

LORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 1st September 2021 at Yew Tree Hall, Lorton commencing 7.30pm.

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

Cumbria County Councillor and Allerdale District. Neither present

Clerk, Mike Milner. 6 members of the public in attendance.

Apologises, Cllr Alan Bowness (CCC).

394.00 Apologises for absence, as noted above.

395.00 Declaration of Interest. Cllr G P advised that she had submitted an agricultural planning application at her property. 7/2021/2255.

396.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 7th July 2021, as a true record.

396.01 Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the minutes.

397.00 Public Participation.

397.01 Chair noted that public present were there to make representation about a planning applications, so they would be allowed verbal contribution at that agenda item.

398.00 Police Matters.

398.01 Clerk advised he had circulated the police e-newsletters, but no other report.

399.00 Applications for development.

399.01 7/2021/2198, Freshwinds and 7/2021/2255 Armaside Farm.

399.02 The chair invited the members of the public present to make their points about the planning development proposed for Freshwinds, which currently has a bungalow on the site, which the applicant wishes to demolish and build a new 2 storey 4 bed property on the site. Which will for the majority of the new building frontage will be 2m from the rear boundary fence of Lorton shop and overbearing in its height removing light and privacy.

399.03 Councillors listened to the various representations and then discussed the proposed development, noting that there had been 49 letter/emails objecting to the proposed development, not one in support. It was evident there had been no discussions by the applicant or their agent on proposal. The clerk had circulated prior to the meeting various aspects of the LDNP Local Plan 2020-35 which the development would appear to be in contravention with. Cllr P D pointed out that the proximity of the site location to the shop, the narrow nature of the road in that area, with local traffic, tourist and cyclists and also school buses why had the applicant not submitted a method/Construction statement which is critical given the limitations of space on the site, and the narrowness of the road.

399.04 After a lengthy exchange of views by councillors and members of the public the councillors voted to confirm as consultees their objection to the development. Clerk had already obtained an extension until Monday 6th September for that submission to LDNP Planning and he would circulate his proposed material over the weekend to councillors for approval. All members of the public departed the meeting.

399.05 Clerk confirmed a planning application for an additional agricultural building at Armaside Farm, 7/2021/2255, however due to the nature of the building it was circulated by LDNP Planning for information only and no decision required by Lorton Parish Council.

400.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.

400.00 Neither present.

401.00 Lorton dark night lighting, initial phase installed, update.

401.01 Cllr S I advised the councillors that the 5 street light units had finally been installed by Allerdale BC. He advised that they had a subtle yellow glow, a reduced wattage but a well-directed strong and effective beam. The light units appeared to be on all night, councillors were under the impression that they would turn off at some stage of the night. Clerk to contact the engineer responsible for installation to establish the light unit's function during the period dusk to dawn.

402.00 Ongoing Lorton wild verges and funding sources.

402.01 Cllr T St P advised she and Cllr G P had been and collected wild flower seeds from the NE Sandy Beck site for sowing when appropriate in Lorton verges.

402.02 the GRCF funding Lorton had been allocated of £2k was now matched to CCC Community Grants Funding and reduced to £1300 for immediate access, but 2 quotes required to release funding. Cllr T St P to obtain the quotes, concerns that work on verges should be carried out by recognised contractors, not volunteers. Cllrs agreed that due to the timescale if funds were needed quickly, they could be found from parish funds.

402.03 Cllr T St P also updated councillors on the Wildlife plan and I-Naturalist website. For the 5 months from 1st April there had been 187 observations recorded and 130 species recorded. Tanya had found a volunteer to help collate records of Lorton wildlife after a request for a such an individual in the last newsletter.

402.04 It was stressed that a wildflower meadow appearance was not achieved in a year it was a long-term community project.

403.00 HSBC bank charge changes.

403.01 Clerk advised that HSBC, its banker, was looking at all charity bank accounts and had written to him advising Lorton would be from 1st November classed as a "business account." He confirmed there was no uniformity as Buttermere parish council account with a small precept had also been classed as a business account, Oughterside with a substantial precept by comparison and much greater online banking activity, had been granted "charity account" status.

403.02 Basically there would be no further free banking there would be an £8 a month account charge but no charges for online activity banking. Those granted a charity account had a £5 a month fee, so they no longer free.

403.03 Cllr G P and S I suggested the clerk investigate Co-Op Bank for free banking, which clerk confirmed he would.

404.00 Parish field new fencing and replacement gate

404.01 Chair advised she has asked the contractor to remove the loose 'top wire' within the hedge on the parish field, this has not yet been achieved. Chair requested clerk to chase contractor for new parish gate as she wondered if he was still operating in the area.

405.00 Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, June 2022 parish celebration.

405.01 Chair Cllr C P enquired if councillors had had any thoughts on the project. The thought was aired that was it a Lorton community project or should Melbreak Communities be the leaders on the project? What were the school proposing? There was to be a YTH art and craft design and display in the hall. The Jubilee to continue as an ongoing agenda item.

406.00 Progress report, clerk.

406.01 Clerk had been chasing the reinstatement of the Whinlatter crash barrier, E1/1815 and E1/11936 apply. Highways are not proposing to put a sturdy barrier in place. Cllr P J requested that the flimsy plastic barrier is removed.

406.02 Clerk still watching for the repainting of the SLOW sign on the High Lorton access road, E1/2450 he can only advise that the issue has been allocated to a Highways Team.

406.03 Lorton newsletter printed and circulated, no feedback.

406.04 Clerk had received an email from Cresswell Close Ltd about the swift boxes. Cllr T St P has provided the clerk with an appropriate response which had been circulated to all councillors. Unanimously approved clerk responds to the email sender.

407.00 Lorton Councillors reports.

407.01 Chair updated the councillors on the table tennis project, the delay with installation was because no decision had been taken about the base material. It would appear that it is now likely to be bark chippings as Astro Turf is very expensive.

407.02 The flu schedule was promoted.

407.03 Cllr G P confirmed that there had been 4 local residents who were interested in an allotment. It requires 6 residents on the electoral roll to commence the procedure. Still work in progress.

407.04 There is to be a Dark Skies week between 6th and 14th November, details of 3 events to be released later. Also there is to be a Community Carbon Calculator Workshop via Zoom organised by Melbreak Communities.

407.05 Cllr J C raised the concerns that Church Lane was falling into a dangerous state for road users, especially pedestrians and cyclists. Road has been white lined, but no further action, clerk to chase Highways.

407.06 Cllr P D advised that he was still chasing progress of Lorton village bench refurbishments. Also, he mentioned a litter pick and councillor considered it would be best carried out in spring after hedges and verges had been trimmed.

408.00 Correspondence.

408.01 Invoice received from Printpoint for the 185 newsletters, £58.00

408.02 Email received from a visitor from Surrey who complained about the Lorton Street Car Park and an unjust parking fine. The ticket machine not working, the phone number not answered and £100 fine received. Clerk had responded that it was not in Lorton Parish but Cockermouth. He had supplied details of Cockermouth town council’s clerk email, the Allerdale BC CEO and also local MP. Cllr P J advised she had experienced problems in the privately owned car park.

409.00 Payments for Approval

M Milner Intpay89, £361.10, salary July/August £293.60, exp £67.50

HMRC PAYE Intpay90 Clerks tax £73.60

Printpoint Intpay91 £58.00, Summer 2021 newsletter

Bigfoot Grounds Maintenance Intpay92a and b £600.00. a=£500, b=£100. Grounds maintenance, 6th July, 30th July and 30th August, all £200.

All Payments approved

Meeting closed 9.25pm

410.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 3rd November at 7.30pm, the meeting will be held in Yew Tree Hall.

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