

Buttermere Parish Council

Minutes of the annual general meeting of Buttermere Parish Council held on Tuesday 4th May 2021 by Zoom conference platform at 8.00pm followed by May parish council meeting.

Video link Meeting opened: - The chairman declared the meeting open at 8.00pm

Present: Cllrs Y Kahane (chair), J Temple, A McGuire

District and County Councillors: Cllr A Bowness (CCC) attempted attendance but poor internet connection did not permit involvement.

Clerk: Mike Milner. One member of the public.

Apologies for absence: R Wilkinson (BPC). E Beard (BPC). C Bell (ABC)

224.00 Apologies. As noted above.

225.00 Appoint a chairman and vice-chairman for the coming year.

225.01 Cllr Y K, the current chair advised that she was prepared stand again as parish chair' and Cllr J T proposed her and Cllr A M seconded the proposal, Cllr Y K elected.

225.02 Cllr Y K noted that the current vice chair had sent apologies for the meeting but he had confirmed he was prepared to stand, so she proposed him and Cllr A M seconded the proposal, Cllr E B duly elected.

226.00 Declaration of Interest. None

227.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Buttermere parish council meeting held on Tuesday 2nd March 2021 as a true record.

227.01 Cllrs unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 2nd March 2021.

228.00 Police Matters.

228.01 Clerk had circulated police e-newsletters as appropriate.

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

230.00 Applications for development.

230.01 Buttermere received an application FUL/2021/0108 for the development of an Emergency Services 4G telephone mast at Fangs Brow. Obviously appropriate for Loweswater Parish Council as Buttermere not consultees, no action.

230.02 Application from BT Payphones to remove the payphone public telephone box situated in Buttermere by the public convenience. After a discussion it was evident that all Cllrs, plus Mountain Rescue team and residents were vehemently against the proposal. Clerk instructed to advise Allerdale BC Planning Department that the phones removal was detrimental to Buttermere village and its numerous visitors plus it should ideally converted to a card and cash box, due to lack of physical cash because of Covid.

231.00 Receive and approve the parish council accounts for the financial year 2020/21. Consider and approve the signature of 2020/21 Certificate of Exemption, Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21, Accounting Statement 2020/21, Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 plus receive the bank reconciliation and variance report for 20/21.

231.01 168.02 Certificate of Exemption, AGAR 2019/20 Part 2. This confirms that the parish has neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25k. Inspected by councillors and to be signed by clerk and chair, social distancing meeting to be arranged for wet signature.

231.02 clerk had circulated the signed Annual Internal Audit Report. Internal audit had taken place 19/10/20 and 27/04/21. All boxes correctly ticked, and no issues or recommendations raised.

231.03 Annual Governance Statement. Councillors had read the content of the 9 boxes on the form and at each statement to be ticked Yes box with Cllrs approval. Form then to be receive wet signature by chair and clerk, per 231.01.

231.04 Finally the accounting statement, which had been circulated was approved by councillors and again will be duly receive wet signature as 231.01 by RFO and chair.

231.05 Clerk confirmed that he would make the appropriate returns to the external government auditor, placing necessary document required for the appropriate periods on the parish council website pages.

232.00 cvalerts facility, traffic and visitor update.

232.01 Clerk advised that initial response from use of the cvalerts email by residents had been favourable, with response emails within 10 minutes. As Cllr J T pointed out it had not yet been truly tested as weather over the recent bank holiday weather had not encouraged a mass influx of visitors.

233.00 Renewal of Buttermere parish council annual insurance with Zurich.

233.01 Clerk advised that he had yet to receive the official renewal notice, however it was expected in the next week. Renewal date is 1st June, therefore as parish is currently committed to Zurich Insurance and last year's renewal was £144.59, he anticipated a renewal figure in the region of £147/149 and would insert the actual figure into the draft minutes prior to distribution in the payments approved section. Clerk did not want insurance to lapse. Cllrs all agreed to allow the clerk to insert the figure and make the payment. (renewal documents received 12th May, no increase in renewal premium)

234.00 Progress reports, clerk.

234.01 Clerk had only one report and that was his communication with the CCC team attempting to get high speed broadband delivered by fibre to property in Buttermere in their "Hard to Reach" programme. Clerk had circulated the Cllrs with the initial email from the team and from the response received had supplied information that the CCC team could submit to the government department looking at establishing high speed broadband by fibre to properties in areas that were difficult for fibre to cabinet or by suitable mobile 4G signal.

235.00 Buttermere Councillors reports,

235.01 Cllr Y K advised that the Hydro Electric project was still under investigation and assessment.

235.02 Cllr Y K confirmed that the Dark Skies lighting audit had been undertaken, but the result was still not released. She also stated there had been a Zoom meeting organised about the swift bird population. Very informative and the installation of swift boxes would be a major support for the swift population.

235.03 Cllrs were concerned about the recent instances of local families who have been in long-term property rental agreements, being given notice to quit. It is assumed that the vacated properties will have planning applications submitted for change of use from residential to holiday let status. Cllr J T pointed out that if the process was to continue unchallenged the community would have no heart left. Cllr A M commented that such actions were motivated by a commercial intent for a greater financial reward from the property.

236.00 Correspondence

236.01 Clerk had received the Calc annual subscription letter and the renewal figure was £86.42. The clerk confirmed that the benefits of being a member of Calc were well worth the annual outlay. Cllrs agreed to the continued membership.

236.02 The clerk had received an email from Cllr Raymond Beard, advising of his immediate resignation from the parish council. At last year's parish council AGM, when he stood down as chair, it was minuted that he had been a councillor for 39 years and chairman of the parish council since 1991. It was agreed that Cllr Y K would obtain an appropriate card and visit former Cllr R B and thank him for his services to the community. His total service as a councillor for Buttermere had been 40 years.

236.03 Clerk pointed out that new blood was urgently required and preferably from other than individuals with a farming commitment, because this evening the council was only just quorate, with 3 farmers missing as it is a busy time for farmers. Clerk knew of two potential candidates, Cllr A M mentioned another possibility, so clerk would check with Allerdale electoral team as to precise councillor entitlement at Buttermere, was it 8 or 9? He would make the enquiries after the coming election on Thursday.

237.00 Payments for Approval

Intpay56, M Milner salary 1 month April £117.68, Exp' £34.86 total £152.54

Intpay57 HMRC, PAYE, £29.20

Intpay58 Zurich Insurance £144.59 parish annual insurance.

Intpay59 Calc £86.42 annual subscription

All approved

238.00 Date and time of the next meeting. Tuesday 7th September 2021 at 7.30pm at Old School Room, Buttermere, subject to Covid guidance.