

Lorton Parish Council

Minutes of the annual parish meeting of Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at Yew Tree Hall, Lorton at 7.30pm followed by the March parish council meeting.

Present: Cllrs, Chris Poate(chair), Glenis Postlethwaite (vice-chair) Peter Deeks, Pam Jaques, Steve Irlam, Julian Cruickshank, Tanya St Pierre. 4 members of the public.

Clerk, Mike Milner.

Apologies, Cllr Alan Bowness (CCC).

The chair C P read her annual report (a transcript of that report can be found after these minutes.) There were also reports from First Responders, History Group, Yew Tree Village Hall, Gardening Club, Lorton School, Melbreak Communities, Table tennis group read by clerk and update on outside table tennis project provided by chair C P.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at Yew Tree Hall, Lorton commencing 8.11 pm.

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

Clerk, Mike Milner.

Apologies, Cllr Alan Bowness (CCC)

446.00 Apologises for absence, as noted above.

447.00 Declaration of Interest. No declarations.

448.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 5th January 2022, as a true record.

448.01 Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the minutes.

449.00 Public Participation. There were no members of public present.

450.00 Police Matters.

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

451.00 Applications for development. None

452.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors. neither present

453.00 Parish Platinum Jubilee celebration update

453.01 Chair Cllr C P confirmed a further 5 tubs similar to those already located about the village had been purchased, to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was agreed that over the following few days the logistics of locating and filling the tubs would be agreed.

454.00 Lorton Easter Newsletter content and copy deadline date, Friday 25th March.

454.01 Content to be decided as further agenda items discussed. Community group listing.

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455.00 Dark Skies grant update.

455.01 The clerk read out the email he had received on 2nd March from Community Grants who were supposed to have made the grant decision, £1978.00, on 1st March. The gist of the email was requesting information about how the parish council planned to engage with the community, how volunteers would be involved and how the council could promote behavioural change around the energy saving.

455.02 Clerk had had a 20 minute phone call with the lady organising the grants, reiterated again the scheme, its energy saving costs, both financially and with the carbon dioxide content reduction. The parish council has pointed out it was a trail blazer for this project and the potential cost saving across the country is substantial, not to mention the benefits to nocturnal wildlife. (Newsletter content)

455.03 Councillors all registered their amazement and clerk would be contacting Jack Ellerby the Friends of the Lakes, Dark Skies, project leader first thing Thursday morning.

456.00 Grass verge wild flowering project and parish field hedge/fence plans

456.01 Crocuses were now visible, and Cllr T St-P reminded Cllrs of the current funding figure available, £2600 and that so far, the parish council had spent £2149.00. The relaying of the hedge between the Parish Field and M Tyson's field was costed and programmed in for October this year. Cllr T St-P had limed the verges and she went on to advise that there had been over 200 observations on the iNaturalist project page and that there was instruction course organised for 26th March on how to use the facility, to be held in Yew Tree Hall. (Newsletter content)

456.02 Clerk and Cllr T St-P to organise some additional "No Parking" signs and to use the newsletter to explain their necessity, as there are bulbs in the verges, planted by the local school children. (Newsletter content)

457.00 Road gully and flooding between Shatton Hall and Armaside Farm B5289.

457.01 clerk advised that he had attended the Buttermere Parish Council the previous evening and he spoke directly to the contractor who has dug the ditch out to a level a foot below the culvert running under the road and also dug it out further into the field so that should resolve the issue.

457.02 Cllr G P was concerned about the loose protruding wire fence which could catch a vehicle or a cyclist. Clerk to inspect and photograph, he would report to Highways, but he was certain Highways would advise it was the landowners problem.

458.00 Progress report, clerk.

458.01 Minute note 430.00 Apologise, clerk read out Calc's response to what attendance a parish should expect from county and borough Cllrs. Basically, although it is expected they should/would attend on a regular basis, if Lorton have attendance issues take it up with the whip of the party the Cllr represents. Allerdale and Cumbria councils will not be interested in any complaint.

458.02 Further to minute 437.02 precept application made and acknowledged.

458.03 the five lights as per 442.01 have been correctly programmed.

458.04 the grass triangle, 442.03, central stones have been replaced. Cllr G P made the observation that the damage could have been done by a caravan transporter, redirected by police down Church Lane rather than past the pub in Low Lorton.

458.05 Clerk as per 441.05 had written and thanked the two benefactors of the Lorton Christmas Tree and its lights. Both had responded to clerk thanking council for its appreciation.

458.06 All the ivy on Boon Beck Bridge has been removed, by Highways.

458.07 Clerk advised the Cllrs that the grass maintenance contractor, Bigfoot, had stated last year in his contract tender that his monthly charge would be £200 fixed for 3 years. Clerk had spoken to the chair and pointed out that with fuel costs escalating in the fashion they were, it would be appropriate to approach the contractor and advise contractor an increase of 5.5% in line with Feb's RPI figure would be acceptable. This would mean the monthly cost would increase to £211. Cllrs unanimously approved the clerk and chair's actions. Contractor appreciated the council's approach.

459.00 Lorton Councillors reports.

459.01 Cllr J C had attended a Calc Team meeting about the unitary changes and delegation of services down to the parishes, perhaps and would there be a poll, to attract new councillors. He observed that some councils maybe keen to embrace expansion and becoming a more proactive employer to provide community services, other not so.

459.02 Chair and clerk had been at Buttermere Parish Council meeting the previous evening and updated councillors on the report from Jane Saxon, the north and west National Trust manager. No 56 days licences this year, back to 28 days for parking and pop up camp sites. Other points, shuttle bus to remain, running from Cockermouth but extended to encompass Loweswater and Fangs Brow.

459.03 Cllr P D will continue to try and get a parish seat maintenance rota agreed for this summer.

460.00 Correspondence.

460.01 Cllr S I had contacted clerk about water pressure in Low Lorton, a joint but separate two pronged communication with UU had got the issue resolved.

460.02 Clerk had been forwarded an email asking where details of the parish councillors could be found. Clerk had responded and copied to the chair.

460.03 clerk had also had email about where were parish council dates available. Clerk had responded and pointed out all dates in parish noticeboard and Yew Tree Hall board as well as on website.

460.04 Blindbothel clerk had asked about refurbishment of heritage finger posts. Clerk had provided CCC contact details.

460.05 All relevant emails circulated to councillors.

460.06 invoices received from Chair and also one other local resident to cover tub purchase from Amazon.

461.00 Payments for Approval

M Milner Intpay104, £487.40, salary Jan/Feb/March £440.60, exp £46.80

HMRC PAYE Intpay105, Clerks tax £110.20

Chris Poate Intpay106, £59.96, 4 Platinum Jubilee planters from Amazon

Liz Irlam Intpay 107, £14.99, 1 Platinum Jubilee planter, Amazon limited 4 per customer.

All Payments approved

Meeting closed 9.40pm

462.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 4th May 2022 at 7.30pm, the meeting will be held in Yew Tree Hall and include the parish council AGM at the start of the evening.

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Chair's parish meeting report next page.

Welcome everyone to the Lorton Annual Parish Meeting of 2022. The last Annual Parish meeting was in March 2020, as no meeting was held in 2021 due to Lock Down and the pandemic, so we are delighted to be back in the Yew Tree hall and holding our regular council meetings face to face. During the pandemic rules were such that Parish Councils had to meet on zoom, and this we did very effectively until the July meeting in 2021 when we returned to the hall.

Public participation and attendance were possible by zoom, and details of how to join were made available but I think we would all agree that it is much more preferable to be meeting together.

Lorton Parish councillors remain committed to attending the bi-monthly council meetings and considering matters that are brought to our attention. Despite the restrictions during the pandemic, various projects have got underway, including the Wildflower verge project involving some of the children from Lorton School planting seeds. The Lorton Street Lighting project, in conjunction with The Dark Skies project has resulted in the installation of 5 new streetlights, a trial which we hope will be expanded in the future.

I would like to thank all the councillors for the time they give to undertaking the role, it is not just a matter of turning up for meetings 6 times a year, as the various projects we undertake often involves considerably more time outside the meetings.

Funding from the Cumbria Wildlife Trust's Planting for Pollinators will enable further projects to be undertaken. More details of these will be discussed at Parish Council meetings, and updates are usually included in our Lorton Parish Council Newsletters. These are published three times a year.

Throughout the Pandemic Lee and Arwen opened the shop as usual. They maintained strict distancing and mask wearing in the shop, determined they would remain well to make sure they could keep the shop open, providing a vital service to so many who were isolating and unable to get out to shop. We would like to express our thanks to Lee and Arwen, Lorton is so lucky to have such a great service and the fact you can get a decent cup of coffee from 10.30 in the morning is an added bonus.

The Queens Platinum Jubilee is to be celebrated at the beginning of June. We imagine many households may be planning their own celebrations. The Parish Council has already planted a commemorative rose in the Yew Tree Hall Garden as they became available in the Autumn of 2021. There has always been positive feedback from residents regarding the flower tubs that were part of the 2012 Jubilee celebrations, so the Parish Council has purchased an additional 5 tubs, and together with Garden Club members and volunteers, they will be placed around the village, planted up and provide a lasting memory.

Don't forget the mobile Post Office, that arrives in Lorton every Friday, parks outside No.4. Broomcroft between 13.00-13.20. A full range of Post Office services/banking/cash is available. We need to use it!

Lorton Parish Council remains committed to working with the Melbreak Communities and the MBC website is where our official documents are published, such as the agenda for the bi-monthly meeting, and following minutes, so always check the website if you are unsure of dates of meetings or want to check the facts.

Finally, I would like to thank Mike Milner, our clerk, who puts in many an hour, over and above, unseen, on council business. He master minds our Lorton Newsletter and follows up any queries directed to the council, with prompt efficiency.

We look forward to reports and updates from those organisations active in the village who are able to attend this evening, or who have sent through a few words.

Thank you.

Chris Poate