to take photos and clerk will forward to Highways. Clerk did advise though that getting Highways to repair lengthy stretches of road is very problematic. An area of overgrown verge would be inspected by Cllr T.S.P and clerk would enquire of Highways if it were on their cutting regime. Just adding ad hoc sections of verge to the parish council cutting list would involve additional potential demands on the village precept and residents may argue for many additional verges be maintained. Finally the issue of the school gutter was raised, clerk misunderstood the problem, it is not a gutter on the school, but the drain in the road gutter adjacent to the school, he would inspect, photograph and take the problem of gulley/drain cleaning with Highways.

293.00 Police Matters.

293.01 Clerk advised that the Cumbria Police website at Area Map option continued with Error 404 code. However, as Covid 19 was no longer the problem it had been he would enquire about reinstating the facility so locals could see crime issues.

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294.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.

294.01 as neither present no reports. (Since meeting clerk has confirmed that Cllr Carmel Bell ABC resigned 10th July 2020.)

295.00 Planning Applications.

295.01 clerk confirmed no new applications to discuss, however he could report that application 7/2020/2152 Lorton Hall its stairlift had been approved, 7/2020/2127 High Mill House had been approved, as had 7/2020/2101 field to Fell Side, Lorton removal of 83 mtr of culvert to facilitate additional flood plain.

295.02 The development 7/2019/2230 of the land adjacent to Croft Barn, clerk advised that groundworks on the site had been stopped by LDNP Planning department who served a Temporary Stop Notice on 14th August. That notice will cease on 11th September. Clerk advised that he would be notified on behalf of the parish council of what decisions are taken by the planning officer and would circulate as soon as he received that detail.

295.03 Chair advised that Tenters, a property which had been subject to various planning applications over the past few years had recently changed hands again and that the new owners would obviously at some stage be submitting plans to modernise the derelict property.

296.00 Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria.

296.01 clerk had circulated all the relevant documents prior to the meeting. There followed a discussion about the merits or otherwise of amalgamation with other parishes, would councillors want to take on more responsibility for maintenance within the parish and increased precepts would possibly mean more employees to manage and maintain. Clerk to draft a response to Calc and circulate for Cllrs comments before submission.

297.00 Presentation of accounts 1st April 2020 to 31st July 2020 and acceptance.

297.01 Clerk had circulated a bank reconciliation statement and copy of the appropriate bank statement prior to the meeting, he advised that the parish's Finance Code dictated that he had to present regular accounts for scrutiny and he hoped that his latest presentation was acceptable, the bank statement confirmed his accounts agreed the sum at the bank.

297.02 Cllrs raised no questions and unanimously approved the accounts presented.

298.00 Clerk's salary appraisal.

298.01 Clerk advised that Nalc had finally agreed the new nationwide clerks pay scale increase. It applied from April 2020. He was asking for a grade increase from SCP23 to SCP24, however as legislation had brought in a new minimum wage rate Nalc had regraded their scale and the clerk was therefore requesting to be graded at SCP15 which gave a new hourly pay rate of £12.24.

298.02 Cllrs unanimously agreed to the increase and the chair raised the issue of clerk's hours, his current contract was 15 hours per month, clerk said he would monitor his time. He thanked Cllrs for their continued support.

299.00 Update on Lorton Pound trees and actions agreed.

299.01 since the last meeting the chair had met with EA representative and a local resident plus Paul Livesey the tree surgeon at the village pound. Clerk read out the list of works to be covered by quotation of £225.00.

299.02 Re the tall Silver Birch it was agreed with the nearby resident that he was happy with the existing height, so no need to reduce at present.

299.03 Chair would contact P Livesey about getting the work completed and councillors approved that the work should be done without further reference to them over its cost as the contractors workmanship and pricing was not questioned.

300.00 Update on Lorton verge wilding project.

300.01 Cllr T S.P provided the council with an update on the project. She had a selection of plugs to plant which she had intended to involve the local school children with. However, with all the Covid 19 social distancing restrictions that will not be possible, and she had also contemplated involving local residents, but again keeping records of names and contact details she has opted to do the task herself.

300.02 She had been involved with the chair' and escorted a potential new contractor around the village areas to inspect the areas that were cut, including the area by Tenters. The clerk had received that quotation, but he and Cllr T S.P would get a third quotation. A proper contractor was required not a man with a powered domestic mower.

301.00 Lorton seat refurbishment update.

301.01 as Cllr P D was not at the meeting the chair' would contact both him and the gentleman who was doing the task and request an update.

302.00 Progress reports, clerk.

302.01 as per minute 283.00 July newsletter had been printed and distributed.

302.02 the lighting issue was still being discussed with Allerdale, minute 284.03 refers, clerk advised that Allerdale struggling to find someone at ENW to provide a sensible lighting consumption cost for each unit.

302.03 There followed a lengthy discussion about consulting the local residents, advising how the increased charge, estimated at an additional cost on the precept of £1200 per year, and how could the clerk create an accurate budget for November if true values not established. Clerk to email Calc and demand that Calc start a serious dialogue with Allerdale to resolve the costing problems and lack of publicity of the changes to the public.

303.00 Lorton Councillors reports.

303.01 Chair reported that Cllr G P had become chair of the Melbreak Communities Committee and that this Saturday morning they were going to see what local response they got to a coffee morning in YTH. She was concerned about the visual appearance of the bus shelter but would contact the couple who normally clean it. They may well have been self-isolating due to Covid 19. Cllr S I offered to clean the shelter if needs be as he was closest to the shelter. There had been litter picks organised by Friends of the Lakes across the area.

303.02 No other reports.

304.00 Correspondence.

304.01 Clerk had circulated the correspondence about dog fouling and noted comments.

304.02 Secretary of YTH had been in contact about the parish's representative on the hall committee. Currently the parish is represented by Cllr S I who is happy to continue, no other volunteers, so no change.

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304.03 Request from Allerdale Citizens Advice group for a financial contribution. Clerk advised it was not a normal beneficiary of a council grant and Cllrs agreed to maintain that status.

304.04 A request from the West Lakes Squirrel Initiative also for a financial contribution. Clerk raised concerns that it is not a registered charity, so accounts are not subject to public security. Cllr P J suggested that in the next newsletter the subject of parish donations to charity should be part of the content. Clerk to provide full details on parish council obligations on charity donations for next meeting. No donation to West Lakes Squirrel Initiative.

304.05 Clerk circulated all relevant documents received electronically to Cllrs.

304.06 Zoom invoice received to cover virtual meeting package, cost to Lorton £2.88 per month.

304.07 Invoice received from Printpoint £55.00. July newsletter.

305.00 Payments for Approval

M Milner Intpay65, £318.21, salary July/Aug £270.60 exp £47.61

HMRC PAYE Intpay66 Clerks tax £67.80

Printpoint Intpay67 £55.00. July newsletter

All Payments approved

Meeting closed 9.00pm

306.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 4th November 2020 at 7.30pm

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