

Buttermere Parish Council

Minutes of the annual general meeting of Buttermere Parish Council held on Tuesday 28th May 2024 at The Old School Room, Buttermere followed by May parish council meeting.

The current chair declared the AGM meeting open at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs H Fear Davies (chair), A McGuire, K Beard, L Kyle.

Cumberland Councillor: Jill Perry.

Clerk: Mike Milner. Plus, one member of the public.

Apologies for absence: Y Kahane (BPC).

433.00 to appoint a chair and vice-chair for the coming year.

433.01 chair asked if there were any proposals for position of chair, she then declared she was happy to continue. Cllr K B proposed that Cllr H F-D continue as chair, this was seconded by Cllr L K and she was duly elected unopposed and unanimously.

433.02 clerk confirmed that Cllr E B current vice chair had indicated by email that he was happy to continue as vice chair if required. Cllr E B was proposed by Cllr H F-D as vice-chair, seconded by Cllr L K and duly elected unopposed and unanimously.

433.03 Clerk obtained Cllr H F-D signature on her declaration of office form.

Meeting closed 7.32.

Buttermere Parish Council meeting 28th May 2024

The chair opened the regular parish council meeting at 7.33pm.

Present: Cllrs H Fear Davies (chair), A McGuire, K Beard, L Kyle, G Medd.

Cumberland Councillor: Jill Perry.

Clerk: Mike Milner.

Apologies for absence: Y Kahane (BPC).

434.00 Declaration of Interest. None.

435.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Buttermere parish council meeting held on Tuesday 5th March 2024 as a true record.

435.01 Minutes were approved by councillors present and duly signed.

436.00 To co-opt Geoff Medd, Lanthwaite Cottage, Buttermere, CA13 9UY to Buttermere Parish Council. Clerk has made appropriate enquires and confirms that G Medd is appropriately qualified to serve as a councillor for the parish council.

436.01 Cllr L K proposed G M as a suitable candidate for co-option which was seconded by Cllr K B and unanimously elected by councillors. Chair Cllr H F-D welcomed the gentleman to the council and clerk obtained his signature on the official acceptance of office declaration.

437.00 Public participation, no member of public present, no outstanding reports.

438.00 Police Matters.

438.01 Clerk had circulated the police e newsletters as they were issued.

439.00 Matters concerning Cumberland Councillor.

439.01 Cllr J P announced that the 20mph speed limit across the county had been approved, provided 3 criteria were ALL met. Firstly, the mean limit must be below 24mph, AND secondly outside a school or where there was no public footway, AND thirdly the area must be explained to drivers. Initial discussions indicated no strong support to apply for restrictions in Buttermere.

439.02 Cllr J P advised a Climate and Nature Strategy email and questionnaire had been circulated, which clerk confirmed he had distributed to all Cllrs. There was a Carbon and Energy Plan which clerk had circulated. Response date although extended was now closed.

439.03 Chair raised the issue of funding from Lakes to Sea Fund towards the cost of the public toilets in Buttermere village. Cllr J P confirmed funding not available for parish councils directly it had to be a local community organisation with a bank account. Melbreak Communities could make the application with regard to Buttermere toilets. Cllrs all agreed that in the past the Buttermere toilet facility had been a free public facility. Chair invited Cllr J P to remain, she said she would until she had heard the Crummock Water agenda item. Chair agreed to move that item to the next item dealt with.

440.00 Crummock Water, weir removal, current position of UU.

440.01 Chair was able to advise that UU had in March, after the parish council's last meeting, advised that they were undertaking further exploratory works on their own land in the area of the weir. There had also on 14th May been a meeting with National Trust management and amongst the things discussed was tree felling inline with NT policy.

440.02 an email received from UU stated that the planning application would finally be submitted "late summer." Accordingly all interested parties can only await the submission of the application before making further decisions.

441.00 Development applications.

441.01 Clerk confirmed that he attended the Honister Slate Mine site visit on 13th March to discuss the application for a zip wire 7/2023/2286. Torrential rain for the entire visit, held outside. The application has still to be considered by planning committee, further documents were being supplied by the applicant, but nothing yet on the website. Clerk regularly inspecting LDNP Planning portal.

441.02 Lanthwaite House, Buttermere, 7/2024/2055 docs circulated to councillors, no objection submission made and subsequent email received confirming approved 9th May 2024.

442.00 Receive and approve the parish council accounts for the financial year 2023/24. Consider and approve the signature of 2023/24 Certificate of Exemption, Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/24, Accounting Statement 2023/24, Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 plus receive the bank reconciliation and variance report for 2023/24. Draft documents circulated prior to meeting to all councillors.

442.01 Cllr J P decided time to depart the meeting. Clerk went through the various documents he had circulated and he and the chair signed where necessary once they had been approved by the councillors.

442.02 Certificate of Exemption, AGAR 2023/24 Part 2. This confirms that the parish has neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25k. Inspected by councillors and signed by clerk and chair.

442.03 Clerk had circulated the signed Annual Internal Audit Report. Internal audit had taken place 13/10/23 and 20/04/24. All boxes correctly ticked, and no issues or recommendations raised by the auditor.

442.04 Annual Governance Statement. Clerk read the content of the 9 boxes on the form and at each statement to be ticked Yes box with Cllrs approval. Document signed by clerk and chair.

442.05 Finally the accounting statement, which had been circulated was approved by councillors and again was duly signed by RFO and chair.

442.06 Once minutes written up minute reference numbers will be inserted and accounts submitted to external auditor and made available for public inspection and on the website.

443.00 Visitor management issues experienced this 2024 holiday season and matters to be raised with appropriate agencies.

443.01 the councillors talked at length on parking issues, use of volunteers to stop traffic getting into a bottle neck, the bus service and when it stopped running without prior warning. If overflow car parks were open then traffic could be managed but they are governed by 28-day rules. As Cllr K B so correctly pointed out, LDNP and NT want the National Park serviced by "sustainable transport," but agencies responsible seemed unable to agree a comprehensive strategy to cater for the visitor numbers and how they access the popular areas. Across the Park not just Buttermere. Promised new public toilet signs were not in situ where councillors had expected them to be. In positive news, parking enforcement officers are regularly being seen in the valley.

443.02 clerk would email LDNP Head of Visitor Services on his return home that night and voice the councillors concerns, book the gentleman's attendance at the September meeting and clerk would also contact Stagecoach for their input on the running of the bus services.

444.00 Update on Fibrus position on installation and options to resolve grey areas, no supply.

444.01 clerk had emailed the usual Fibrus contact, and the response basically stated Fibrus hoped to have the contract completed in 12 months. Cllrs advised that two of their local businesses had signed up to a satellite broadband provider. Both acknowledged the efficiency of the supply, although one was experiencing problems with taking payments by the card machine. No further action at this point as it would take Fibrus some further time before they could clarify areas of supply, properties that would be off the supply and those who could be provided with a supply but would require a payment to make the final fibre access.

445.00 Progress reports, clerk.

445.01 further to comments by Cllr A M at last parish council meeting clerk had checked with local NT Ranger and the gorse between Lanthwaite and Buttermere would be considered for cutting after bird nesting restrictions stopped cutting activity. Buttermere to Gatesgarth is private land not NT responsibility.

445.02 as already mentioned LDNP had promised new signs on 8th March, apparently not fitted where councillors had hoped they would be, so clerk would chase.

445.03 Cllr K B had reported concerns after last meeting with bricks falling from road retaining wall in The Hows, clerk had taken photographs and reported to Highways and work had been undertaken. Cllrs to monitor.

446.00 Councillors reports.

446.01 Cllr H F-D was concerned about a section of crumbling carriageway edge towards Lanthwaite, Cllr L K also confirmed the area he had reported sometime ago was again in the same dangerous state. It was agreed councillors would provide images to the clerk and if possible, a What3Word location, if not a description of location and clerk will again report the matters.

447.00 Correspondence.

447.01 UU had provided details of further exploratory works in Crummock weir area, start 18th March.

447.02 email from Bruce Hardy NT, no Bluebell overflow car park this season due to income pressure.

447.03 numerous email exchanges from mid-March through to 8th April when the lady who arrived with her possessions on local by-road was finally returned by other agencies to Derbyshire.

447.04 various emails about the American bus and unofficial lights at Corn How, LDNP enforcement team dealing with the position. No decision yet on Corn How increase in numbers of units on site from 3 to 6.

447.05 advised first half of annual precept paid to parish council.

447.06 all end of year financial package for completion and return received from Moore government external auditor.

447.07 Calc subscription renewal received subs for the year £106.29. Parish now has 73 registered electors, a further reduction.

447.08 Zurich annual insurance renewal received due 1st June. £178.58. Chair asked what was covered, clerk said legal requirement, but covers him running off with all the money.

447.09 invoice received from Simone Morgan, for the year end audit fee, £30.00.

448.00 Payments for approval.

Intpay117, M Milner, £124.00, salary April £124.00. No expenses.

Intpay118, HMRC, PAYE, £38.80 April.

April HSBC account charge £8.00.

April clerk's payments made to confirm with HMRC submission and payment time limits

Intpay119, M Milner, £199.74, May salary £123.80 expenses £75.94

Intpay 120, HMRC PAYE, £31.00 May

May HSBC account charge £8.00

Intpay 121, Calc annual subscription, £106.29.

Intpay 122, Zurich, £178.55, annual parish insurance premium

Intpay 123, Simone Morgan, £30.00 2023/24 end of year audit fee.

All approved

449.00 Date and time of the next meeting. Tuesday 3rd September 2024, 7.30pm, at Old School Room, Buttermere.

Meeting closed 20.27