

LORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 5th January 2022 at Yew Tree Hall, Lorton commencing 7.30pm.

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

Cumbria County Councillor and Allerdale District. Neither present

Clerk, Mike Milner. During meeting 2 members of the public at differing times.

Apologises, Cllr Alan Bowness (CCC), Cllr Tanya St Pierre (LPC)

430.00 Apologises for absence, as noted above. Cllr J C enquired if clerk had established the commitment if any of absent county and district councillors to attend meetings. Cllr P D agreed with the clerk's understanding that there was no statutory obligation for district or county councillors to attend parish council meeting. Clerk would seek advice on the position from Calc, before taking any further action.

431.00 Declaration of Interest. No declarations.

432.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 3rd November 2021, as a true record.

432.01 Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the minutes.

433.00 Public Participation.

433.01 No public currently present and no outstanding reports from last meeting, however chair aware of 2 members to attend, one connected with a planning application and the other with the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. They would be allowed to speak at those agenda items.

434.00 Police Matters.

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

435.00 Applications for development.

435.01 Clerk had circulated A4 hard copies of the two applications before the meeting.

435.02 7/2021/2371 1, Holemire Cottage, Lorton. Cllrs were advised by the chair that following discussions by a local resident with the applicant and their architect, there were no issues with the proposals. After a brief discussion Cllrs agreed unanimously to approve the application. Request clerk mention consideration of wildlife in the construction, when advising planning officer of the decision.

435.03 The applicant for 7/2021/2373, Fellside, Lorton, arrived at the exact moment his application was to be discussed. At the chair's invitation he outlined the application and the thinking behind it. Cllrs asked about local neighbour's views and he advised that the covenant on the property meant they had had to consult with them before submitting the application. Applicant advised they would be considering swallow and bat boxes in the development. Swift boxes had been considered but it was felt the building was too low and local trees too high to encourage swifts to nest. Cllrs agreed unanimously to support the development.

435.04 clerk advised that as per minute 416.02 he had submitted an objection to 7/2021/2288, Orchard Cottage, copy of that objection had been circulated. Also minute 416.05, Tenters, chair had established that the next door residents raised no objection to the landing window which overlooked their property and grounds, so no objection to application 7/2021/2322 by the parish council.

436.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.

436.01 see minute 430.00 these minutes.

437.00 Confirm the Lorton Parish precept request for financial year 2022/23, revised budget docs had been circulated.

437.01 Cllr J C opened the discussion with the observation that over the recent financial years the parish council had been a least cost parish council, annual expenditure had exceeded the requested precept. Cllrs considered the expenditure for the coming Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the relaying of the parish field hedge, plus other work on the ongoing verges project.

437.02 Clerk had circulated a suggested 5% increase, and after a discussion it was resolved that the clerk would request a 10% precept increase of £572 making it £6294 in total and that in the April Lorton newsletter the increase and its use would be explained.

438.00 Resolve to approve the parish clerk, current and future clerks, as an official bank account signatory.

438.01 Clerk advised that he was experiencing issues with HSBC banking in his position as clerk at Lowca. Bank rules state that bank personnel will only discuss banking issues or security matters with an authorised account signatory, which the clerk is not. When the accounts had been changed to internet banking, dealing with the clerk was not a problem, however new money laundering legislation has changed the banks criteria on who they will communicate with. HSBC have advised at Lowca that clerk becomes a recognised signatory, so it would appear appropriate that that all parishes where HSBC is the banker the clerk should be a recognised signatory. Clerk read out his submission statement to HSBC covering payment criteria.

438.02 Cllr P D proposed that clerk was a bank signatory, seconded by Cllr S I and unanimously resolved by all councillors present.

439.00 Lorton Autumn/Christmas parish newsletter, feedback.

439.01 Chair confirmed that the newsletter with its additional 2 page insert had apparently been well received and that the number ordered of 185 were correct for distribution.

439.02 Cllrs listened as Cllr P J reported on comments made to her by farmers about the Wild Flower verge project in Lorton.

439.03 Chair, C P did say farmers had been Cllrs in the past but no longer came forward for co-option therefore could only air their views to Cllrs who could only report such views back.

440.00 Queens Jubilee Platinum, June 2022, parish celebrations.

440.01 The chair of the Lorton Vale Gardening Club had joined the meeting and the parish council chair invited her to state the proposals that organisation has for the Queens Jubilee.

440.02 There are currently 4 tubs in the parish which the club tend but if other tubs were to be provided by the parish council, the gardening club would like to see that local residents close to the new tubs took on responsibility for their maintenance and watering.

440.03 Chair C P thought that there could be 4 additional tubs, 2 by the seat in the village pound which is a well-used community area and also possibly 2 in the Crossgates area which is already part of the rewilding and verge project. Cllr P J did volunteer to look after a new tub on the triangular road junction at the entrance to Lorton where the road from Cockermouth branches to High Lorton and Whinlatter Pass or on towards Low Lorton.

440.04 Cllr G P advised that she could possibly provide suitable plastic based maintenance free tubs. A figure of up to £500 was agreed for the Jubilee celebration project.

440.05 Short discussion about what dates for village celebrations as bank holidays at beginning of June are on the Thursday and Friday, which also is the end of the school half-term and folk could be on holiday. Ongoing discussions between other village organisations.

441.00 Progress report, clerk.

441.01 Clerk confirmed that he was confirming the bank savings account closure with change of clerk's signature status.

441.02 with reference to minute 425.04 clerk had located the owner of the field and wall causing the concerns. After phone discussions with the owner, clerk and chair had met him in the field and then viewed the wall. Owner now fully aware of local residents concerns and possible consequences of further deterioration of the wall. No further action can be taken by parish council.

441.03 Clerk confirmed that after the last meeting he had again reported Church Lane to Highways and was able to confirm that there had been major pothole repairs undertaken.

441.04 The Dark Skies team leader, Jack Ellerby, had confirmed the 5 new lights are incorrectly programmed, replacements had been sent and lost by carrier, but another consignment are in transit. Cllr S I has additional update in Cllrs reports.

441.05 Clerk noted that the Crossgates verge had had a Christmas tree on display. Chair confirmed that two local residents had been provided the tree and the lights. Clerk would email thanks to them.

441.06 Clerk advised that the Highways gully team had been operating in the area. Cllr G P asked the clerk to confirm that Highways were aware of the blocked gully between Shatton and Armaside, cones were placed at the gully, he confirmed it had been reported.

441.07 Clerk still chasing Highways for the repainting of SLOW sign on entrance to High Lorton from Cockermouth.

442.00 Lorton Councillors reports.

442.01 Cllr S I reported that he had that morning had an email from Jack Ellerby advising the 5 lights to be replaced on Thursday. There was also information about further Community Climate Grants being available for £2k and the clerk was to make the appropriate application. Road junction lights to next challenge. Any funding short fall for the next batch of replacement lights would be made from Friends of the Lakes funding.

442.02 Cllr G P advised that the next Melbreak Communities meeting was on 10th January at 7.30pm via Zoom.

442.03 Chair C P had forwarded pictures of the tyre tracks across the small, grassed triangle at Crossgates. Clerk requested to ask Highways for their views on a solution.

442.04 Cllr P D advised that in the early April newsletter he would provide details of a community litter pick. He also enquired if any councillor knew of anyone to take on the maintenance of the parish benches maintenance. He suggested that he may use the next newsletter to broaden the enquiry of a volunteer to local residents.

442.05 Clerk had received a report via email from Cllr T St P, which he read out. She had tested the soil on the verges, and they needed a small amount of liming, which she would organise. She was concerned that more signage about not parking on the verges was required, but in short-term she would redo the laminate signs. She had found a hedge layer and was organising a meeting with the school head, tennis club representative, and the hedge layer and herself so a plan could be developed and followed. There were handwritten sightings being sent to iNaturalist and she wanted to set up a training programme on its use but would contact relevant individuals for a March start.

442.06 Some Cllrs voiced their concerns about more kerbside signage about no parking. This needed further consideration.

443.00 Correspondence.

443.01 Clerk reported receipt of letter of thank you from Great North Air Ambulance for the £250 donation by the parish to the air ambulance charity.

443.02 Notification that the current chief officer of Calc, Samantha Bagshaw, was standing down this month and she was to be replaced by Sonia Hutchinson, Sam's current No2.

443.03 Numerous emails circulated about the Unitary Council changes due in April 2023.

443.04 Invoice from Printpoint, 185 A4 x 4 page with additional double sided insert, £87.00.

443.05 Exchange of emails with Allerdale about the precept submission date if there was a further lockdown and January parish council meetings blocked, that exchange was before Christmas.

443.06 Clerk had received a comment by a member of the public, from the chair, about the agenda not being on the website. Clerk explained that normally all agendas were on the Melbreak Community website providing the statutory 3 clear working days, however for exceptional circumstances this month, that had not happened, but were on there now. Clerk had personally put agendas in noticeboards on Thursday 30th December, meeting legislation requirements.

444.00 Payments for Approval

M Milner Intpay101, £344.38, salary Nov/Dec £293.80, exp £50.58

HMRC PAYE Intpay102, Clerks tax £73.40

Printpoint Intpay103, £87.00, 185 copies December/Christmas newsletter

All Payments approved

Meeting closed 9.10pm

445.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at 7.30pm, the meeting will be held in Yew Tree Hall.

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