

# Lorton Parish Council

## Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan' 2025

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

Cumberland Councillor. not present

Clerk, Mike Milner. 2 members of the public.

**782.00 Apologies for absence,** Cllr Jill Perry, CC.

**783.00 Declaration of Interest. none**

**784.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Nov' 2024, as a true record.**

784.01 Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the minutes.

**785.00 Public participation. Approx. 15 mins.**

785.01 Chair advised public comment at appropriate agenda item.

785.02 Clerk read an email from a member of the public unable to attend the meeting and the question raised was, "Is the proposed £2000 contribution to the Yew Tree Hall feasibility scheme to be the full and final contribution to the scheme and build or does the Council anticipate future calls on its finances that will be funded by residents in the village? What is the anticipated budget?" Chair noted content and said this would be dealt with after the relevant discussion

**786.00 Police Matters.**

786.01 Clerk had circulated the e-newsletter.

**787.00 Applications for development.**

787.01 Application 7/2024/2224 concerning Tenters, Lorton for a new carport. Documents had been circulated, and no objection raised. LDNP advised, and subsequently approved by LDNP on 18 December

787.02 High Mill House, 7/2024/2235, Documents had been circulated, and no objection raised. LDNP advised

**788.00 Matters concerning Cumberland Councillor.**

788.01 Cllr Jill Perry had been unable to attend. No report received by clerk.

The chair then changed the order of the agenda advising it would be agenda item 9 next, then 10, then back to item 8 then item 11.

**789.00 Resolve that Lorton Parish Council accept 50% of the cost of the annual grass cutting contract commencing season 2025 for the Lorton Parish Field.**

**Parish council to engage and pay the contractor. The cost to be split 50/50 with Lorton School as per discussions held between parish council and school representatives.**

**Parish council to pay 50% of nett invoice cost plus all VAT element, council able to reclaim VAT as appropriate, not able to charge VAT.**

**Parish council to invoice school on receipt of contractor's invoice and provide copy to school. Current 2025 cost is estimated at £1295.49 + VAT = £1554.59.**

789.01 Revised quote from contractor, discussions with the school had confirmed that school prepared to pay 50% of council's costs. One meter wildlife strip to be incorporated on south boundary. Cllrs resolved to accept the parish field cutting and chair and clerk to finalise payment details etc with the school.

**790.00 To discuss and approve Clerk’s hourly rate to increasing from £15.48/hr pay grade 19, to £16.10/hr pay grade 19, back dated to April 2024 as per NALC salary award 2024/25 agreed Nov 2024.**

790.01 Cllrs resolved to accept the agenda proposal. Clerk to make the appropriate payment changes and arrears with his January payment.

**791.00 Lorton Parish Council’s responsibility to or for the proposed Yew Tree Hall refurbishment. Then the parish council’s relationship with Yew Tree Hall Management Committee and the Yew Tree Hall Management Committee (YTHMC) and its Development Group’s Terms of Reference.**

791.01 Cllrs considered the Terms of Reference (ToR) document agreed by YTHMC. Clerk pointed out to Cllrs that the parish council had no decision-making authority concerning YTH refurbishment. Cllrs then considered the ToR document making appropriate amendments to accommodate the current YTH project. Document to be returned to YTHMC for their agreement.

791.02 Cllr CL reported on the progress of the project, and the community engagement.

791.03 The parish council confirmed being part of YTH refurbishment project and fully supportive of the project.

**792.00 To consider and resolve a request from Yew Tree Hall Management Committee for a financial contribution of £2000 towards the initial feasibility scheme funding of restoration and refurbishment of Yew Tree Hall.**

792.01 Chair of YTHMC present and allowed to put forward support for the YTHMC written request for £2k of matched funding.

792.02 It was noted that there were various schemes being considered to raise funding from the local community including a Friends of Yew Tree Hall group, but nothing had been finalised yet.

792.03 After contributions by Cllrs it was agreed that a contribution from the parish council would indicate community commitment, but chair Cllr PD was not going to further the resolution until the parish council had discussed the next agenda item, setting its precept figure.

**793.00 Confirm and resolve the Lorton parish precept request for financial year 2025/26 revised budget document circulated prior to the meeting.**

793.01 Cllrs discussed the documents circulated by clerk and considered the options available. What should be a priority and what could be deferred for a further year, bearing in mind the additional cost of cutting the parish field from 2025 and the request for a contribution to the YTH refurbishment.

793.02 Cllrs unanimously agreed to increase precept by just the additional cost of the cutting of the parish field. New precept figure resolved at £8256.

793.03 Chair then asked Cllrs about a contribution to YTH as per previous agenda item. A resolution to contribute £2k was unanimously approved, with no additional increase in the precept for next year.

**794.00 Update of meeting held with members of LDNP Visitor management team and also NT manager at Buttermere Parish Council meeting held in December. (Notes circulated)**

794.01 Clerk had prior to the meeting circulated the relevant notes from the Buttermere Parish Council meeting. Their content covered the issues raised at the meeting and the proposals being implemented for the 2025 summer season.

**795.00 Crummock Water weir removal update on UU Planning submission date.**

795.01 No planning application had been made yet. No further comment on the project.

### **796.00 Christmas edition of the Lorton newsletter, feedback.**

796.01 Cllrs had no feedback to report. The next newsletter would be the Easter edition and would be discussed at March meeting.

### **797.00 Progress reports, clerk.**

797.01 Clerk enquired who was going to accept the responsibility of dealing with Harvey Davidson, Bigfoot grass contractor, Cllr CP to take on role.

797.02 Clerk enquired who was responsible for the Christmas Tree? Cllr CP advised Andrew Chamberlain and Andrew Nicholson. Clerk will contact and thank them.

797.03 Clerk advised still no response from highways about the speed limit question raised with highways, considering there were street lamps in the area of Low Lorton.

797.04 Clerk produced examples of Wheelie bin stickers, available on line. Cllrs agreed that in the next newsletter they would promote the idea of property owners putting them on their bins. A photo to be put in the newsletter.

797.05 Clerk had received a phone call from the Assistant Director of Highways, Karl Melville about proposals to stop traffic hitting Bridge Side House. Still awaiting follow up email of detailed proposals.

797.06 Clerk confirmed that all the correct actions and visible notifications had been undertaken following the recent councillor's resignation. Parish council could take steps to co-opt a replacement. The chair noted that the council needed to find a replacement, and asked councillors to make suggestions.

### **798.00 Councillors reports.**

798.01 Chair Cllr PD had circulated the update on the benches in the village, the repairs necessary and also a list of other parish assets and pointed out that the Yew Tree interpretation board was in need of remedial work to its top timber.

798.02 Cllr GC had circulated a copy of his parish plan, but it was too late for inclusion as an agenda item on this current agenda, but would be on the March agenda for discussion. A meeting for the working group (Cllrs PD, GC & ZC) date was arranged for later in January.

798.03 Cllr GP provided update on Melbreak Community calendar dates, and was able to advise that Tanya St Pierre had received a Community Investment Grant of £1,499.00 from Cumberland Council on behalf of her Hedgehog recovery project.

798.04 Cllr CL outlined the progress on the YTH refurbishment.

798.05 Cllr ZC advised she had also investigated wheelie bin sticker options.

### **799.00 Correspondence**

799.01 Great North Air Ambulance Service had submitted their annual request for a donation towards their service. Clerk advised the recent donations had been, £250, which Cllrs unanimously agreed to support for this year.

799.02 Email received from Calc with invoice attached for £30 to cover the chairs recent training course.

799.03 Half yearly audit fee of £30 submitted by Simone Morgan.

799.04 Invoice from Printpoint for December/Christmas newsletter, £83.00.

799.05 Emails from Peter Walter, North Area Representative of LDNP.

799.06 Letter re YTH funding as item 785.02. Clerk to respond stating that the council had agreed to a one-off contribution of £2k.

### **800.00 Payments for approval.**

M Milner Intpay230, £185.80, salary December paid 20/12/24

HMRC PAYE Intpay231, Clerks tax £46.40, December. Paid 20/12/24.

Paid to conform with HMRC submission calendar

M Milner Intpay 232, £312.40, Salary January £260.20, Expenses £52.20.  
HMRC PAYE, Intpay 233, £65.00, clerk's January PAYE.  
Above January payments include salary back pay and tax.  
Calc, Intpay 234, £30.00, Chair's training session  
GNAAS, Intpay 235, £250.00, annual donation to air ambulance  
Printpoint, Intpay 236, £83.00, December/Christmas newsletter.  
Simone Morgan, Intpay 237, £30, internal audit half yearly fee.  
Direct charge by HSBC £8 monthly account charge 2 months December 24 & January 25.  
All Payments approved.

Meeting closed 9.45pm.

**801.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm, the meeting will be held in Yew Tree Hall.**

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