

# Lorton Parish Council

## Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov' 2023

Present: Cllrs, Chris Poate(chair) Peter Deeks (vice-chair), Tanya St Pierre, Garan Comley, Pam Jaques, Zindzi Cresswell.

Cllr Jill Perry, Cumberland Councillor.

Clerk, Mike Milner. 4 members of the public and Harriet Fear-Davies, Chair of Buttermere Parish Council

Apologies, Cllr Glenis Postlethwaite (LPC). Clerk incorrectly stated no apologies rec'd.

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

**637.00 Declaration of Interest. none**

**638.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept' 2023, as a true record.**

638.01 Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the minutes.

**639.00 Crummock Water weir removal update. Buttermere chair Cllr H f-D attending.**

639.01 Cllr H F-D proceeded to advise on the current position. The September drop-in sessions had taken place and the timetable for submission of the planning application was still March 2024. There was an explanation of rights of way and bridges during and after the construction plus information on the car parking and construction traffic. With regard Park Beck, no landowner agreement could be reached upstream of UU land, so no island. UU however do own the river bed upstream and there is some necessary maintenance work which had been withdrawn from the project, which could now be done.

639.02 Lorton Cllr T St P and Loweswater Cllr M A had with H F-D met with Natural England and explained the locations of wetland areas that NE were unaware of, evidenced after the meeting by images from Cllr T St P. NE appeared to have taken the information onboard. NE would also investigate the Dipper population and evidence of Otters being found. UU have confirmed that they are undertaking ecology surveys, but will not share until all are completed and an accurate report can be provided.

639.03 There are still concerns about what level the water will finally be set at. The plan is to restore the outflow so it is consistent with the gradient of the Cocker, which UU says is consistent with the natural bed level prior to the timber weir. Newly discovered historical documents however indicate that may be incorrect. It is clear that the outlet was excavated when the first timber weir was installed. Cllr H F-D will provide the historical documents to UU without making any definitive observations, UU can make their own interpretations of the information, but cannot claim that details the parishes had, were withheld.

639.04 Cllr H F-D then mentioned the Reservoir Act and the Impounding Licence. There is currently no such licence, however the Environment Agency have told UU to disapply the Reservoir Act.

639.05 Cllr H F-D then advised she had inserted a 2 page letter in The Link and the project now had a fully resourced link on Melbreak Communities website to keep all residents fully updated. She reminded all though that UU website is main source of information.

639.06 Cllr H F-D concluded her update by advising that the clerk had made contact with the relevant Cumberland Highways contact who would be responsible for traffic movements and arrangement to accommodate the inspection of the local roadways to assess their deprecation due to the project traffic, which would then be repaired at UU's cost. The clerk was also trying to obtain from the LDNP Planning Office, the criteria that that department would be using when they assessed the final planning application. No response yet.

639.07 There was then a Q&A session by Cllrs and then members of the public. A request for the Jacob's Report to be published on the Melbreak website, but Cllr H F-D was not prepared to sanction that, it was UU's report, not the parish councils report. The chair thanked Cllr H F-D for her attendance and comprehensive update and continued obvious amount she was undertaking on the project on behalf of the community. Left the meeting at 7.57pm.

**640.00 Councillors to confirm Co-option of Zindzi Cresswell a resident of Lorton. The clerk has made appropriate qualification enquiries and confirms correctly qualified.**

640.01 All Cllrs welcomed the new Cllr, Cllr P.D proposed her co-option which was seconded by Cllr T St.P and the vote was unanimously in favour of the co-option. Clerk therefore obtained the necessary signature on the Acceptance of Office declaration form.

**641.00 Public Participation.**

641.01 The YTH chair, Adam Baker was present and he advised that the hall was looking to perhaps using the Community Payback team to assist with projects at the hall and in the gardens. Clerk advised that the team had been used very successfully in Lowca Parish, with no issue about standard of work or supervision. Another member of the public raised the issue of the Emergency contact list. The issue of the relationship between the parish council and YTH committee and the long-term plan for the hall or an alternative option, would be a long-term plan and governed by cost constraints.

**642.00 Police Matters.**

642.01 Clerk advised he had circulated the police e-newsletters, no other report. Cllr G C advised that he knew the new local officer.

**643.00 Applications for development.**

643.01 7/2023/2141 The Garth, Scales, no objections by Cllrs so submission of no objection.

643.02 T/2023/0117 Lorton Hall trees. Again no objections submitted with the added observation requested by Cllr T St P, would the contractors inspect for red squirrel drays in the area to be lopped and the immediate surrounding area.

643.03 7/2023/2022 land at Greenacres Farm, Scales, again no objections and submission made.

643.04 7/2023/2061 Darling How, the solar panels and green energy wind turbine. At the September meeting the applicant had attended seeking the support of the parish council, which had already submitted it support for the application. Applicant advised to get as many emails of support as possible. Clerk confirmed 30 emails of support within 3 days and application granted.

643.05 7/2023/2165 Whinfell Static Caravan Park. Not in parish but on border with Blindbothel. After a short discussion Cllrs agreed to request the clerk to make a submission of objection as details of what was proposed by yearly opening and its effects on local services were not quantified sufficiently.

**644.00 report of Cumberland Councillor.**

644.01 Cllr J P reported that garden waste collections extended until 17<sup>th</sup> November. The council had held its first network session on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October, seemed well attended. Multiple stalls including one manned by Melbreak Communities. Friends of the Lakes holding a meeting in Keswick on 8<sup>th</sup> December. Talk by Ian Harker Cumberland lighting manager. On 31<sup>st</sup> October, Cumberland and CALC held a Green2Grow conference at Energus. Contact for Cllr T St P to use for a grant application form sarah.o'neill@cumberland.gov.uk.

644.02 Chair thanked Cllr J P for her report and invited her to remain, but she declined and left the meeting at 8.30pm.

**645.00 Receive internally audited 6 months parish council accounts ending 30/09/2023. Docs circulated prior to the meeting.**

645.01 clerk had circulated the account ledgers and bank rec' prior to the meeting and no questions had been raised. A/cs audited by external auditor. Accounts approved.

**646.00 Consider budget proposals for financial year 2024/25 for precept assessment.**

646.01 clerk advised that no precept decisions were necessary at this meeting, but would have to be firmed up on at January meeting. Cllr P D advised that at the last YTH committee meeting the committee had agreed that the hire charge for the hall should be £12.50/hr. Cllr P D pointed out that the committee recognised that figure was not a true reflection of the hourly hire cost, but were reluctant to charge more in case they lost current users. Cllrs all agreed that this was not a realistic action and clerk instructed to advise YTH that the parish council would accept a £15/hr cost, giving an annual cost of £180, clerk had budgeted for £170 for 2024/25. Cllr P D thought at the next meeting the council should consider an increase in line with inflation. Clerk would advise of the that December figure at the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 meeting.

**647.00 Interpretation Boards, update Cllr P J.**

647.01 The board on the YTH wall was to be mounted portrait fashion to match existing board and windows visual aspect. It was a timeline format starting with farming, then the church, then school and finally pubs. Councillors to choose the pictures but historian will provide the text. Both projects must be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

647.02 The wildlife board situated in Low Lorton by the bus shelter and current parish noticeboards. A local artist has produced an example of what is proposed and Cllr T St P displayed an outline of the proposal. It shows different habitats. The artist has all the material and the board's development is well progressed.

647.03 There was a discussion about the use of QR codes on the boards, where they would be placed and could they be linked to Melbreak Communities? Ownership of the QR codes and who would be responsible for them was a topic for further consideration.

**648.00 Right of Way Audit, update Cllr P J.**

648.01 There was a discussion about a footpath that a member of the public had approached to get official PROW status, or at least recognised as a permissive path. Cllrs were concerned that if the parish council approached this in an official manner, it could be squashed by landowners. Cllr P J to make unofficial enquiries and report back. The spring on the new gate in Low Lorton required adjustment, contractor to adjust.

**649.00 Village Plan, updated proposals Cllrs G C and P D.**

649.01 Cllr G C advised the survey was nearly completed and it was agreed that the parish council would print the 2 page A4 sheet and insert with the next Christmas edition of the parish newsletter. Both Cllrs would arrange for meetings with other interested parties between now and the January meeting to firm up on the plan and its presentation to the community.

**650.00 December council magazine, content and print date.**

650.01 it was agreed that all material to clerk by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December to allow compilation over the weekend and to the printers Monday 11<sup>th</sup> for distributing the following week. Content and providers were discussed.

**651.00 Parking issue at High Lorton, what action?**

651.01 clerk had added this item as he wanted to point out that you could not ask holiday cottage visitors to park away from problem areas, but allow local residents to park illegally on the pavement restricting pavement access to wheelchairs and push chairs. Double yellow lines would also create issues with cars parked behind them.

651.02 Cllr Z C pointed out there was a similar issue at the High Lorton T junction on to the B5292. After discussions about the issues and traffic and car parking, the clerk was advised that he should take no further action, but an item would be placed in the December parish council.

**652.00 Progress reports, clerk.**

652.01 clerk started with the Private Property signs. He had obtained prices from CTM Signs and was awaiting further instructions. It was agreed that Cllr P D and the chair would hold a site meet at 9am the following morning to discuss the issues raised, by clerk and councillors.

652.02 since the last meeting Highways have advised that works around Shotton Hall had been undertaken, one action to gravel farm gateway of Armaside farm. He would contact owner for clarification on that point.

652.03 The broadband provider Fibrus who are involved with the Connecting Cumbria project are attending the Buttermere parish council meeting 5<sup>th</sup> December. Clerk is led to believe work on installation will commence next summer and he will request list of addresses involved in Lorton.

652.04 clerk had submitted the visitor management questionnaire to LDNP and its receipt had been acknowledged.

**653.00 Councillors reports.**

653.01 Cllr P D confirmed YTH hire costs, covered by minute note 646.01 these minutes. There was also short discussion about community payback scheme and using them to repaint benches.

653.02 Chair had a leaflet offering free trees and councillors considered them on the new footpath between the new Low Lorton development to Church Lane. It was pointed out that planting the trees was not the problem, it was the cost of protecting them from stock and who paid for that?

**654.00 Correspondence.**

654.01 chair had raised the issue by email, about the fence opposite the Wheatsheaf pub and along that stretch of road. It was not known who was the land owner, land registry would probably say not registered. Cllrs to ask long-term residents and report back.

654.02 Charity Commission, clerk reset the charity commission access at their request and submitted the accounts for the last year as required. That exercise created a 40 minute online form filling action.

654.03 Eden House, 2 bed property still available, but local occupancy conditions apply.

654.04 Cllr P J had provided the invoice from Alan Airey, price already approved so clerk had paid for gate installation work.

654.05 numerous email exchanges about Crummock Water.

654.06 clerk had received resignation notification from Cllr P J effective from end of November 2023.

654.07 scam invoices forwarded to reporting@phishing.gov.uk

654.08 Invoice received from Simone Morgan for half yearly audit, £30.

654.09 Invoices received from Cllr P J for planter bulbs, £25.20.

654.10 Bigfoot invoice received at 6.15pm that evening, Sept/Oct cuts £514.00.

### **655.00 Payments for approval.**

M Milner Intpay170, £161.80, salary October, no expenses.

HMRC PAYE Intpay171, Clerks tax £40.40 October PAYE

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

HSBC Bank a/c charges £8.00 October.

Alan Airey Ltd, Intpay 172A/B £499.00 & £71.00 = £570.00 gate installation

M Milner Intpay173, £190.90, salary October £161.80, expenses £29.10.

HMRC PAYE Intpay174, Clerks tax £40.40, October.

Simone Morgan, Intpay 175, £30.00 First half yearly audit

Derek Poate Intpay 176, £33.98, 2 new planters for parish.

Pam Jaques Intpay 177, £25.20, Bulbs for village planters.

Bigfoot Intpay 178, £514.00, grounds maintenance sept/Oct plus £50 remove windblown tree parish field.

Direct charge by HSBC £8 monthly account charge November.

All Payments approved.

Meeting closed 9.52pm.

### **656.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm, the meeting will be held in Yew Tree Hall.**

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