

# Lorton Parish Council

## Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Present: Cllrs, Peter Deeks (acting-chair), Glenis Postlethwaite, Tanya St Pierre, Garan Comley, Pam Jaques.

Cllr J Perry, Cumberland Councillor.

Clerk, Mike Milner. 5 members of the public and Harriet Fear-Davies, Chair of Buttermere Parish Council

Apologies, Cllr Chris Poate(chair) (LPC).

**598.00 Apologies for absence,** none.

**599.00 Declaration of Interest.** Cllr G P advised that in connection with Darling How planning application, although no pecuniary interest her son was involved.

**600.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023, as a true record.**

600.01 Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the minutes.

Acting chair then brought agenda item 8 as the next topic for discussion.

**601.00 Crummock Water weir removal report following Tri-parish council meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> June.**

601.01 Acting chair welcomed Harriet Fear-Davies to the meeting, she is chair of Buttermere Parish Council, and she has been acting as the lead for the parish councils of Buttermere, Lorton and Loweswater, liaising with UU team and interested parties and drafting the appropriate submissions to the LDNP Planning Office.

601.02 H F-D thanked the acting chair for the invitation and explained that on 15<sup>th</sup> June there had been a public meeting organised by the UU team at Loweswater in the afternoon and then a closed meeting for the 3 parish councils. The public meeting had entertained approx. 60 members of the public, she had attended that and made notes and then in the evening attended the parish closed meeting and made notes of that meetings content. She proposed to continue to attend all 3 parish council meetings to keep all parishes informed of progress and the timetable of work and also gauge individual feedback from councillors. She pointed out that at the public meeting the objectors were more vocal, however it was interesting to note that one lone voice of support for the removal produced a large round of applause.

601.03 Removing the weir would result in a 1.35mtr drop in the water level -this seems to be greater than the levels were raised in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This came up a lot at the public meeting; following it, some present thought that UU had agreed to look at reducing that drop figure, but she reinforced the comment that what UU were planning was to better explain their water level drop for the locals, not change the level change figure. A brief comment about noise levels when the weir was being dismantled, not known how much work required to remove the structure or level of noise from a concrete crushing plant.

601.04 The current timescale is to submit a planning application in March 2024, although H F-D thinks that is optimistic.

The lake level reduction is due to be undertaken in 2026 in a 5/6-month window. There is to be access to the lake at all times but how that is maintained is in the planning melting pot at present. In the same melting pot are discussions with Natural England and Highways. The notes taken by H F-D at both meetings on 15<sup>th</sup> June have been provided to the UU Team. Now that wildlife and other ecological issues were being appreciated by the UU team and councillors, H F-D hoped that using the talent within the 3 parish councils and teaming that with talking to experts being used by UU and possibly externally, the removal of the weir could be completed in a manner beneficial to all parties involved, and the long-term environmental benefit of the area's National Park location, although it cannot be disputed that there will be considerable disruption whilst the work is carried out. The parish councils should keep working together to make proposals to UU to minimise and mitigate that. UU team say there will be no change to the level at Buttermere.601.05 Members of the public were concerned about the effect on traffic in the area and transportation of materials to and from the site. The road through the narrows in Lorton and also the narrow access through Low Lorton village by the pub. At the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup>, it was implied that traffic movements could be like the logging lorry movements early in the morning. Acting chair thanked H F-D for her attendance, invited her to remain if she wished, but not taken up.

Acting chair then resumed meeting at agenda item 4.

#### **602.00 Public Participation.**

602.01 The resident of Bridgeside Cottage by the Boon Beck road bridge was present to complain again about children, local children, encroaching on her private land by the beck at the rear of her property. They were also encroaching on private property on the opposite bank. They were noisy and were rude when replying to her as she pointed out their trespass issues and their parents were equally rude when she approached them about the problem.

602.02 She requested that the parish council put a notice in the Yew Tree Hall noticeboard, a notice in the next edition of the parish newsletter and also erect signs advising not to trespass as she maintained they were gaining access via the Parish Pound.

602.03 The clerk read out the minute note of July 2020, 276.00 – 276.04. he then pointed out the law of trespass was not a parish council matter, that in 2020 a note had been put in the parish newsletter and the topic had been raised at the school. Other public members raised the issue of there being no gates and children potentially running in front of traffic. Clerk confirmed that a local landowner had access over the Parish Pound and a gate was not deemed appropriate hence the single upright anti-parking barrier. Any gate on the opposite side of the bridge was not parish property or responsibility.

602.04 After further discussions it was agreed a note in the next parish magazine written by Cllr P D and that a visit by Cllr G C to the school to advise local children of the conditions of swimming in the beck but not encroaching on private property would be appropriate. The supply of two small signs was also discussed. and it was agreed that these would be provided. Cllr P D will circulate a draft text.

#### **603.00 Police Matters.**

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

#### **604.00 Applications for development.**

604.01 Cllrs had two applications before them, which the clerk had circulated details of prior to the meeting. 7/2023/2061 Darling How a wind turbine installation and additional solar panel, and also 7/2023/2110 Birkett Cottage demolish old garage and build new double with a studio attached, both approved by councillors unanimously.

604.02 Clerk advised that he had submitted an objection to the Go-Ape zip wire proposal at Whinlatter 7/2023/2048, although Lorton were not an official consultee. He also advised as councillors were no doubt aware that the Corn How Cabins were on the move.

**605.00 report of Cumberland Councillor.**

605.01 Cllr J P advised that currently no sign of a resolution to the binmen strike. The clerk advised that although Cllr J P may not be aware of local issues he was and had been exchanging emails with the residents involved and the Cumberland Climate and Waste team. Cllr J P advised those who paid for trade waste collections would receive a credit note for missed collections. Cllr J P then mentioned the Lakes Community Panel and its community investment plan. Finally, she advised that Cumberland Council was taking onboard the policy about potholes that if it has not been reported they will accept no liability to vehicle damage and that once reported it has 20 days to make a repair. Acting chair P D then thanked her for her report and invited her to stay, which she did for a while.

**606.00 Visitor management report after Buttermere meeting 6<sup>th</sup> June.**

606.01 clerk advised that although the meeting took place, unfortunately the main member of the Safer Lakes Team was unable to attend and likewise due to the local government change, the traffic enforcement officer was now responsible for Barrow in Furness. The resulting meeting had the lead LDNP and NT team leaders, but the conversation was very much based on both agency's major policy stance, which resulted on two Buttermere councillors leaving the meeting. Clerk would keep Lorton informed of next meeting and who would attend.

**607.00 Dark Skies, at request of Cllr G P.**

607.01 Cllr G P asked Cllr P D to read a statement from a member of the Melbreak community, "I very much appreciate the efforts by Mike Milner on behalf of the Parish Council to raise the issue of Lorton's street lighting with Cumberland Council. The trial street lighting project has been very successful, and there has been wholehearted support from the community to move on to the next stage in installing dark sky friendly lighting in Lorton.

It may be that until there is a new plan from Cumberland for Allerdale District's lighting, there is nothing further that can be done. However, it may be productive to be more proactive - my suggestion is that the PC could pursue the following: Obtain clarification from the Council about their plans and timescales. Continue to encourage the Council to raise the profile of Friends of the Lake District's (FLD) Dark Skies programme and to recognise that Lorton sees itself as an important example project in this programme. FLD's audit shows that street lighting is the main cause of light pollution in this valley. Ensure that Lorton PC is consulted early on in developing any new plans for street lighting.

607.02 clerk confirmed he would continue to pursue more of Lorton's current street lights being changed for the alternative smart lights. He would work in conjunction with Jack Ellerby the Dark Skies officer for FOL. Cllr J P noted how many of the lights had been changed and how many still remained for change.

**608.00 Interpretation Board, current position.**

608.01 Cllr P J advised that the funding had been approved by National Lottery and was in the parish account, however the Graphic Designer who had provided all the quotes and design ideas, had withdrawn from the supply process due to other work commitments. Therefore, although it seemed like a backward step, Cllr P J had returned to the company the designer previously worked for and they would take up the project.

608.02 Cllrs P J, T St P and C P will have a meeting prior to the next design meeting with the graphic designers. The current think is that the board on YTH will provide heritage history and the one by the bus stop will be parish wildlife.

608.03 The new seat for the pathway between Low Lorton and the parish boundary had been delivered and it has been agreed that an old style on that pathway will be changed for a gate with a spring closure. That later change required the landowners permission and Cllr P J provided the land owners written and signed permission.

**609.00 Yew Tree Hall/new village hall update, Cllr P D.**

609.01 Cllr P D who is the parish council representative on village hall committee reported that there was no progress on the issue and the chair of the hall committee, who was present as a member of the public, confirmed that fact.

**610.00 Receive Lorton Parish Council first quarter accounts. Documents to be circulated prior to meeting.**

610.01 Clerk had circulated the documents prior to the meeting, there were no questions raised and the acting chair confirmed that the bank statement figures tallied with the bank rec'. Accounts were approved unanimously.

**611.00 Lorton July/Summer newsletter content and circulation date.**

611.01 Clerk has received articles on the Duck Race, Footpath audit and update on the Interpretation Boards from Cllr P J. Cllr P D would provide an item on use of the beck by Boon Bridge and on the litter picking and benches. The chair, currently on holiday would provide the chair's jottings and clerk also had a potted history and photo of latest councillor G C. Submission by week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> July.

**612.00 Progress reports.**

612.01 End of year a/c's all submitted to government auditor Moore's and they had acknowledged their receipt. All correctly displayed on website and in noticeboard.

612.02 The North Distinctive Area Representative Member is Peter Water. He had accepted the clerk's invitation and attended the UU and tri-Parish Council meeting.

612.03 Spare Coronation Mugs were to provided to those who wanted one, no charge but a personal donation to a charity of the recipient's choice would be appreciated.

612.04 Email about parking on sewage works bend by the Lorton village nameplate. Cllr P D who drives past the spot 5 or 6 times on a regular daily basis stated he had never seen a parked vehicle there, but considered the cause of the verge damage was as the road narrows and vehicles drive on the verge to avoid oncoming vehicles. Clerk requested photographic evidence of the parked vehicle(s).

612.05 village flower tubs have been replenished with fresh compost and plants, £110.56 and clerk would be seeking approval of the payment to cover the outlay to the resident. Clerk has all the invoices.

612.06 The annual Data Protection renewal had been received. £40 fee, clerk had made the payment and would be reclaiming in his expenses.

612.07 Seat has been purchased from Solway Direct, £430.80 plus £18.00 for the fixing kit. Seat to be located on Low Lorton to parish boundary PROW. Seat delivered to Cllr P J.

612.08 highways have advised clerk with a replacement date for the missing barriers outside Shatton Hall, following his recent request for repair to be completed. E1/146763. Permanent repair September 2023, but they have undertaken another temporary repair.

**613.00 Councillors Reports.**

613.01 Acting chair P D advised that all but 2 of the benches needed repairs.

613.02 Cllr P J volunteered her husband to repair one, close to their property. Cllr G C to repair bench 7.

613.03 Cllr G C updated on the progress of the Parish Plan; he had designed the community questionnaire. It all complied with government guidelines on layout and style of permitted question. Cllr GC will circulate the questionnaire for comment.

613.04 Cllr P J said she had, assisted by her husband, to cleaned the heritage road sign post and their finger plates, close to her home but they need a professional clean. Clerk advised of the location of 2 signposts, he will photograph and submit to the team at Highways for the maintenance of the such signposts.

613.05 Cllr T St P reported on a damaged keep off the grass no parking sign and explained she knew who was responsible.

#### **614.00 Correspondence.**

614.01 Clerk confirmed the £66 paid to LDNP for a planning app' for the Interpretation Boards, had now been refunded as planning not required.

614.02 Invoice received from YTH for hire for North Distinctive Area member meeting. Invoice value £7.50.

614.03 Email about drainage from Croft Farm development and parking, clerk had responded to the email.

614.04 Emailed complaint about evening and weekend working at Vale View by Lorton shop. Clerk had written to the agent and property owners pointing out the conditions covering working hours on site. Position resolved.

614.05 Any spam emails just forward to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

614.06 Invoice received from Simone Morgan £30, end of year audit fee.

614.07 clerk trying to resolve the non-emptying of bins for past seven weeks down to Low Swinside.

614.08 On the same section of lane, the verges not cut although most of Lorton verges have been cut. Clerk investigating.

614.09 Just before 5pm that afternoon emailed invoice from Bigfoot for May and June grass contract. £464 in total.

#### **615.00 Payments for approval.**

M Milner Intpay151, £161.80, salary May, no expenses.

HMRC PAYE Intpay152, Clerks tax £40.40 May PAYE

The above payments made to conform with new HMRC reporting and payment legislation.

HSBC Bank a/c charges £8.00 May

M Milner Intpay153, £161.80, salary June.

HMRC PAYE Intpay154, Clerks tax £40.40, June.

The above payments made to conform with new HMRC reporting and payment legislation.

Solway Direct Intpay 155, £430.80 new seat for PROW in Low Lorton.

Solway Direct Intpay156, £18.00, fixing kit for above seat.

M Milner Intpay 157, £255.05, salary July £161.80, expenses £83.25.

HMRC Intpay 158, £40.40, July PAYE.

Simone Morgan, Intpay 159, £30 year end audit fee.

Yew Tree Hall Intpay 160, £7.50, North Distinctive Area member meeting

Steve Irlam Intpay 161, £110.56, material and plants for parish plant tubs

Bigfoot Intpay 162, £464.00, grounds maintenance May and June.

Direct charge by HSBC £8 monthly account charge June and July £16.00.

All Payments approved.

Meeting closed 9.26pm.

**616.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30pm, the meeting will be held in Yew Tree Hall.**