

Lorton Parish Council

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 2nd Nov' 2022

Present: Cllrs, Chris Poate(chair), Glenis Postlethwaite (vice-chair) Peter Deeks, Julian Cruickshank, Tanya St Pierre. Cllr J Perry, Cumberland Shadow Councillor.

Clerk, Mike Milner.

Apologies, Cllr Alan Bowness (CCC). Pam Jaques, (LPC).

518.00 Declaration of Interest. None

519.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 7th September 2022, as a true record.

519.01 Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the minutes.

520.00 Public Participation. None present.

521.00 Police Matters.

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

522.00 Applications for development.

522.01 Crummock Water 7/2022/0001S0, the documents the clerk had circulated included a file of 217 pages in content. He had obtained 3 hard copies, one each for Lorton, Loweswater and Buttermere parishes. The document from LDNP Planning Department is not as such a planning application it is a request for the Secretary of State to confirm what information will need to be provided in the Environmental Impact Assessment, that will form part of the final planning application. The clerk had applied for an extension from 17th November, to 12th December and clerk would make one submission through Buttermere Parish Council to meet that revised submission deadline. Cllr T St P took the hard copy and will circulate to other councillors if they wish to read it.

522.02 there was much discussion about the modelling undertaken, to measure the rate of flow. Cllr J C offered the opinion that the revised level and changes to channels that flow into Crummock Water would actually lead to a reduction of peak flood times. It was agreed that that it would create a more natural lake.

522.03 Vale View 7/2022/2228 the planning application was before the planning panel that afternoon, but clerk not aware of the decision. (Since the meeting, confirmation planning approved)

522.04 7/2022/2130 Corner Cottage, Lorton, replacement lintels and door jambs, approved.

523.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.

523.01 The Shadow Cumberland Cllr Jill Perry was present, she advised that the Cumberland Plan had been approved in principle. She also advised that she had attended 2 by 4 hour Team meetings about Carbon Footprint training. First session was not for the faint hearted about the implications if carbon reductions are not undertaken, but the second session was how you could reduce ones footprint and that at the end of the course, individuals had to pledge how they would make a change to their current lifestyle.

523.02 The course was run by Carbon Zero Cumbria and was specifically for Allerdale employees and the Cumberland Shadow Council's members.

524.00 Receive internally audited 6 month parish accounts ending 30/09/2022.

524.01 the clerk had circulated a copy the ledgers for the period, a copy of the bank statement confirming that the ledger balance and bank account figures agreed on the bank reconciliation sheet, which had been duly signed as correct by the auditor. There were no queries raised and accounts approved.

525.00 Budget proposals for financial year 2023/24 for precept assessment.

525.01 Clerk advised that he had been in touch with Allerdale, and they would be collecting the precept requests as per normal, but to whom or when the details would be passed over to Cumberland Council was not yet established. He explained therefore that based on previous years practise, this was a budget update statement, and that the precept would be decided at the January.

525.02 As the councillors listened to the explanation before the discussion, Cllr J C raised the issue of the poll fee of £120, which the clerk said was to cover the paperwork expenses of Allerdale, but there was no poll as Cllrs are returned unopposed. Cllr J C thought for the purposes of the democratic purpose all councillors should be subject to public scrutiny via the ballot box. When he was co-opted, he anticipated to undergo a public vote. Clerk explained that the majority of the 9000 parish councils in England were returned in such a manner. Councillors were originally elected unopposed from 1894, village elders and the landed gentry. Cllr P D did advise he had served as a parish councillor down south, but there councillors were elected because political parties were involved, all seats would be contested, he was highlighting the fact a few parishes did have a poll. Clerk pointed out that if there was a poll then the parish had to pay the full cost, especially in 2023 as there were no local council elections and that cost would be in excess of £2000. Cllr J C to consider his position.

525.03 There was a substantial figure for expenditure £4000 in the second part of this year. Cllr J C queried the size of the figure, nothing that substantial before while he had been a Cllr. Clerk advised that he had seen quotes for £3500 for the Interpretation boards, so had clerk budgeted £4k. The income figures showed that there was £2k anticipated, £1k from the Cumbria CC plus £500 promised in addition, but that although approved was still not in the parish account. The additional balance of £500 was outstanding authorised funding obtained by Cllr T St P but invoices had to be submitted for funds to be paid. Other funding would be sought, but final board design, size and artwork not yet agreed. It is a budget not a statement of accounts.

525.04 Chair confirmed the precept would be resolved at the January meeting.

526.00 Update on the footpath audit.

526.01 As Cllr P J was the Cllr leading this project it was decided to defer this item to January.

527.00 The display (Interpretation) boards, locations, content and finished appearance. Cost and fund raising.

527.01 The need for planning permission was raised and the clerk advised that his plan was to present the planning officer with a proposed board and its physical appearance and dimensions and seek his approval as a permitted development to save the expense of a planning application. He had done similar at another parish.

527.02 There were discussions about the size of the boards and locations, one will be free standing by the bus shelter and the parish noticeboards, the other to be fixed to Yew Tree Hall. Cllr P D indicated the A1 and A0 size options. It was agreed that Cllrs C P, P J and T St P would arrange another meeting, provide the clerk with a free standing option to present to the LDNP Planning officer. They would also consider the actual display content.

528.00 At this point shadow councillor advised that she would leave by 8.45pm, And Cllr J C said he had wanted to raise an issue with her in his Cllr report about an issue. Chair agreed to move briefly to agenda item 17, to allow the issue to be raised. Cllr J C wished to raise the comments of the first speaker's statement in the Sustainable Transport in the Lake District zoom meeting held on the 7th October. The speaker had implied that all visitors to the Lakes by 2030 should only allowed into the park in an EV and that by 2035 all Lake District residents must be EV owner/users. The Cllr wanted an assurance that Cumberland Council would not allow such a policy. The shadow councillors pointed out that the National Park was responsible for their own rules and regulations, Cumberland Council was in no position to interfere.

Chair resumed the agenda in its correct order.

529.00 The Parish Field hedge laying and new stock fence, update.

529.01 Chair reported that the work had been completed in the school half term, to the schedule stipulated. The finished result was excellent. However there had been a slight problem with the brash arising, there was far more than had been anticipated and the original offer by Cllr G P and her husband Miles to provide, at no cost, a tractor and trailer to remove the brash was not going to be the answer.

529.02 Clerk had spoken to the Cllr G P and Chair and agreed that the parish council would have to provide addition funding, to cover the hire of a chipper, and the cost had been itemised and agreed at £125 towards the chipper, £44 for the fuel to run the chipper and £50 to cover the delivery of the machine. This created an additional problem, the sharp thorns from the chipped hawthorn hedge which remained on the school playing field. These thorns were raked down the entirety of the hedge into its base, behind the new stock fence, an additional price of £125 agreed with Bigfoot contractor. Children's safety was paramount. Cllr T St P would obtain whips to plant in the thinner areas of the hedge. funding for the hedge is from Defra's 'Green Recovery Challenge Fund' and Cumbria County Council's 'Environment Fund' as part of Cumbria Wildlife Trusts 'Planting for Pollinators' Project.

530.00 Report on meeting with the LDNP, NT about visitor management past and future.

530.01 Chair, who had attended the meeting held at Buttermere, she reported some of the facts and figures and issues that three years of visitor management had achieved as the team had expanded. The clerk had circulated the updated spreadsheet listing the topics for discussion and what actions were to be taken.

530.02 clerk reported that over the next couple of months meetings were being organised with the police and the Highways traffic enforcement team.

531.00 December edition of parish magazine.

531.01 clerk advised that the printer had confirmed that the current 185 newsletters which cost £63/185 would increase to £83/185. Alternative paper qualities were considered and priced, however all councillors considered the current 120gsm paper was the best option and that it was resolved to continue and except the price increase.

531.02 Chair's "jottings" to cover a backward report of council activity and what was planned for the next 6 months. An update on the Parish Field hedge laying with photos. Advise on the Interpretation board and the footpath audit. A pollinator report and a report on school activities. Copy to clerk by 2nd December for submission to printer 5th December.

532.00 Yew Tree Hall representatives.

532.01 this item was carried froward from the last meeting. Cllrs P J and P D to act as representatives, sharing the role. YTH would advise of meeting dates.

532.02 as YTH was originally part of the Jennings Brewery portfolio, which itself is closing down in Cockermouth, Cllr P D is to make enquiries about the possibility of some memorabilia being obtained from the Cockermouth building for retention and prosperity at YTH. Maintaining the historic link.

533.00 Progress reports, clerk.

533.01 clerk had already dealt with Rigbank planning issues and he was also resolving the charity status with the charity commission.

533.02 clerk had attended the Workington, UU, Carnegie Hall Crummock Water public display.

533.03 Numerous email exchange over parish field.

533.04 Exchanged emails with LDNP planning over Hinterlands, glamping.

533.05 clerk had obtained evidence of hedge layers insurance prior to his commencing work.

533.06 clerk had agreed with YTH a transparent hire arrangement, 2 hours per meeting at £12.50/hr.

533.07 Clerk advised that as he is paid on a fixed 15 hours per month, every month he will pay himself for just that figure when no meeting. HMRC have changed their rules and if no monthly payment he must go all through their system and make a submission to that affect, it is easier to make a payment and pay HMRC than risk the £100 penalty already issued at other parishes and then appeal it. Unnecessary work.

534.00 Lorton Parish Councillors reports.

534.01 Cllr J C had attended an online training course about a village plan. This was not like previous Community Plans that had been proposed, it was a simple parish plan, which could be just one sheet of A4. It was considered good practice to have such a plan, from the basic plan it could be incrementally added to with the passage of time. The chair agreed that it should be an agenda item for the January meeting.

534.02 Cllr G P provided a Melbreak community report, including the book reading event, a Coffee and Cake morning in Feb' 2023, she also mentioned Bats and hedgehog rescue. Concluding with an update of the Hydro electric scheme in Buttermere, proceeding slowly.

534.03 Chair Cllr C P mentioned school report and dates for December.

535.00 Correspondence

535.01 Invoice from auditor, Simone Morgan covering year end 21/22 and half yearly audit for 22/23, £30 each, £60 total.

535.02 Mark Bulman, hedge laying £765 as per contract quote

535.03 Invoice from Cllr P J for village tub plants, £80.14

535.04 Letter from GNAA for annual donation, Cllrs resolved usual £250.00

535.05 Invoice from Messrs M J Postlethwaite minute 529.02 refers these minutes, £262.80.

535.06 invoice from Bigfoot grass cutting and parish hedge contract, £1248.00

535.00 Payments for Approval

M Milner Intpay125, £358.70, salary Sept/Oct £323.60, exp £35.10.

HMRC PAYE Intpay126, Clerks tax £80.80

Simone Morgan, Intpay 127, £60.00 audit fees.

Mark Bulman, Intpay 128A/B £765.00

Pam Jaques, Intpay 129, £80.14 village planter bulbs

Great North Air Ambulance, Intpay130, £250

M J Postlethwaite, Interpay 131, £262.80

Bigfoot Intpay 132A/B/C, £1248.00 ground maintenance and Parish Field fence contract.

Direct charge by HSBC £8 monthly account charge. September/Oct £16.00

All Payments approved

Meeting closed 9.30pm.

536.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 4th January 2023 at 7.30pm, the meeting will be held in Yew Tree Hall.