

Lorton Parish Council

Minutes of the annual parish meeting of Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 1st March 2023 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, Tanya St Pierre, Garan Comley, Cllr J Perry, Cumberland Shadow Councillor.
12 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, Tennis club, Melbreak Communities, Table tennis club.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at Yew Tree Hall, Lorton commencing 8.16 pm.

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

Clerk, Mike Milner. 4 members of the public.

Apologies, Cllr Alan Bowness (CCC) The chair and councillors noted that Cllr Alan Bowness would be standing down in April when the unitary council of Cumberland took over. Clerk requested to record in the minutes the council's appreciation of the years of service Alan had undertaken representing their cause at county level. They wished him well for the future.

557.00 Apologies for absence, none.

558.00 Declaration of Interest. No declarations.

559.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 4th January 2023, as a true record.

559.01 Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the minutes.

560.00 Public Participation. Those present had no input at this stage, but chair did advise she would allow comment at other agenda items as appropriate.

561.00 Police Matters.

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

562.00 Applications for development. No applications to consider, however the councillors had already considered by email 7/2023/2006 2 Broomcroft, Lorton and unanimously agreed that they raised no objections. Clerk had made suitable submission.

563.00 Matters concerning District and County Councillors.

563.01 See apologies re Cllr Alan Bowness (CCC). Shadow councillor J P advised the shadow council had resolved its budget and Constitution. It will be safe and legal for 1st April. Main office will be Carlisle based. Chair thanked her and asked her to remain, accepted.

564.00 Receive an update on Yew Tree Hall relocation proposals by Cllr Peter Deeks, parish council representative on YTH committee. Clerk to report on his inspection of official parish minutes from 1936 to 1964 at Whitehaven Cumbria Council records office. Special reference to use of parish field as playing field for children, as per the Conveyance and its Covenant dated 23rd August 1935. Officially authorised and handed over at a meeting on Monday 17th Feb' 1936 and confirmed as a true record on Monday 30th March 1936.

564.01 The secretary and chair of YTH were present and advised that there had been 2 meetings for the public on 27th February at which it was estimated that 50 local residents over the 2 sessions had attended. The committee representatives confirmed that the challenge now was to discuss and collate the material that had been gained. Cllr P D acknowledged he would be the representative of the parish council on the YTH committee and would bring his professional experience about renovating old buildings for a modern use. He would be assessing the potential and suitability of the current building and the issues to adaptation to modern requirements including the access issues for disadvantaged individuals.

564.02 All agreed there needed to be dialogue across the spectrum of options, which appeared limited. The committee would provide ongoing consultation on their new website. There is an agenda item about a parish plan. That plan should consider this proposal. As Cllr P D pointed out a new village hall in another parish, took 34 years to come to fruition.

564.03 Clerk advised that he had spent time at the Whitehaven Cumbria records office, studying the official parish minutes from 1936 to 1964. All records of reference to the parish field confirm it was a designated area of recreation for children. During and just after the second world war an area was allocated for 8 allotments and the keeping of chicken was permitted. However the clerk had discovered in late 1950's a couple had erected a hut, which they had had to remove. The clerk advised that in 2006 the then parish council had registered its ownership with the charity commission, charity registration No 1117145 and objective of the charity was, *"to hold upon trust as a recreation ground."* That confirmed the original covenant statement in the conveyancing document dated 23rd August 1935 that the transfer to the parish council was made, *"be held by them as a Recreation ground and the council has agreed to the same land and hereditaments and to support improve and maintain the same for the purposes aforesaid."*

564.04 Clerk had seen a copy of the YTH charity document and stated that any sale disposal of the building required a public meeting for all residents in the parish aged 18 or over and those at the meeting had to agree to the disposal by a two thirds majority. The chair of YTH pointed out it was the Ecclesiastical parish catchment. Cllr G P was aware that times change, but there must remain in the parish a facility of a recreation ground.

564.05 The YTH committee to explore their options and see if it would be possible to adapt and make the current building fit for purpose.

565.00 Report on Interpretation boards by Cllr Pam Jaques. Clerk has obtained official authorisation for location of the board by Low Lorton bus shelter, from Cumbria Highways.

565.01 Cllr P J updated the council on the current status of her application for funding. She also pointed out that LDNP Planning Office wanted a planning application for the boards and the clerk was seeking dimensioned drgs of the Musketeer Lectern, to enable him to complete the planning application.

565.02 Cllr P J to chase up the requests the clerk had made with the Interpretation Board suppliers.

566.00 Footpath audit, update by Cllr Pam Jaques.

566.01 Cllr P J was able to report that she was audit phase 4 of the parish footpaths. She felt that all her requested repairs and replacement of damaged stiles and bridges was complete. She had been well supported by the local ranger Amy.

567.00 Update by clerk on joint 3 parish visitor management meeting held on 21st February at Buttermere.

567.01 The chair had attended the meeting held at Old School Room in Buttermere. Clerk went through a list of items discussed and proposed actions for the coming holiday season. Contact had been made the Cumbria Highways traffic management team and a new criteria agreed that enforcement officers would target Buttermere much earlier in the day, which had proved effective at August Bank Holiday. The police are currently being restructured operational wise, and local legislation was being changed enabling their officers to drive through an area and take photographs of illegally parked vehicles and those causing an obstruction and issue tickets via the post. A system that works in Windermere.

567.02 There are to be multi-agency nights, which councillors can join to see how the systems work. The email to contact the Safer Lakes team is help@lakedistrict.gov.uk and if you want to contact the police don't ring use 101@cumbria.police.uk that email inbox is constantly monitored. There was to be a change to the charging of public toilets, at high visitor number times the charge would be waived for a trial period.

568.00 Coronation mugs for school children?

568.01 the clerk displayed the mug options on the parish laptop. There were 48 children at the school, plus 9 younger siblings so after a discussion, as the deliver charge for 37 to 72mugs was a fixed £20 and the cost for mugs in the quantity range 36 to 107 was £3.50 each excluding VAT it was decided to order 72 mugs. Which design, it was decided Mug 07 and it would have the parish wording of "Lorton Parish Council" plus the rest as per examples displayed. Clerk to order and arrange for delivery.

569.00 Consideration of creating a parish plan, Cllrs P D and G C.

569.01 It was agreed from the outset of the discussion that a Parish Plan should be community led. It would be a simple plan without the legal status of a previously considered Neighbourhood Plan. It could be used in conjunction YTH in their plans. It was agreed that a frame work of what would be required would be considered for the next meeting, if possible. The idea should be to ask residents to define what they value about the village.

569.02 Cllr P D recalled that they last probably did a plan 12 years ago and that resulted in a bus shelter being erected in Low Lorton.

570.00 Easter Parish Magazine content.

571.01 Content to the clerk by 17th March. Article about the Parish Plan. Try an "Adopt a bench" article. Cllr P D to provide an update on the First Responders, who now total 6 and they have new communication system. The would be an item from the school. Litter pick date agreed 23rd April. Chairman's usual jottings.

571.00 Progress Reports, clerk.

571.01 Crummock Water weir a local resident had requested Loweswater PC arrange a local meeting. The 3 chair had deemed such a meeting not necessary at this moment in time as no more information available, since recent local meetings. If UU want to arrange a meeting locally then let them get on with it.

571.02 Clerk had viewed the YTH charity document and Cllr P D as a committee member would have to become trustee, but YTH committee are looking to change its charity status.
571.03 Clerk had with Cllr P D's help had finally gained access to the Parish Council's charity commission account. All the accounts were now right up to date, trustee details confirmed as 3 and clerk as main point of contact. One more trustee required, that will be May agenda item. Current 3 trustees, Cllrs C P, G P and P D.
571.04 A fallen tree in the Parish Field had been cut up into logs and placed in the near fence line.
571.05 Clerk had spent an hour and a half in the Whitehaven Cumbria Records Office, studying old minutes.
571.06 Clerk met Highways Engineer to get Interpretation Board siting approval by Low Lorton bus shelter.
571.07 Clerk had request Calc PowerPoint Parish Plan proposal. Cllr G P advised she had a copy so she would forward to Cllrs P D, G C, and the clerk.

572.00 Councillors reports.

572.01 Cllr P D confirmed litter pick date 23rd April.
572.02 Cllrs agree plants and compost for village planters, a figure of £200 agreed for expenditure.

573.00 Correspondence

573.01 Request from YTH to change parish council meeting nights. Clerk explained that was not possible and therefore no change.
573.02 Request for road sweeper for leaves on pavement and in gutter and drains on High Lorton entrance from Cockermouth. E1/123544. Clerk noted that on his approach to YTH this evening all cleared.
573.03 Cllr P D had complained of road closure with no advance notification. Notification received half an hour later and workmen gone by early afternoon.
573.04 a very suspect email received with an attached file, not opened, requesting payment for "devices" sent to government phishing email address.

574.00 Payments for Approval

M Milner Intpay138, £161.60, salary January, no expenses.
HMRC PAYE Intpay139, Clerks tax £40.60, November PAYE
The above payments made to conform with new HMRC reporting and payment legislation.
M Milner Intpay140, £208.60, £161.80, salary February and expenses £46.80.
HMRC PAYE Intpay141, Clerks tax £40.40, February.
Direct charge by HSBC £8 monthly account charge. January & February £16.00
Councillors also approved 72 Coronation mugs @ £3.50 ex VAT and £20 delivery. Clerk to either pay by bank transfer or use his credit card and reclaim in May.

All Payments approved.
Meeting closed 9.40pm.

Councillors then completed individual council nomination forms.

Page 124 (4 of 4) signed chairman.....3rd May 2023.