

## LORTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov' 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, Tanya St Pierre, Peter Deeks.

Cumbria County Councillor and Allerdale District. Cllr Alan Bowness (CCC)

Clerk, Mike Milner. Plus 4 members of the public.

Apologises, Cllr Steve Irlam (LPC)

#### **307.00 Apologises for absence**

307.01 Apologises as noted above.

#### **308.00 Declaration of interest.** None

#### **309.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept' 2020, as a true record.**

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

#### **310.00 Public Participation.**

310.01 The chair before dealing with this item acknowledged the members of public present and that 3 were obviously interested in the Application for Development item and that she would allow their contribution at that item.

310.02 Clerk updated on minute 292.02 from the September meeting, the heritage sign post was reported but awaiting attention, the grass verge was not the parish's responsibility, the pot holes on the back lane had been reported and Highways had responded and filled the potholes, only cold tar and stamped down but an improvement and the resident who had complained had thanked the clerk for the council's actions. Clerk had photographed the roadway gutter alongside the school, but after a discussion with the chair, it was decided that perhaps the solution was the school caretaker should remove the obstructions. Chair to discuss with the school. Clerk did remind councillors that with new lockdown coming into force at midnight what further actions would be taken by highways was problematical.

310.03 Derek Poate provided an update on the current status of Yew Tree Hall, the hall was currently in use however as of midnight that would stop, further Covid19 lockdown. The hall now had a broadband connection for use by those using the hall. The hall does have a garden which was accessible by the gate at the rear of the hall and the hall wanted to develop it as a "wilderness garden." Finally, as the village had not had its annual garden trail it was proposed to have a Winter Snowman/Seasonal Figure trail, discussions on going with interested parties and the school.

310.04 A member of the public asked if it was OK for the tennis club to trim the boundary hedges, which got a unanimous approval from the parish council, being the landlord.

**311.00 Police Matters.**

311.01 Clerk advised that again the Cumbria Police website at Area Map option continued with Error 404 code. The police circulate regular electronic newsletters for various areas and it very apparent that like many organisations they consider social media as the best method of contacting the public. The clerk asked if there was any councillor who wanted to take on social media duties. The silence was deafening.

**312.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.**

312.01 Cllr A B (CCC) advised that he had now mastered the Zoom connection and although his internet connection was not perfect, he would contribute as best possible. He advised that all councillors, himself included, were asked to advise parish councils that they report problems using the online Highways Integrated Management Systems (HIMS) as that way all the problems were logged in a central location and could be dealt with in a more efficient way. He continued by reminding council to request grit bin refills if required. Talks were also underway about the creation of one or two unitary councils to replace the current 7 district councils in Cumbria.

312.02 Cllr G P enquired if Cllr A B still had a small pot of grant money, he replied he did and had recently provided monies for the local school. He asked for her to contact him directly when she had details of the Melbreak Community project involved.

**313.00 Planning Applications.**

313.01 Chair invited Chris & Rachel Edmonds to advise the council of their development. C E advised that it was proposed to build a property on land between Meadow Bank and Park Cottages. They had spoken to the local neighbours and their planning consultant was in preapplication discussions. Cllr P D clarified the location of the building and chair thanked them for their preapplication notification, but the parish council as planning consultees would refrain from any comments until they were in receipt of the full planning application. C E advised that he anticipated that the application should be submitted in the next few weeks and that they would attend the Jan 2021 meeting of the council when it would be discussed.

313.02 application 2020/2240 Tenters was then considered and both the applicants and the immediate neighbour were present, and the chair invited the applicants to explain the proposals. The Bells explained that they proposed to demolish the existing derelict property and replace with a property with a smaller footprint. The explanation was detailed, and councillors raised questions about the roof finish, a green flat roof, and the zinc sheeting instead of a traditional Lakes slate roof. The property was to be environmentally friendly.

313.03 The immediate neighbour was present and advised that he and his wife had been consulted at all stages as the development was designed and that they were happy with the design, however they did have a concern about the narrowness of the public highway outside their property and large delivery vehicles passing cars at that point.

313.04 Councillors after a discussion all agreed that the development was appropriate for the area but requested that the clerk when advising LDNP planning of their decision would he highlight the concerns of the potential traffic access issue.

313.05 Cllr P D raised a query as to whether a recent development at Crossgates and the finished front boundary wall was appropriate for the area, clerk to be provided with a photo and he would seek clarification from planning officer.

**314.00 Receive internally audited 6 months parish accounts ending 30/9/2020**

314.01 prior to the meeting clerk had circulated the half yearly accounts, duly audited by the internal auditor. Councillors raised no issues and accounts accepted.

**315.00 Receive proposed budget for financial year 2012/22**

315.01 prior to the meeting clerk had circulated the 20/21 budget update and proposed budget for 21/22. The council is still awaiting two new quotations for the grounds maintenance contract and an updated quote from the current contractor therefore the actual precept figure could not be more accurately considered.

315.02 Cllr G P enquired about funding for hedgehog houses, or swift boxes, but council agreed that such projects should be considered by the residents, so an article on the topic and asking for residents to propose projects would be appropriate. Precept will be decided at the January meeting, but councillors agreed that Cllrs C P, T St P and clerk to resolve the ground maintenance contract.

**316.00 Lorton lighting review and Dark Skies project.**

316.01 Chair reported that members of the council and a representative of the Melbreak Communities Dark Skies scheme had walked the Lorton area with the Friends of the Lakes Dark Skies representative. A flyer outlining the options has been designed to distribute to all Lorton residents for their views, and that will be delivered with the next Lorton newsletter. Some slight modifications to the wording by councillors were agreed and clerk has quote of £15 to have the double sided A4 flyer printed in greyscale finish, which council approved.

316.02 It is proposed that in the newsletter residents will be advised of a Zoom meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December chaired by the Friends of the Lakes Dark Skies representative.

**317.00 Lorton Autumn/Christmas parish newsletter**

317.01 The councillors discussed the presentation of the Dark Skies project which Cllr G P would write that article. There would be a piece about the Lorton shop which has been trading for 5 years. Various items were proposed, and councillors were advised to have all the material with the clerk by November 15<sup>th</sup> so he can compile the newsletter and submit it with the flyer to the printer.

**318.00 Verge wilding update and maintenance contract 2021.**

318.01 Clerk advised that he had finally received the invoice from the current grounds contractor for the outstanding months of 2019/20 and all of the 20/21 works completed. Clerk had requested a revised quote from the current contractor and issued tenders to 3 other contractors. The contract will be for 3 years. Minute 315.01 refers.

318.02 Cllr T St P updated the council on the progress so far since the start of the wilding project and advised she had planted some additional plugs.

**319.00 Progress reports, clerk.**

319.01 Clerk advised that minute 302.02, the proposed transfer of the cost of electricity to run lighting from Allerdale BC to their council taxpayers had been abandoned.

319.02 Cumbria County Council are still considering creating a unitary council there could be either a single council of all 7 current district councils or two separate unitary councils.

319.03 Clerk advised that Cllr P J had been contacted by a local resident about the cleaning of Lorton street gutters and clerk had request Highways for the service, which he gathered was carried out today.

**320.00 Lorton Councillors reports.**

320.01 Cllr G P advised that there was a Melbreak Community meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November by Zoom and she was now chair of that organisation.

320.02 Cllr P D advised that he had been in contact about the refurbishment of the village benches and the project was ongoing.

**321.00 Correspondence.**

321.01 Calc had submitted their £40 invoice to cover the training course attended via Zoom by Cllr T St P.

321.02 Confirmation received from Allerdale that they had paid the second instalment of the parish precept £2861 on 1<sup>st</sup> October. Clerk confirmed BACs transfer visible.

321.03 Two Zoom monthly invoices received, Lorton to contribute £2.88 per month.

321.04 Great North Air Ambulance had sent their annual request for a donation to the charity. Lorton normally support the charity with a £100 donation. Cllrs agreed that this year as charity unable to raise money at public events they will donate £250.

321.05 Bigfoot the grounds maintenance contractor had submitted an invoice for £2205, which covered £525 for last year and £1680 for this year.

321.06 The auditor Simone Morgan has invoiced for the 19/20 end of year audit fee £30 and also the recent 20/21 half yearly audit £30, making £60 in total.

321.07 Clerk confirmed that he circulated all other relevant material received via email to councillors by email.

**322.00 Payments for Approval**

M Milner Intpay68, £382.06, salary Sept/Oct £351.40 exp £30.66

HMRC PAYE Intpay69 Clerks tax £87.80

Calc Intpay70 £40.00. Councillor training course T St P

Great North Air Ambulance Intpay71, £250, annual charity donation.

Bigfoot Ground Maintenance, Harvey Davidson, Intpay72(A-E) £2205, ground maintenance

Simone Morgan Intpay73, £60, internal audit fees.

All Payments approved

Meeting closed 9.12pm

**323.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30pm**