

Buttermere Parish Council

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

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

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

District and County Councillors: Cllr Carmel Bell (ABC)

Clerk: Mike Milner.

Apologies for absence: None received

193.00 Apologies. As noted above.

194.00 Declaration of Interest. None

195.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Buttermere parish council meeting held on Tuesday 1st September 2020 as a true record.

195.01 Cllrs unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 1st Sept' 2020. As a virtual meeting clerk to sign on behalf of the chair.

196.00 Police Matters.

196.01 Clerk reported that website area crime map not working error 404. When he next received a copy of a Cumbria Police e-newsletter he would forward to councillors and they could consider joining its circulation. Police were apparently concentrating on social media for contact.

197.00 District and County Councillors Reports.

197.01 Cllr C B (ABC) was present, she advised nothing to report other than she was now back at ABC full time. Chair thanked her for her attendance and invited her to remain for the rest of the meeting, the invitation was accepted.

198.00 Applications for development.

198.01 Clerk advised that there were no new applications to consider. He reported as follows.

Cornhow Farm, 7/2020/2276 re-concreting of farm yard, advice only no consultation.

Old Vicarage, 7/2020/20345 after consultation council had advised planning no objection.

Bridge Hotel, 7/2020/2034 after consultation council had advised planning no objection.

Gatesgarth Farm 7/2020/2233 Extension to farm lean to, advice only no consultation.

Wilkinsyke Cottage 7/2018/2019 Withdrawal of application for use of a dwelling house as a holiday let.

199.00 Receive and accept the half yearly accounts for period to 30th September 2020, docs circulated with the agenda.

199.01 No questions raised; accounts were unanimously resolved as accepted.

200.00 Receive an update on budget for financial year 2020/21 and consider the budget presented for 2021/22. Finalise the precept figure for 2021/22. Budget notes circulated.

200.01 Clerk explained he had budgeted for expenditure of £1695 and he was forecasting £1670. In this current year's figures was an expenditure of £80 room hire, which due to Covid 19 the hall had not been used, and clerk had decided to put a similar figure in for 21/22 budget, he asked for Cllrs thoughts. It was unanimously agreed that the parish council should pay the allocated monies, as the Old School Room was a village asset and any contribution would be appropriate.

200.02 Clerk then explained that the current precept was £1500 and he was forecasting a budget of £1910 which would leave a deficit of £410, but with current account funds there would be a short fall of £191 and the parish council bank account could not have an overdraft or be overdrawn.

200.03 There is a savings account with £1122 in it currently earning 0.01% about 8p per year. After a discussion the councillors resolved that they should transfer £400 from the savings account to the current account and increase the precept by £30 to £1530. Clerk to advise Allerdale of precept request and arrange the transfer of the £400 between accounts.

201.00 LDNP Partnership event meeting update, notes circulated by chair prior to the meeting.

201.01 Chair advised Cllrs that she had spent two and half hours at the Zoom meeting and that her notes reflected her thoughts and invited comments. Cllr R B had already provided the clerk with his thoughts. Broadband of a much higher speed is required, all Cllrs agreed on that point.

201.02 Farming, biodiversity, the environment and farming heritage was discussed and agreed farming needs to be sustainable and supported which Cllrs felt it currently wasn't.

201.03 As the discussion progressed at what could be submitted to the LDNP Partnership group, views were aired that the area was moving from a National Park into a big play park. As Cllr J T pointed out when visiting National Parks abroad, it was not unusual to pay a daily entrance fee, that income was then spent in the park. Concerns were raised that car park money was not being used to improve the immediate areas that it was generated in.

201.04 Clerk to study other National Park schemes and as the Partnership were seeking thoughts clerk would put together a report and circulate to all Cllrs for their consideration before it was submitted. The report may not be supportive of current management techniques, but it would be a chance to voice an opinion for a change of course. All agreed that continued advertising to promote the area, which is already fit to burst with tourists was not a long-term sustainable proposition. New car parks may only encourage more tourists who brought all their own supplies and only left the area with a bigger litter problem and no additional income in local businesses. Cllr L K supported more car parks he did not feel they were detrimental. There was much for the clerk to report back on.

202.00 Buttermere and area parking and traffic issues, Lancaster university survey situation.

202.01 Clerk had just received a copy of the university student's proposed survey and he went through the questions with Cllrs. He proposed to get the survey in the next Link magazine and on Melbreak Community website.

202.02 Having got yellow lines repainted and the possibility of a Covid 19 vaccine clerk would consider further traffic measures and car parks for next holiday season. He would consult with councillors via email, as the Covid situation unfolded and the possibility of a tourist season unfolded over the next couple of months.

203.00 Buttermere Broadband update.

203.01 Clerk reminded Cllrs of the long running challenge of providing 17 properties in Loweswater with their much-needed high-speed broadband connection. Currently like his attempts to get things moving at Loweswater, Openreach are using the latest Covid 19 lockdown as a good excuse to do nothing constructive with enquires received. Clerk would keep chasing Openreach, but thought that the best chance was a mast or two with 4G or even 5G in the future.

204.00 Clerk's Progress report.

204.01 on 17th September clerk attended the Allerdale BC and Calc meeting. Major topic was street lighting and the transfer of cost from Allerdale to local council tax payers which was cancelled by Allerdale BC, but Buttermere don't have street lights so not concerned. There was a discussion about a future Unitary Council. It looked like Allerdale, Copeland and Carlisle would be forming one unitary unit and the remaining 4 councils currently in Cumbria another, returning to a 1970's style boundary set up. Nothing confirmed yet.

204.02 At the last meeting clerk had confirmed renewal of the parish council's Data Protection registration, since then he had received a lengthy document about changes to how material should be retained and recorded. Clerk currently studying the document content.

205.00 Buttermere Councillors reports.

205.01 Chair reported that the Buttermere Hydro Scheme being pursued by Melbreak Communities had received a further tranche of funding for the feasibility study to be advanced and that should be completed September 2021.

205.02 Chair reminded councillors that Jack Ellerby was making a Zoom Dark Skies presentation on Friday 4th December. The invitation to the meeting had been circulated by email to all councillors.

206.00 Correspondence.

206.01 Invoice received from Simone Morgan for her audit fees for year end 19/20 audit and 20/21 half yearly audit. £30 each total £60.

206.02 There were three monthly Zoom invoices, Buttermere's contribution £2.88 per month and clerk had paid and would reclaim through his expenses.

206.03 Calc had submitted a training invoice to cover the chair's attendance via Zoom on a training course for all recent new chair. £20.00

206.04 Clerk had circulated all other relevant electronic material as received.

206.05 That afternoon a document about the Local Electricity Bill had been received. The chair would attend the Zoom meeting. It was important as it would allow the distribution of electricity from power generation projects such as the Buttermere Hydro project to be used by more than just one outlet.

206.06 Bridge Hotel are proposing electric car charging points and more sensible rather than having to sell all generated power, by legislation, to the Electricity Grid at a reduced monetary value, have ability through legislation to supply multiple local users at a more advantageous tariff.

207.00 Payments for Approval.

Intpay49, M Milner salary 3 months Sept/Oct/Nov £265.76, Exp' £10.40 total £275.90

Intpay48 HMRC, PAYE 3 months, £66.40

Intpay50 Simone Morgan, internal audit fees £60.00

Intpay51 Calc, chair's training course, £20.00

All approved

208.00 Date and time of the next meeting.

208.01 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd March 2021 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.32pm

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