

## Buttermere Parish Council

**Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 21st September 2021 in The Old School Room at 7.30pm, meeting was rearranged from 7<sup>th</sup> September it marked the return to face-to-face meetings.**

The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.32pm

Present: Cllrs Y Kahane (chair), J Temple, A McGuire, E Beard, L Kyle, H Fear Davies, K Beard.

District and County Councillors: Neither present.

Clerk: Mike Milner. No members of the public.

Apologies for absence: R Wilkinson (BPC), A Bowness (CCC), C Bell (ADC)

**239.00 Apologies.** As noted above. Cllr C B email received after the meeting.

**240.00 Declaration of Interest. None**

**241.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Buttermere parish council meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 as a true record.**

241.01 The minutes were approved by councillors present at that meeting and duly signed.

**242.00 To co-opt Katherine Beard, Rannerdale Farm, Buttermere, CA13 9UY and Harriet Fear Davies, Rannerdale Cottage, Buttermere, CA13 9UY. The clerk has made appropriate enquires of Allerdale BC and confirmed that both prospective co-optees meet the age and residential criteria necessary to fulfil the office of parish councillor.**

242.01 Clerk confirmed that in keeping with Buttermere practice he had made the appropriate enquiries and as two vacancies and only two candidates a composite resolution was appropriate. Cllr E B proposed their co-option and Cllr Y K seconded the proposal; the two candidates were duly elected. Clerk got declaration of office forms signed and one for Cllr A M. Chair welcomed them both to the parish council.

**243.00 Police Matters.**

243.01 Clerk had circulated police e-newsletters as appropriate.

**244.01 Public participation, none present.**

**245.00 Applications for development.**

245.01 One application 7/2021/2203, Turners How, all councillors agreed that the property was in need of refurbishment and raised no objections to the application.

245.02 Chair enquired had clerk any feedback from planning on the barn development as a machinery store at the end of the Buttermere road towards Lorton. Clerk confirmed no update as yet.

**246.00 District and County Councillors Reports.** Neither present to make reports.

**247.00 Receive and approve the parish council accounts for 5 months to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.**

247.01 Clerk handed out the accounts/bank rec for the period. He explained only one month of expenditure, May, but at the end of September, the 6-month accounting period, as per the Finance Code accounts, would be audited. There were no questions raised and the chair checked the start and end bank statement figures for both accounts and signed the account sheet as an accurate representation of the financial position.

**248.00 Changes being applied by HSBC, does Buttermere explore alternative banking facility?**

248.01 The clerk advised that HSBC bank has reassessed all its "charity bank" account holders which parish councils had been historically classed as. The "artificial intelligence" system and bank criteria had decided Buttermere was no longer classed as a charity account it must become a business account and that status would take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021.

248.02 Clerk explained that attempting discussions with AI was futile, he clerked for 2 other parishes which both had precepts in excess of £10k per annum and they were allocated charity status. Two other parishes with small precepts like Buttermere were also now assessed as business accounts. A charity a/c will be charged £5 per month, a business a/c £8 per month. The change means Buttermere will incur charges of £96 per year per a/c.

248.03 Clerk advised that Buttermere has 2 accounts with HSBC, as per the bank rec he had circulated earlier indicated, current a/c 80200123 and also a savings account 43047199. As the savings account earned 2p on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jun and 2p on 2<sup>nd</sup> September this year; with the councillor's approval he would transfer the savings account funds to the current account and close the savings account, it would be ridiculous to potentially have an account earning 8p a year in interest and costing £96 a year in charges to maintain. Councillors resolved unanimously that clerk transfer the funds and write to the bank to close account 43047199 with immediate effect.

**249.00 Summer holiday/tourist traffic and impact of visitors. Was "cvalerts" reporting system affective? Any changes for consideration for summer 2022?**

249.01 The council members discussed the procedures that the NT and LDNP had installed this past summer in respect of managing visitors, their parking and camping habits. In 2020, as in previous years, on occasions there seemed no sense of direction. However, all admitted that the new system of reporting based around the "cvalerts" email facility had by and large been very responsive and removed many of the parking and traffic issues. The initial bank holiday weekend had been a bit hit and miss, but it was an untried system at that stage. In general, very pleased with the system as the tourist season evolved, only suggestion for forwarding to the team was probably more regular feedback on what action had been taken. Clerk to advise the team leaders accordingly.

**250.00 Update on Dark Skies report, Chair Cllr Y Kahane.**

250.01 The chair advised that the Dark Skies survey organised by the Friends of the Lakes District had been completed and circulated to all interested parties.

250.02 The report had provided Buttermere with a good result, the only issues with a local business would be something that Jack Ellerby would tackle once the holiday season had finished. Chair did point out that a new path in a campsite had been proposed to be well illuminated but after the Dark Skies project was explained, the idea was cancelled.

250.03 Clerk advised that in Lorton village as a trial 5 street lamp units had been exchanged for a new unit from Thorn lighting. The wattage used was greatly reduced and the beam omitted by the unit was very much directed down and at about 1am in the morning although the lights don't turn off, they reduce in intensity, providing a friendly environment for nocturnal wild life as well as illumination for humans that maybe out and about.

### **251.00 Progress reports, clerk.**

251.01 Clerk advised he had recently attended a Calc/Allerdale 3 tier meeting along with Buttermere chair and also the chair from Loweswater parish council. There had been an update on the new county council HIMS Highways reporting system. Clerk had used it and it was simpler than the old system and councillors were encouraged to use it themselves. Clerk reported that he felt it was a case of there was an old system, it was history and if you wanted to check on any outstanding issues it was a case of enter them again and obtain a new system reference number.

251.02 Clerk then updated on the Unitary Council which had been discussed, the decision has been made to go with Carlisle, Copeland and Allerdale as one unitary council and all the rest of the current Cumbria County Council area being the other authority. Clerk had heard on the grapevine Carlisle, Copeland and Allerdale were to be called Cumberland, but that was not official. Clerk did remark that having listened to the development work done by Highways on HIMS system, would the two new unitary authorities have individual Highways departments or would it be one unit used by both authorities? That could apply to numerous other departments. Also, if no district councillors there could be a much greater workload on unitary councillors elected and would the new authorities try to delegate responsibilities down to parishes and thus create a need for a much larger precept, but how would such delegated responsibilities be managed at parish council level?

251.03 There had also been an informative presentation by a leader of RWM the company set up to assess the possible underground nuclear waste storage facility in Cumbria. Basically, it will be another 10 to 15 years before the planning application is ever made and he did confirm that storage under the LDNP was not an option. He did point out that other possible sites existed apart from Cumbria, nothing was set in stone yet.

251.04 Clerk had been made aware of a major internet broadband outage in Buttermere and the valley. On Monday he had emailed his contact at Cumbria County Council with whom he had been dealing with about the "Hard to Reach" broadband supply issue being raised with government. He had advised his contact that a reconnection was not due until Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, but he discovered it was all reinstated by 11pm on Monday 20<sup>th</sup>.

251.05 His email had created a swift response with a 9-page report which had been submitted to government and Appendix A specifically dealt with Buttermere. Councillors agreed that its content and observations perfectly summed up the situation. It was agreed that Cllr H F D would follow up the outage issue and pursue the faster broadband connection on behalf of Buttermere Parish Council, but copy clerk into all communications.

## **252.00 Buttermere Councillors reports,**

252.01 Cllr J T raised the issue of a mobile coffee/drinks' unit at Cinderdale car park. It was on NT land but neither "commoners" or the parish council had been advised of the situation. Clerk to investigate who and how it was registered. Cllr J T advised that there was never a mess, but local businesses pay much higher overheads and would be at a disadvantage if other mobile units appeared. A burger bar next?

252.02 Cllr A M requested that the gorse and hedgerows between Lanthwaite Green through to Woodhouse, which is NT land should be cut back. Some of the traffic problem is the gorse growth forcing vehicles and cyclists into the centre of the road. Clerk to contact NT.

252.03 Chair Y K updated the council members on the current position of the local Hydro scheme. The aim would be to provide a scheme producing 45Kw per day, 2500kwh per year which in practice would run 60 households. The current legislation means they can only supply one outlet and that would be the Bridge Hotel. The hotel wants to provide two public use 7Kw electric car charging points, however that would require a bigger cable than is presently in place providing power to the hotel. To change the cable would be a prohibitive cost.

252.04 The next stage for the scheme is finalise the current report and submit a development grant application to the Rural Communities Energy Fund. The project hopes to receive a positive reply by Jan 2022 then it would need to seek local landowners' permission to lay pipe work. On-going project.

## **253.00 Correspondence**

253.01 Clerk had circulated details of courses available for councillors, he had never in the past promoted the training due to the travel involved, but now that courses were online and the parish council had used the Zoom format, it could be something to be considered. He would raise the issue again at the December meeting.

253.02 Clerk had circulated Geoff Davies's Member reports, plus some of the many Covid 19 emails distributed by Calc and Allerdale. Clerk had already covered the new HIMS changes.

253.03 The annual renewal for the Data Protection registration from the Information Commissioners Office had been received and the clerk had paid the £40 annual subscription, he displayed the latest renewal certificate dated to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

## **254.00 Payments for Approval**

Intpay60, M Milner salary 5 months May-Sept' £587.40, Exp' £56.20 total £643.60

Intpay61, HMRC, PAYE, £147.00 5 months

All approved

## **255.00 Date and time of the next meeting. Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 7.30pm at Old School Room, Buttermere.**

### **Meeting closed 8.29pm**