

LORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd November 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. No members of the public in attendance.

Apologises, Cllr Alan Bowness (CCC).

411.00 Apologises for absence, as noted above.

412.00 Declaration of Interest. Cllr G P advised that she had resubmitted an agricultural building planning application at her property. 7/2021/2301.

413.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 1st September 2021, as a true record.

413.01 Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the minutes.

414.00 Public Participation.

414.01 No public present and no outstanding reports from last meeting.

415.00 Police Matters.

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

416.00 Applications for development.

416.01 Clerk had circulated application 7/2021/2282 High Swinside to councillors who had raised no objection and clerk advised LDNP Planning Office of that decision.

416.02 7/2021/2288 Orchard Cottage, clerk had circulated the details and obtained an extension to submission date. Councillors discussed the application for a modern garden room (Glid Pod Spec) with a glazed link to the existing, standalone garage. It was felt this design was not appropriate to the architecturally and historical nature of the nearby properties. It also appears from the plans that roof lights are to be added to the garage. It was unclear to councillors why the Glid Pod would need to be linked to the garage, and why roof lights are required. Given the parking problems and lack of space immediately around the vicinity of Orchard Cottage councillors expressed the concern that the garage was not going to be used for cars. Clerk to confirm to planners of parish council's objection.

416.03 Armaside Farm, 7/2021/2301 this application is for an additional barn in the farmyard, councillors raised no objections, clerk to advise planning officer accordingly.

416.04 application 7/2021/2198 Freshwinds, clerk advised that at the last meeting the parish council as consultee's objected to the application, and the application had subsequently been withdrawn. Applicant now discussing with Lorton shop owners.

416.05 7/2021/2322 Tenters, clerk had circulated details of this application earlier that day, but no plans attached. Cllr P D advised plans now on website and it concerned a small landing window which overlooked the only neighbour. Chair to establish if the neighbour approved, if so, no objection by parish council.

416.06 Clerk had received no further details on Cross Gates drive drainage, or Winder Hall fencing in Low Lorton.

417.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.

417.01 Neither present. Cllrs remarked that attendance would be appreciated, but clerk advised that with the ongoing Unitary Council split it was apparent that at all levels of council time was devoted to what maybe, meaning day to day delivery of services was down to the employees not elected representatives.

418.00 Receive internally audited 6 months parish accounts ending 30/9/2021.

418.01 Clerk had circulated the audited accounts for the half year ended 30th September 2021, councillors raised no issues with the accounts and resolved to accept them.

419.00 Budget proposals for financial year 2022/23 for precept assessment.

419.01 Clerk had circulated current budget figures and also proposed for the next financial year 2022/23. There were no decisions to be made at this meeting but in January, the councillors would have to decide on a precept figure.

420.00 Proposed relocation of the Millennium Brass Plaque for Yew Tree.

420.01 The brass plaque which had been on display marking the planting of a Yew Tree at the Millennium needed to be re-sited as the original fence had recently been removed. Cllrs decided that a suitable post and angled timber plaque base would be appropriate, possibly in oak. Chair to organise.

421.00 Ongoing update of wilding and funding sources.

421.01 Cllr T St P gave an update on activities and plans for the coming months. Children from the local school on 14th October has planted plugs and seeded the verge areas. There were now concerns that people were parking on the verges and clerk to take up the issue with Highway, bearing in mind Highways, Lorton's grass contractor and other utilities needed access, as had been demonstrated this past week as UU needed to dig up a recently seeded area. Cllr T St P had on completion of that work reseeded the area.

421.02 Cllr T St P to look into obtaining costings for relaying the parish field hedges at the appropriate time. Tanya reported that on the inaturalist app there were now 293 observations recorded and on the new development at Croft Barn, it was hoped that 4 swift bricks would be installed.

422.00 Closure of Bmm a/c HSBC 40-18-03 ***997.**

422.01 Clerk advised that he annually received a bank statement for the above account confirming NIL balance. As HSBC are to start charging a monthly account bank charge, clerk wanted to officially close this obviously dormant account to avoid unnecessary charges.

422.02 Cllrs unanimously agreed to the action and Cllrs C P and G P as authorised account signatures signed the forms downloaded by the clerk from HSBC website. Clerk to submit forms to the bank.

423.00 Queen's Platinum Jubilee, June 2022 parish celebration.

423.01 apart from the chair having requested the clerk to order a Queen Elizabeth II Rose, Bare Root, for planting, there had been no further decisions on celebration activities. Remain an ongoing agenda item.

424.00 Lorton Christmas Newsletter.

424.01 Clerk agreed all material to him Saturday 4th December. Magazine to have details of local Christmas events, an item on the parking on the verges that had been seeded, Tanya to provide map of the areas involved which would be used in magazine and supplied to Highways to clarify problem areas. Update on inaturalist. Discussion about future content, tree felling plans plus replanting plans. Also greenhouse gas admissions currently very topical, perhaps details about installation of ground heat pumps and air pumps for heating.

425.00 Progress report, clerk.

425.01 Clerk confirmed that the Dark Skies initiative had seen Lorton installed with 5 new lights, however the factory had supplied units that were reported to dim after midnight rather than switch off. Replacement units being sourced.

425.02 As per minute 423.01 clerk had bought the rose at a cost of £24.94, delivery to Chair's home address.

425.03 Since last meeting the clerk had been made aware of a traffic survey unit in Low Lorton by the Wheatsheaf pub. He had requested Highways to install a unit by The Lodge and also on the Cockermouth entrance to the road, which was now in Highways schedule to be undertaken. He requested Cllrs to let him know when the units were in situ.

425.04 Clerk had received that afternoon pictures of water pouring out of the wall on the road down from B5292 into High Lorton. He had reported the issue to Highways, E1/24533 and advised resident accordingly. Cllrs were of the opinion that the issue would be problem for the landowner, not Highways.

425.05 Minute 406.04 clerk had responded to contractor with details provided by Cllr T St P. See note 421.02 these minutes.

426.00 Lorton Councillors reports.

426.01 Cllr P D advised that he was seeking an alternative individual to undertake the parish seat maintenance schedule. Cllr G P advised she knew of a potential alternative person and would advise Cllr P D.

426.02 Cllr J C that Church Lane was now so bad he avoided using the road due to the potholes. Clerk advised he had reported the problem in July and would do so again. Clerk had received a phone call from a resident about the state of the road and speeding Mothers taking children to and from school. Clerk had pointed out road subject to national highway 60mph limit, therefore speeding not an issue.

426.03 Cllr T St P raised the state of wall on the sharp bend opposite Yew Tree Hall garden, but again it is the responsibility of the landowner, not Highways.

426.04 Cllr S I reported that following the torrential rain the previous week as far as he was aware, apart from residents in known properties with flooding issues, no extensive damage and no issues raised by EA.

427.00 Correspondence.

427.01 Clerk admitted that during the audit, it was noted that an invoice from Printpoint dated March 2021 had been missed from payment. Accordingly, as a subsequent invoice paid and it was the normal charge £57, clerk had paid the invoice Intpay 93 refers.

427.02 Invoice received from T Lindsay for new parish gates, £390 + VAT as per official quotation.

427.03 Invoice received from Simone Morgan totalling £60, audit fees for year-end accounts 20/21 and the latest half yearly accounts 21/22 at £30 per audit.

427.04 Annual request for a donation to the Great North Air Ambulance. Clerk advised that last year the council donated £250. It was unanimously agreed to make a similar contribution this year.

427.05 Clerk had been advised by Allerdale that the second half of the precept had been made, clerk confirmed that the monies were shown in recent audited accounts as having been received.

427.06 Invoice from Cumbria Wildflowers Ltd for £591.60 to cover cost of wilding project's seeding. This will be covered by £1300 funding grant for the project to come from CCC.

428.00 Payments for Approval

Printpoint Intpay93 made 18th October, £57.00 see 427.01

M Milner Intpay94, £376.34, salary Sept/Oct £293.80, exp £82.54

HMRC PAYE Intpay95, Clerks tax £73.40

Tom Lindsay Intpay91 £468.00, New Parish field gate

Simone Morgan Intpay97, £60.00 audit fees.

Cumbria Wildflowers Ltd, Intpay 98 a & b £591.60, a=£500, b=£91.60 grass seed.

Great North Air Ambulance Intpay99, £250.00, annual donation to charity's costs.

Bigfoot Grounds Maintenance Intpay100, a and b £960.00 a=£500, b=£460. Grounds maintenance, Sept & Oct £200 each. Fence repairs in parish field £160.00 and scarify grass verges and extra short cut £400.00.

All Payments approved

Meeting closed 9.05pm

429.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 5th January 2022 at 7.30pm, the meeting will be held in Yew Tree Hall.

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