

# Lorton Parish Council

## Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Sept' 2024

Present: Cllrs Peter Deeks (chair), Glenis Postlethwaite, (vice-chair), Garan Comley, Chris Poate, Cathy Lee, Zindzi Cresswell.

Cumberland Councillor. Cllr Jill Perry.

Clerk, Mike Milner. 10 members of the public.

Apologies, Cllr Tanya St Pierre (LPC).

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

**742.00 Declaration of Interest. none**

**742A.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 3rd July 2024, as a true record.**

742A.01 Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the minutes.

**743.00 Crummock Water Weir update, Buttermere chair Cllr H Fear-Davis or clerk.**

743.01 Clerk confirmed no planning application has yet been received, there are still discussions between UU and agencies concerning location of new bridge over River Cocker as it leaves Crummock Water. Application anticipated Dec' 2024.

**744.00 Public participation. Approx. 15 mins.**

744.01 Chair confirmed that members of the public could state their comments at appropriate agenda item, as no one present had a comment other than agenda item related.

**745.00 Police Matters.**

745.01 Clerk had circulated the e-newsletter.

**746.00 Applications for development.** No developments to consider.

**747.00 Matters concerning Cumberland Councillor.**

747.01 Cllr J P advised Cumberland had been on holiday so no activity or decisions to report on at this moment. However, she did say that she had been asked by another parish about the excellent Interpretation boards that Lorton had installed and she enquired about the mechanics of the installation. Clerk volunteered to advise the Cllr of the process via email over the next few days. Cllr J P thanked him for the offer.

**748.00 Request received from Highways for parish council to consider and advise on Highways proposed provision of a raised pavement and kerb plus creation of raised kerbing tapering to nil in the road in front of Bridge Side House boundary wall and around to Whit Beck Bridge wall abutting the property. Plus, new signage advising area not suitable for HGV's. All documents circulated to parish councillors.**

748.01 clerk briefly outlined the proposals provided by Highways and the new signage proposed at 2 new locations warning HGV traffic of its non-suitability for such traffic. They were advisory notices, not mandatory controlled by a traffic order.

748.02 There were 10 members of the public present and they all had a view on the proposal. The signage was not their issue. It was the proposed 800mm wide raised pavement using HB2 edging kerbs and the resulting physical, at the junction, narrowing of the bridge access or exit depending on vehicle direction, that was the concern.

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Clerk, at chair's request, had contacted the local farmers prior to the meeting for their views, if unable to attend the parish council meeting, as they had been instrumental in 2013 to moving the parish pound wall back 1m to provide a greater area for a vehicle to swing around and approach the other side of the bridge. One had responded to state that the plaster dropping of the corner building was due to weathering, the last vehicle to actually hit the property was the bin lorry. A farmer present stated that he also considered the plaster deterioration on the building was due to weathering and not vehicle damage.

748.03 Local Boon Beck residents stated that their concerns related to the increase in vehicle traffic coming down the route from the B5292 Whinlatter road and increased cycle traffic as the route is now part of the National Cycle Route 71 and cyclists have priority. Boon Beck residents had made a point of asking drivers of cars, car and caravan combinations, campervans and even 7.5t HGV vehicles how they had arrived in the area and the majority responded Satnav instructions. One vehicle had been a large coach on its way between Keswick and Buttermere.

748.04 All members of the public were in favour of additional signage at the top of the route on B5292 advising drivers not to follow Satnav instructions. Not one member of the public present was in favour of any alteration to the entrance/exit at the junction being proposed by Highways. One resident present explained that the milk tanker would approach using the B5292 turn off down the route 71 lane, then exit over Boon Beck bridge, unless route was icy when the tanker would have to come and go via the Boon Beck bridge.

748.05 Cllrs having heard the input of the local residents present, then proceeded to discuss the proposals. Would rumble strips be a useful addition? That was discarded as not a speed issue. A raised kerb at the junction entrance could affect the stability of a high sided vehicle, its rocking on its suspension as it mounted then dropped of the kerb could cause contact with the building by taller vehicles. Cllrs acknowledged they had heard and understood local residents' concerns about increased traffic flow down from the B5292. It was also noted that the discussion was about vehicle access at the junction and a solution proposed by Highways, not a discussion about parking, legal or otherwise at the corner or in the vicinity of Yew Tree Hall.

748.06 After a lengthy discussion chair asked councillors to indicate their view on the road junction pavement and raised kerb proposal. They unanimously objected to the proposal. It was then agreed that when the clerk relayed that view to Highways, he should make it clear that the parish council supported and requested the proposed road signs highways as suggested, but more importantly new signage at the top of Route 71 advising traffic contemplating access from B5292 into Lorton, or other destinations, not to follow their Satnav instructions at this point.

**749.00 Lorton village conservation status. Update by Cllr C L after a "task and finish" meeting with councillors and subsequent meeting with LDNP Conservation Officer. Resolve, should the proposed conservation area request be pursued? Minute 732.03 July refers.**

749.01 Cllr C L has been exploring the project and she produced an A1 board with a Lorton map on it, which showed the Listed buildings, Tree Preservation Orders, public open spaces, community facilities, buildings of historical interest and important streetscape characteristics. She explained to the local residents and Cllrs that the initial appraisal of Lorton showed that area would most likely meet the requirements of a new Conservation Area designation. A conservation area would mean that trees would be protected and that future developments in the village would be to design which is possibly more sympathetic to the existing character of the area.

749.02 Cllr C L had been in discussions with the LDNP Planning Officer responsible for creating such areas, who had pointed out that time, personnel and financial constraints meant LDNP could not progress the full appraisal needed to start the process for a proposed Conservation Area for at least 12 months.

However, the LDNP officer said that the Parish Council could progress the project itself at this stage and start the appraisal process. The conservation officer would be available to offer guidance of the procedural requirements.

There had been a meeting organised with the conservation officer prior to the parish council meeting, but that was cancelled and Cllr C L and chair Cllr P D have a meeting arranged for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September and a walk around Lorton.

749.03 Cllrs and members of the public asked questions about the map on display and the implications. The recent public survey undertaken by the parish council had indicated that local residents were keen to embrace such a project. However, Cllrs felt that before undertaking the project in its entirety there should be a greater understanding of the implications. How would it affect future planning applications within the area? Would it have any implication of property prices, because currently it was impossible for local youngster to buy a property in Lorton from existing housing stock?

749.04 Cllrs concluded that more detail was required before making a commitment to the project and that the next newsletter should include an item on the proposal inviting local residents to provide input, possibly through an open day and presentation from a resident who already lived within a Conservation Area.

### **750.00 Should parish council consider 20mph speed limit(s) in Lorton and if so what areas?**

750.01 clerk read an e-mail the parish council had received from a resident requesting that the parish council should consider 20mph area in areas of Lorton. The recent residents survey response had indicated that there was a view from respondents that such action would be favourable received. Clerk had circulated details of the recent Cumberland adopted policy on the adoption of 20mph limits in areas of Cumberland. He had also circulated a link of the 2013 government policy document on the topic, which the Cumberland document referred to. The author of the email was present and pointed out that he had recently had the benefit of attending a speed awareness course and he had learnt that if there were street lights erected and spaced a maximum of 200 yards apart, then that carriageway was a 30mph limit. Therefore, a large section of Low Lorton had such street lighting and should be classified as 30mph, not national speed limit as at present.

750.02 Cumberland Cllr J P pointed out to apply for 20mph speed limits the parish council would have to demonstrate that the public in the involved areas must be in support of the limit, and that the next road safety committee to consider speed limit amendments would not be meeting again until 2026, plenty of time to research the issue.

750.03 Cllrs agreed that the way forward was to ensure there was an article in the next newsletter on the topic. Also, in that article a request to residents to keep a diary of all near misses on local roads, so they could be collated and kept as a record for presentation to Cumberland Highways at the appropriate time.

### **751.00 Parish Council contribution towards school's cutting cost of Parish Field and wildlife area for children in the Parish Field.**

751.01 Chair Cllr P D and Cllr C P had had an initial meeting to discuss the issues with the school headmistress. This had been a positive meeting with an open exchange of views, but no decisions had been made. There had however been an agreement in principle that there should be a "wildlife strip" at the south edge of the field, details to be developed with the school. Clerk pointed out that he would soon be having to make the budget calculations and confirming a precept figure for 2024/25 with the parish council at the January meeting. Chair Cllr P D would communicate further with the school.

**752.00 Report on YTH AGM meeting, by Cllr G P.**

752.01 Cllr G P had attended the meeting. She reported that it had been a constructive and informative meeting. The YTH committee requested that the parish council, who already have one representative, Cllr P D, from the parish council, requested a second committee representative, to contribute with regard the development project for the hall. It was according to chair Cllr P D a vacancy that would be ideal for Cllr C L, a view embraced by all Cllrs and Cllr C L confirmed she would happily accept the post.

**753.00 Agenda items 14 and 15 combined, Next actions in response to Lorton Questionnaire and Parish Plan, current status and forward timetable.**

753.01 the questionnaire indicated that respondents were concerned about, heritage, 20mph speed limit, parking and assets and character of the community and as such those needed to be brought together in a parish plan. The parish council needs to consider an order of priority. The parish plan should be a of 5-year timescale and from the list of priorities from the questionnaire it must be established what the parish council can and cannot undertake. One consideration for bigger projects is how monies could be raised to see a project to its conclusion. All work in progress and a challenge for Cllr G C and the sub-group developing this.

**754.00 Parish council magazine, feedback.**

754.01 The newsletter’s article on tree felling and hedge trimming had proved to be contentious, but it was not directed at the farming community or any particular farmer. Clerk had received a phone call that indicated farmers were entitled to cut/trim a hedge in the vicinity of a gateway to facilitate tractor and trailer access, at any time.

754.02 Cllrs thought that it should be appropriate for each edition of future newsletters should include a brief input from a farmer. Be it either what was currently being undertaken on the farm or land, or alternatively how farm practises have changed.

**755.00 Progress reports, clerk.**

755.01 Lorton verges, the cutting of. The clerk provided Cllr T St P with the agreed list he had agreed with Highways when the verges were taken on by parish council.

755.02 Clerk had signed the parish council up for the use of the Ordnance Survey mapping facility, to enable Cllr C L to record and plot her conservation project accurately and be able to present it to other agencies.

755.03 Clerk had received an email from Tennis Club about renewing the physical lease document. Chair Cllr P D was dealing with the matter.

755.04 Numerous emails concerning Fibrus contractor’s road closures as the contractor applied for road closures. It was to be noted that many of the closures are to enable the contractor to inspect existing underground ducting lines. Which gave the appearance that road closures never being used, but in fact the time in the manholes and inspecting the ducting was minimal in most cases.

755.05 It would appear that the Whinlatter Pass tree felling with its road closure and diversion was now completed, and what felling remained the Forestry Commission management had advised clerk could be overseen using traffic signals, stop go boards.

**756.00 Councillors reports.**

756.01 Clerk read email from Cllr T St P, which dealt with topics covered on the agenda and then he advised Cllrs that due to other commitments she would be resigning at the end of the November meeting, when she will have concluded all the financial documentation for all the current grass verge seeds and plants, plus signage and Interpretation Board paperwork.

756.02 Cllr GP made the following Melbreak Communities report, An exceeding busy time. Mostly concentrating on the very active, ever expanding Melbreak Wildlife Group. They had the following projects on the go, Swifts, Barn Owls, Hedgehogs and have received a grant from the Lake District under Defra's FIPL – (Farming in Protective Landscapes) for a Curlew Recovery Project. Find details on their website. Had a superb display at Loweswater Show and lots of interest in the things we do. Continue to work with the Eco Church project. There are more bookings this winter for home assessments under the Net Zero Project, helping with finding the cold spots in peoples' houses. The Emergency Plan is up to date and thank fully not needed! A new group, Melbreak Orchards and there will be a launch family day Sunday 13th of October to celebrate the Apple! Melbreak continue to promote their monthly Coffee and Cakes initiative. It has given a small grant to help kick-start the Malt House Club. Planning to provide a series of creative workshops for this winter.

756.03 Cllr Z C had been approached by a member of the public about the state of the BT telephone exchange building and surrounding grounds. She would approach Openreach and see what response she got.

756.04 Cllr C P raised the issue of an uncut area of the village pound.

756.05 Chair Cllr P D had no response from volunteers (bar one) to undertake the maintenance of the parish seats, so he would update the status report on the seats and look to obtain quotes from outside contractors.

756.06 Chair Cllr P D also brought up the long-term maintenance of 4 Community Public Access Defibrillator units, (CPADS) in the valley. The First Responders had limited funds for the maintenance and was seeking assistance to undertake that task from local parish councils. Clerk advised, having established each unit had a "guardian" that at other parishes a defibrillator was deemed a necessary community asset and the parish council would be responsible for the annual maintenance charge, including replacement batteries and the pads as they went out of date. At some time in the future the CPADS will require replacement as well.

### **757.00 Correspondence**

757.01 Email from LDNP Rights of Way Officer various proposed closures comments before 16<sup>th</sup> September.

757.02 Invoice received from PrintPoint £83/185 newsletter and £42/185 A4 inserts, £125.00 total charge.

757.03 Circulated Peter Walter North Area LDNP representative newsletter

757.04 Exchange of emails with Barry Foster Cumberland Lighting officer about not replacing the street light at the top of Tenters. No further action.

757.05 Cornhill Campsite, located in Buttermere Parish are siting an American School Bus for glamping on field in Lorton Parish. Under appropriate temporary legislation.

757.06 Email from resident doubting the accuracy of the hedge cutting article in the last newsletter. Clerk checked with Cllr T St P and she confirmed article correct. Clerk responded accordingly.

757.07 Circulated an invitation from LDNP North Area representative Peter Walter to a meeting for a Q&A session on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

757.08 Received an email from local resident about her use of bollards to stop parking on a corner. Clerk had responded, pointing out as not an authorised agency to use bollards a private individual was running the risk of been prosecuted for obstructing the Highway, especially if a RTA and driver claimed a bollard had being instrumental in their direction of passage.

757.09 Email from Cllr C P about two benches in Parish Field. One had been taped up as unsafe and that had been removed by Bigfoot contractor, other one had been returned to its correct location.

757.10 Resident Steve Irlam had forwarded latest river course directive.

757.11 Email received from conservation officer about the Lions on Lorton Hall pillars. They were subject clerk discovered to a planning app 7/2009/2101 when the pillars were subject to a repair and the planning officer and conservation officer at the time agreed they were not of good repair and as not original items on the pillars they could be removed.

Conservation officer would note the pictures in planning office, as appropriately removed.

757.12 Bigfoot Contractor had sent his invoices that morning, July and August, both £242.05 plus charge of £40 to remove and correctly dispose of the seat. Charge for purchasing metal tube to place in grass verges, £30 and then charge of £150 to cut metal tube and then install. £180 in total.

757.13 Quote from Bigfoot to scarify the Cross Gate verges £260.00 Cllrs agreed to pay that from contingency funds and allow Cllr T St P to use any spare funding for seed and plug plants. If she had any money left it could contribute to the scarifying expense.

757.14 Letter received by Cllr C P from resident who reported logs been stolen from a shed on her land. Obviously, police matter not parish council.

### **758.00 Payments for approval.**

M Milner Intpay216, £185.80, salary August paid 10/8/24

HMRC PAYE Intpay217, Clerks tax £46.40, June. Paid 10/8/24.

Paid to conform with HMRC submission calendar

M Milner Intpay 218, £278.99, Salary September £185.80, Expenses £93.19.

HMRC PAYE, Intpay 219, £46.40, clerk's September PAYE.

Printpoint, Intpay 220, £125.00, Newsletter summer edition and insert.

Harvey Davidson, Bigfoot, Intpay 221, £704.10, August/Sept' grass contract plus signs

Tanya St Pierre, Intpay 222, £209.14, Seeds, £200 grant money, £9.14 precept money.

Direct charge by HSBC £8 monthly account charge 2 months August and Sept'. 2024.

All Payments approved.

Meeting closed 9.38pm.

**759.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Nov' 2024 at 7.30pm, the meeting will be held in Yew Tree Hall.**