

# Lorton Parish Council

## Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept' 2023

Present: Cllrs, Chris Poate(chair) Peter Deeks (vice-chair), Glenis Postlethwaite, Tanya St Pierre, Garan Comley.

Cllr Jill Perry, Cumberland Councillor.

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

Apologies, Cllr Pam Jaques (LPC).

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

**618.00 Declaration of Interest. none**

**619.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023, as a true record.**

619.01 Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the minutes.

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

**620.00 Crummock Water weir removal update. Buttermere chair Cllr H F-D attending.**

620.01 the chair welcomed again to the meeting the Buttermere chair and also acknowledged the presence of representatives from Blindbothel parish council as well as the chair from be Yew Tree Hall committee. The Buttermere chair then proceeded to update events since the July parish council meeting. On the UU website there was now a PowerPoint presentation explaining how Crummock water levels had changed over the past century with the addition of new weirs and where they forecast levels would establish themselves on completion of the proposed project. One of the land owners concerned by UU's proposals is actually taking legal advice and has been checking at local archives for the old documents concerning changes over the past century. There is to be an online discussion between the land owner's barrister and UU which the Buttermere chair will attend and hopefully be granted permission to report back on the meetings content. One issue raised has been the closure of the National Trust Scale Hill car park. UU have considered various alternative sites but it is felt that the Loweswater church field car park would, if upgraded by UU, be the best solution. There is easy access to the lake from the field and obviously at the end of the project the church will have the benefit of an upgraded car park facility at no cost to the church parochial council. It has become obvious that UU did not realise the extent of the wetland environment and Natural England along with Cumbria Wildlife Trust have arranged a site visit to establish the significance of the wetland and how lowering the water level will affect that.

620.02 at the conclusion of her update the Buttermere chair responded to questions raised. One question concerned with the future potential drought issues across the UK and should the lake not be retained as a water storage facility? Councillors recalled that Lamplugh, their Cogra Moss reservoir, which was to be removed by UU was retained after a public outcry and pressure for its retention. Clerk to investigate that eventuality. Blindbothel Councillors wished to be included in future developments of the project.

620.03 the Buttermere chair advised that she and the clerk would be more than happy to provide Blindbothel parish council with documents, past, and in the future, to the parish clerk Blindbothel for her to circulate. The Buttermere chair was not prepared to attend yet another local parish council meeting on a regular basis. That was agreed. It was agreed that the Buttermere parish clerk would establish contact with highways to ensure that the three parishes were involved at all stages with traffic management proposals and solutions to accommodate the project. There was a final reminder that there were two pop in meetings arranged for the 26<sup>th</sup> September and 27<sup>th</sup> September, one being at Cockermouth and the second at Loweswater village hall. Lorton chair thanked Harriet for her attendance and update.

Chair then resumed meeting at agenda item 4.

### **621.00 Public Participation.**

621.01 the clerk advised that with regard Bridge End House which was discussed at the July meeting Cllr P D would update on signage and other action about swimming in the beck, but the clerk read the content of an email from the traffic management team leader for Allerdale which advised of surveys for establishing capability of the highways layout at that bridge turning. The email also confirmed that the network management team would contact the owner of the wall opposite and the need for its repair.

621.02 Cllr P D then confirm that he had spoken to the two landowners on either side of the beck and agreed an appropriate sign confirming "Private Property beyond this point Please respect our neighbours. Lorton Parish Council." Clerk will arrange for their manufacture and Cllr P D their installation. There had also in the summer parish newsletter been an article with accompanying map pointing out the boundary issue and encroachment on the private property. There has also been a letter distributed via the school to all local parents on the property boundary issue.

### **623.00 Police Matters.**

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

### **624.00 Applications for development.**

624.01 clerk advised that Birkett Cottage application 7/2023/2110 for a detached garage garden studio had been approved. He also advised that Darling How application 7/2023/2061 for wind turbine and solar panels he had submitted on behalf of the parish council with a notification of no objection. One member of the public present was the owner of the property mentioned and he had just been advised that the planning officer was going to object to the application. He was present to gain added support, but as the chair advised him the parish council had already, as an official consultee, raised no objection to the application. The clerk advised that the applicant should get as many friends, relations and locals before next Monday to email LDNP planning department with support for the project, that would be the most appropriate course of action.

### **625.00 report of Cumberland Councillor.**

625.01 Cumberland Cllr J P expressed her delight that Low Lorton main road has been resurfaced and white lined. She would continue to request a reduction on what is currently the maximum national speed limit on that stretch. There was a brief discussion about residents putting speed limit stickers on their wheelie bins, the clerk will supply details of where they are obtained and at what cost. The Cumberland Councillor also advised that the community panel had held its first meeting and ran through a list of topics discussed. After her report the chair invited her to remain, but Jill advised she was going to leave.

**626.00 Visitor management report after August Bank Holiday.**

626.01 the clerk commenced by circulating a visitor management survey that has been provided by the LDNP visitor team which requested parish councils to complete the questionnaire and submit by 30<sup>th</sup> September. There was a discussion about the first section and Councillors agreed that firstly traffic volumes and then secondly inconsiderate parking were their two biggest complaints, and that motor home parking away from camp sites as been a least problematic. They then had tackled the second section and all agreed that the safer lakes emergency email was the most effective tactical action. The third section, strategic developments priority, all agreed developing integrated sustainable transport and parking was the priority. It was agreed that the clerk would compile an email to the author of the survey and circulate to Councillors prior to submission.

**627.00 interpretation board, current position.**

627.01 Cllr T St P in the absence of Cllr P J updated the Councillors, two panels are being proposed one attached to Yew Tree Hall and the other by the bus shelter in Low Lorton. There were discussions with a local illustrator for wild life and natural heritage design options. There are three excellent local photographers who can provide material on the boards and they will celebrate the national heritage of Lorton.

**628.00 Yew Tree Hall, AGM report update, Cllr P D.**

628.01 the chair pointed out that they had present the new chairman of the hall committee and Cllr P D, between them could provide the latest update. The hall chair advised that as an overview the development of the hall either in its current location or elsewhere within the village would all tie in with the parish plan. The parish council were also advised that the garden area belonging to Yew Tree Hall was under discussion for potentially some major alterations.

**629.00 Village Plan. Aspects of content to engage with residents.**

629.01 Cllr G C advised that he and Cllr P D had created a list of question it would be finalised by the end of September and submitted for the November meeting. The questionnaire could be circulated with the next parish newsletter.

**630.00 PROW update and new seat installed at Low Lorton.**

630.01 the clerk advised that he had had a report from Cllr PJ that a new seat had been installed at Low Lorton and she had forwarded the builders invoice for the installation. The report advised that there has been a slight issue with some calves leaving hoof prints in the wet concrete, all resolved. There was also a new gate in the same area, which the clerk remarked that he had seen.

**631.00 Progress reports.**

631.01 the clerk was pleased to be able to finally announce that after three years the SLOW sign painted on the road surface approaching High Lorton from Cockermouth had been renewed.

631.02 clerk, after the last meeting, had photographed the finger posts that required attention, but with his recent house move and other issues he had not yet tackled Cumberland Council about their refurbishment.

631.03 clerk was also aware of parking issues on the double bend in High Lorton after the newly painted SLOW road sign. He had taken some photographs that evening which he would circulate for councillors to consider what further action to take. One could certainly not get a pushchair let alone a wheelchair between the car and building wall he had photographed. Chair to make enquiries of local resident for an address of the holiday let cottages owners.

### **632.00 Councillors reports.**

632.01 the chair reported that two of the flower tubs need replacing as will the bulbs within then. The councillors unanimously resolved that the replacement tubs and compost be made available from parish funds. The chair was also able to report that someone was compiling a history of the parish field.

632.02 Cllr GC advise the council that there were management structure changes taking place at Lorton school. The current head mistress was now doing more administration than teaching, therefore an administration ahead has been appointed and that individual will deal with the administration leaving the headmistress to resuming part-time teaching duties.

632.03 Cllr T St P announced that all the verges were now cut in preparation for the winter season, the rewilding and wildflower meadow management project was now really well established.

632.04 Cllr PD confirmed he was making progress, albeit slow, organizing volunteers to repair and paint or parish benches.

### **633.00 Correspondence.**

633.01 clerk had been contacted on 1<sup>st</sup> July about various properties in High Lorton not having their bins emptied. After an exchange of emails and unfulfilled promises, on 13<sup>th</sup> July the bins were emptied and have been ever since. It appears the binmen's strike could actually have now been resolved.

633.02 the Lorton village shop was having renewed issues about the situation of diversion signs that indicate Lorton is closed.

633.03 an invoice from Printpoint for summer newsletter of £83.00 has been received.

633.04 an invoice from S C Building and Joinery for the bench installation, totalling £192 has been received.

633.05 the LDNP planning enforcement officer is trying to arrange a meeting with the owner and agents for Hinterlands about Corn How cabins.

633.06 the LDNP ranger had contacted the clerk about Broom Fell Cairn, it is in an unsafe condition and the ranger was seeking history of the Cairn.

633.07 after 8 months of exchanges of letter with HMRC about a £200 penalty for late PAYE filing, HMRC have rescinded the penalty charge.

633.08 the clerk had received a CV from Zindzi Cresswell expressing, as a locally qualified resident, to be co-opted to the parish council. The clerk had made the necessary checks on qualification and circulated her CV to councillors. All councillors expressed their unanimous support for Zindzi and the clerk will make her co-option an agenda item at the November parish council meeting.

633.09 the clerk has pre-booked YTH for all the necessary meeting dates for 2024. In his email exchange with the booking Secretary, he expressed his concern that apparently the parish council were to be charged at £12.50/hr for the hall use, but others were only charged £10/hr, it is agreed the parish council will pay the lower hourly hire charge.

633.10 that afternoon at 5.44pm the clerk had received an invoice from Bigfoot totalling £464.00.

### **634.00 Payments for approval.**

M Milner Intpay163, £149.60, salary August, no expenses.

HMRC PAYE Intpay164, Clerks tax £37.60 August PAYE

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

HSBC Bank a/c charges £8.00 August

M Milner Intpay165, £225.10, salary September £173.80, expenses £51.30.

HMRC PAYE Intpay166, Clerks tax £43.40, September.  
Printpoint, Intpay 167, £83.00 Summer parish magazine  
SC Building & Joinery Intpay 168, £192.00, Seat installation Low Lorton.  
Bigfoot Intpay 169, £464.00, grounds maintenance July and August.  
Direct charge by HSBC £8 monthly account charge September.  
All Payments approved.  
Meeting closed 9.17pm.

**635.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm,  
the meeting will be held in Yew Tree Hall.**

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