

# Lorton Parish Council

## **Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept' 2022**

The acting chair opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs, Acting-Chair, Glenis Postlethwaite (vice-chair), Peter Deeks, Pam Jaques, Tanya St Pierre.

Cumbria County Councillor and Allerdale District. Cllr J Perry, Cumberland Shadow Councillor

Clerk, Mike Milner.

Apologies, Cllr Alan Bowness (CCC). Chris Poate(chair, LPC) , Julian Cruickshank (LPC).

**498.00 Apologies for absence**, as noted above.

**499.00 Declaration of Interest. None**

**500.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022, as a true record.**

500.01 Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the minutes.

**501.00 Public Participation.** None present.

**502.00 Police Matters.**

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

**503.00 Applications for development.**

503.01 Clerk advised that there were no current applications to consider however he updated on the following recent applications. Vale View 2022/2170 had been withdrawn. Freshwinds 2022/2156 had been approved. The council's submission for Corner Cottage 2022/2130 no objection had not been decided yet. Clerk had made a lengthy submission on 2022/2185 making no objection but offering proposals about the visible glazing. Clerk then read out the recently received confirmation of approval, the planning officer had noted the parish council's comments and the architect and applicant had amended the plan accordingly. Cllrs all commented that it was noted that as a consultee their input was considered and acted on.

503.02 Cllr P J advised that she had been checking PROW conditions with the local ranger Amy Smiles, fuller report later, at the current development at Croft Barn there was a planning requirement for a public path between the two roads, for parents and children to use, although not yet constructed the LDNP Ranger would ensure a kissing gate at each end, a safety feature as children going to and from school.

**504.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.**

504.01 The Shadow Cumberland Cllr Jill Perry was present, but no news of unitary council advances. Invited to stay by the acting chair and invite accepted.

**505.00 Parish Information Board(s) location and content plus grant criteria.**

505.01 Cllr P J advised Cllrs that she and Cllrs T St P and Chair C P had had discussions about locations and sizes and method of fixing. One location was down in Low Lorton by the bus shelter, to the left of the shelter, on the pavement, but on two upright stanchions. Another location was attached to the wall at YTH. AO or A1 size.

505.02 A discussion then followed about the location of suppliers of such boards, mostly in the south of country, but a couple of local design companies had been found and quotes obtained as a guide with different finishes, the artwork was being quoted at £1344 ex VAT and then converting that into the finished product delivered to site for installation £2388 ex VAT and then installation £290 ex VAT. Additional work by the local design companies was charged at £45/hr.

505.03 Cllrs realised that realistically the 2 boards were going to cost perhaps £3.5k ex VAT. What need to be considered also was the purpose of the boards, they must demonstrate what Lorton does well with its Heritage and Wildlife and perhaps a couple of footpath trails a half hour one and a two plus hour trail.

505.04 clerk confirmed that the council were assured of a £1k grant courtesy from Cllr A Bowness (CCC) from his personal allowance, but clerk would submit an application for a larger amount to see if there was any extra cash in the funding pot. He had to submit the claim by 6<sup>th</sup> October, and he would know early November what had been awarded. Cllrs not going to look at other funding sources until that figure known. There was also the question of the installation of the board. Clerk requested he be supplied with the details of the finished board size and installation details, and he would approach the planning officer for his views about the requirement for a planning application for the board.

**506.00 Details of meeting in Buttermere October 18<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm at Old School Room with LDNP and NT personnel to discuss 2022 issue with traffic, visitor management and changes for 2023.**

506.01 Clerk distributed hard copies of the spreadsheet that he had circulated with the issues at Buttermere and by Crummock water in relation to visitor management. He explained that there was to be a meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October at Buttermere with NT and LDNP personnel. The spreadsheet was to consolidate many of the issues and submit it prior to the proposed meeting in an attempt to have answers on the night.

506.02 no further additions made at the meeting, but Cllr P J had submitted a report which highlighted the problems of bus travel using a concessionaires pass and it not linking with services in a logical manner. Observation made as to how New Zealand makes provision for toilet facilities in its tourist parks and they were sadly lacking in LDNP, most NPs in UK. A comparison was drawn with France where at beaches there were free public showers and toilet facilities.

**507.00 Inclusion of councillors on Calc weekly email distribution lists.**

507.01 Following a brief discussion about the situation all Cllrs agreed that clerk should receive such emails and circulate as he felt appropriate, not them directly.

**508.00 Cllr T St Pierre to outline her 'How to support pollinators and wildlife in your parish' event at Lorton on 13 October, in YTH.**

508.01 Cllr T St P advised that Cumbria Wildlife Trust were teaming up with Lorton Parish Council to invite and showcase to other parish councils how a successful pollinator project could be run by interested parish councils. The event would run between 7pm and 8pm and Cumbria Wildlife Trust would finance the project.

**509.00 Feedback on Summer Parish Council magazine.**

509.01 Cllrs all reported that there had been no adverse reports on content or the distribution so no negative feedback. Cllr P D confirmed that with the resignation of Cllr S I he would take on the distribution of his future magazines as they came due.

**510.00 To discuss and approve Clerk's hourly rate to increasing from £12.24/hr pay grade 15, to £13.48/hr pay grade 19, commence September 2022 and not backed to April 2021 as per NALC salary award 2021/2022 agreed March 2022. Details discussed with chair and clerk.**

510.01 After a brief discussion between Cllrs and clerk the Cllrs unanimously agreed to the proposal, to take effect from September 2022 with no back pay.

**511.00 Lorton Parish Field, hedge laying timetable.**

511.01 Clerk advised that he had not yet had a response from the school about autumn half-term as that was the week for the proposed work. Cllr P D confirmed w/c 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 was the official half-term. Clerk thanked the Cllr and said he would contact the contractor remind him of his contract arrangements, clerk then acknowledged that Cllr G P would provide a trailer for the brush from the hedge and clerk also to request sight of the contractors insurance. Cllr C P had confirmed to the clerk that she would around for the duration of the 3 day contract period.

**512.00 To select a councillor to represent the parish council on the YTH committee.**

512.01 Cllrs present deferred this item until the November meeting.

**513.00 Progress reports, clerk.**

513.01 clerk has still not resolved the parish charitable status however he would by the November meeting.

513.02 When clerk had dropped off the newsletters on 20<sup>th</sup> July he had inspected a road junction with a parking issue in the farm vehicle turning area. Clerk had photographed the problem and advised the chair to get the farmer to instal a sign at his own expense advising a turning point not a parking space.

513.03 The vacancy on the parish council had been advertised in the village noticeboard with no response and also inserted in the latest edition of the Link.

**514.00 Lorton Parish Councillors reports.**

514.01 Cllr P J updated Cllrs on the village plant tubs and that she was ordering approx. £100 worth of bulbs, which she discussed the mix with Cllr T St P. Both would organise the mix, Cumbria Wildlife Trust may have some spare funds to contribute. The tubs were to be autumn and winter dormant, but bulbs would provide the early spring colour.

514.02 Cllr P J then updated on the footpath audit and the fact she had made contact with the NP Ranger on the ground for Lorton area, Amy Smiles. A very talented and enthusiastic individual. Cllr P J reminded of the landowners legal obligation to maintain stiles, gates and footpaths on their land.

514.03 Cllrs discussed the need for a short linking new PROW which Cllr P J and the warden were resolving. Also reinstating some local ponds for frogspawn and their subsequent frogs.

514.04 Cllr P D is still on the parish seat register update task.

514.05 Cllr G P advised that the Melbreak poetry trail was successful, but vandals were removing the notices with the poetry on, so she and other volunteers were constantly going with hammer, nails and new boards to replace them.

**515.00 Correspondence.**

515.01 UU have supplied update on removal of Crummock Water dam and clerk had circulated that email.

515.02 Clerk had been supplied with numerous images of the wall just up from YTH which is in a bad state of repair. Highways have allocated a team. E1/83995

515.03 Emails received about a car lift share scheme across Bothel and Wharrels.  
515.04 As Cllr C P's husband is no longer chair of the YTH, clerk has made direct contact with Clare Round of the new committee and pre-booked the hall through until November 2023.  
515.05 Email from Highways about road closures for Motor Rallies in Whinlatter , but Lorton not involved.  
515.06 The Geological Disposal Community Investment Funding, email circulated.  
515.07 At 15.52 that afternoon Harvey from Bigfoot submitted his July and August invoice for £422.

**516.00 Payments for Approval**

M Milner Intpay121, £347.60, salary July/August £293.60, exp £54.00.  
HMRC PAYE Intpay122, Clerks tax £73.60  
Printpoint Intpay 123, £63.00 Summer newsletter  
Bigfoot Intpay 124, £422.00 May/June ground maintenance.  
Direct charge by HSBC £8 monthly account charge.

All Payments approved  
Meeting closed 9.07pm.

**517.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm, the meeting will be held in Yew Tree Hall.**

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