

Buttermere Parish Council

Minutes of Buttermere Parish Council held on Tuesday 1st September 2020 using Zoom conference platform commencing at 7.30pm.

Video link Meeting opened: - The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.31pm.

Present: Cllrs Y Kahane (chair), E Beard, L Kyle, J Temple, R Beard, R Wilkinson, A McGuire.

District and County Councillors: Neither present.

Clerk: Mike Milner.

Apologies for absence: Cllr A Bowness (CCC)

175.00 Apologies. As noted above.

176.00 Declaration of Interest. None

177.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Buttermere parish council meeting held on Tuesday 26th May 2020 as a true record.

177.01 Cllrs unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 26th May 2020.

178.00 Co-option of Adrian McGuire of Oak Lodge, Lorton, CA13 9UP and owner of Bridge Hotel, Buttermere to Buttermere Parish Council

178.01 Clerk had made necessary enquiries about A D's qualifications for co-option which he confirmed as fulfilled, Cllr L K proposed the co-option, Cllr J T seconded and Cllrs unanimously approved the proposal.

178.02 Cllr Y K welcomed him to the council and clerk advised it was normal practice for the new Cllr to sign an official declaration of acceptance at this stage, but as it was a virtual meeting that act would have to wait until some future date.

179.00 Police Matters.

179.01 Clerk again advised that the local area crime map was not available on the Cumbria Police website. He could record though that he had exchanged emails with Insp' Rachel Gale at Cockermouth police station and that officers and parking enforcement officers were very much in evidence.

179.02 Cllr Y K brought to the council's attention that farm equipment had been stolen from a local farm, 2 quad bikes, plus from another farm on the same night a pick-up truck and assorted power tools, the pick up had been found, but burnt out. Cllr Y K reported there had been an abduction from outside the Bridge Hotel, but prompt action by a member of the public and the actions of the police a suspect was stopped in Lorton. Chair requested that clerk thank the police and other agencies for their response to dealing with the local parking issues.

180.00 District and County Councillors Reports. Neither present to make reports.

181.00 Applications for development.

181.01 clerk advised no new applications but application 7/2020/2085 Bowder Beck had been withdrawn, 7/2020/2101 Field to east of Fell Side Lorton the removal of an 83 mtr culvert to create flood plain had been approved and finally 7/2022/2137 an application for a Machinery Shed at Wilkinyke Farm was deemed unnecessary no application required.

182.00 Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria.

182.01 Clerk had already circulated all the documentation, but he briefly outlined the proposals to Cllrs that there could be the creation of one or two unitary authorities and creation of a combined authority to receive the additional powers.

182.02 There followed a discussion that concluded that amalgamating with other parishes would ultimately create a loss of identity. Cllrs were unanimous that Buttermere retained its individuality and clerk was instructed to advise Calc of that decision.

183.00 Buttermere and area parking and traffic issues, plus visitor behaviour.

183.01 On 26th June 2020 Cllrs Y K, L K, J T & R B, along with the clerk met with the local NT manager and ranger at Rannerdale Farm, socially distancing, to discuss the serious parking problems. Highways following an email to local police inspector and enforcement team, were busy remarking the local double yellow lines.

183.02 There was a lengthy discussion during zoom meeting about joining up the missing areas between double yellow lines, the implication of a urban clearway for B5289, remarking of the yellow lines at Gatesgarth and additional signage for parking and the reinstatement of missing signs in Buttermere that indicated where the car park and toilets were, the signs had originally been by the post box in the wall opposite the Bridge Hotel.

22.04 Cllr E B enters the virtual meeting from the cab of his tractor.

183.02 More use of park and ride, but concerns about what people could take on the bus and what if they missed the last bus, more fly camping. Camper vans were staying overnight in parking areas which was contrary to rules and regulations. Clerk to pursue all points raised with the various agencies involved.

184.00 Buttermere Broadband update.

184.01 clerk outlined the lengths that Loweswater community group had gone to get a high-speed broadband supply to 17 properties who were lucky to get 2mbs speed at best, the cost was excessive and far above the government grants being offered of £3k for personal housing and £6k for business properties.

184.02 Councillors advised that a fibre supply was within 3 miles of the village but obviously the end of the line. Clerk requested to again take up the high-speed supply to the village and if needs be involving the local MP.

185.00 Meeting venue if permission to resume public gatherings is authorised.

185.01 Clerk advised that he was concerned that the normal meeting venue Old School Room was not appropriate under current social distancing, a proper risk assessment was not available and that was before he carried out a risk assessment for current council members.

185.02 After a discussion of options of potential venues in Buttermere, it was thought that if there had to be a physical meeting then it would need to be at Loweswater village hall.

However, as Cllr E B pointed out as the next meeting was not until December, that meeting should remain a virtual meeting. All agreed and clerk to advise Calc of the decision, but he felt government would legislate for both virtual and physical meetings.

186.00 Clerk’s salary appraisal.

186.01 Clerk explained that his salary review was due. He was currently paid on salary scale SCP23 and he was seeking a grade increase to SCP24 and that was in the old pay scale and due to changes to minimum wage legislation now becoming SCP15 grade. The hourly rate applicable from April 2020 is £12.24, which is what he was requesting. Chair Y K proposed that the clerk be paid at the new rate and that it was backed to April 2020. That would mean back pay for 5 months at 8 hours per month. Cllrs unanimously approved the salary increase. Clerk thanked them for the increase and the fact it would be back dated.

187.00 Buttermere representation on Yew Tree Hall committee at Lorton.

187.01 Clerk advised he had been contacted by YTH committee secretary about Buttermere parish council providing a councillor as a representative at YTH, which the hall’s constitution allows for. There was no enthusiasm for the position, so clerk to thank YTH for invitation, but no thank you.

188.00 Clerk’s Progress report.

188.01 as per minute 170.01 and also 185.02 in these minutes Buttermere would continue to use Zoom virtual meetings. No government directive to the contrary.

188.02 The large pot holes minute 170.03 refers, were reported and repaired in double quick time.

188.03 Buttermere’s Data Protection registration was due for renewal on 31st August; therefore, the clerk had paid the £40 annual renewal fee on 24th July had had acknowledgement of the payment and also a new certificate.

189.00 Buttermere Councillors reports.

189.01 Cllr Y K reported that Copeland were again seeking underground storage for nuclear waste material, however there appeared to be a major change in their strategy, they were no longer seeking to use an area in LDNP around Ennerdale. No plans now to use any LDNP land.

189.02 No other councillor reports.
Cllr E B had left the meeting.

190.00 Correspondence.

190.01 As Covid 19 is no longer getting the attention of the government or agencies as hopefully it is in decline across the UK, the Freephone 0800 number that was made available was suspended on 31st August.

190.02 Clerk had received a letter from Allerdale Citizens Advice group pointing out its charity status and asking for a contribution to fund its continued activities. Clerk advised it was not a charity normally supported by Buttermere Parish Council and suggested that should remain the status quo. Cllrs agreed.

190.03 Clerk had also received a similar request for financial assistance from West Lakes Squirrel Initiative which supports the local red squirrel population and attempts to control the grey squirrels in the area. Cllr J T advised that rather than provide a monetary contribution, if the group provide the feed, he will control the local feeding regime and set up cameras to capture grey squirrel activity and advise when action against the grey squirrels was required. Cllrs thanked Cllr J T for his offer.

190.04 Clerk had circulated all necessary reports and updates from Calc, LDNP and Allerdale as they were received.

190.05 Clerk had received a letter from the council's banker HSBC confirming that the bank had completed its Safeguard review, they were satisfied the parish council were not money laundering!!!

191.00 Payments for Approval.

Intpay47, M Milner salary 3 months June/Jul/August £216.52, Exp' £64.84 total £281.36

Intpay48 HMRC, PAYE 3 months, £54.20

All approved

192.00 Date and time of the next meeting.

192.01 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st December 2020 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.44pm