

Lorton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5th July 2017

Present: Cllrs. Poate (Chair), Postlethwaite, Deeks, Irlam, Aitken, Edmunds & Armstrong.

Apologies: There were no apologies.

Also in attendance: Cllr. Annison (ABC), Cllr. Bowness (CCC), Dave Smith (Clerk) & 7 members of the public.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

46.17 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest.

47.17 Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the May meeting were accepted as an accurate record by the Councillors present and the Chair duly signed them. The minutes of the Special Planning Meeting held on 29th June 2017 were accepted as an accurate record by the Councillors present and the Chair duly signed them.

48.17 Public Participation:

Members of the public raised the following items:

Road safety in Low Lorton: Concerns were expressed by a school pupil from Low Lorton about how unsafe she feels as she walks along the side of the B5289 from her home to the bus stop to catch the school bus each morning. In particular the section of the road without any footpaths is where she feels very vulnerable as cars come speeding along the road. She has experienced a number of close shaves and would like something done about the lay-out of the road to make her feel safer.

There followed a discussion regarding possible solutions though it was agreed that the road in the two 'pinch-points' was too narrow to install a footpath. Among the suggestions made were the installation of 'Give Way' signs by the pinch-points, pedestrian refuge sections identified by lines on the road and a complete re-assessment of the road lay-out in Low Lorton.

It was agreed that the Clerk should raise these concerns and suggestions with Cumbria Highways, following up on previous correspondence regarding highways concerns in Low Lorton, and that Cllr. Bowness should be copied in to the email. Cllr. Bowness will raise the issue at a CCC Highways meeting next week.

Action: Upon receipt of email from school pupil the Clerk will contact Cumbria Highways and raise the concerns expressed.

Action: Cllr. Bowness will raise the issues at the CCC Highways meeting.

Re-alignment of drains: Boonbeck Road: A resident living on Boonbeck Road explained that during the recent works undertaken on the road the storm drains at the bottom of the road were not correctly aligned and a 6" pipe had been installed when it was clear that this would not be big enough to carry away the rain water at times of heavy rain. Cumbria Highways have admitted their mistake and have requested access to The Pound to replace the existing pipe with a 12" diameter one. The works will be carried out in October/November. Councillors agreed that permission should be given to Cumbria Highways to undertake this work.

Action: Clerk to inform Cumbria Highways that Councillors had agreed to the work being undertaken on The Pound on the understanding that the area is to be returned to its current state.

The Special Planning Meeting: A number of local residents expressed their concerns regarding the outcome of the recently held Special Planning Meeting and their disappointment at the 'No Objections' decision made by the Parish Council. One resident stated that it felt like the Parish Council was not representing the views of the Community. He reminded Councillors that there had been nearly 70 objections to the planning application in question lodged with the LDNPA and yet the Council had seemed to ignore this fact. A second member of the public raised similar concerns about a different planning application, one that the Parish Council had 'Supported' and one that had over 30 objections from members of the public.

Other points made by those present were that both the proposed multi-dwelling developments in Low Lorton were, given the comments above on road safety, in the wrong place. Given that one of the developments started off as a social housing (affordable) scheme and ended up as a market value proposal, what is to stop the social housing element of the second development disappearing and becoming a completely market value scheme.

The Clerk highlighted an email that he had received from a local resident, Mr. Williams, who could not be in attendance at the meeting. In the email three main points were raised and these were:

- that the Parish Council was not representing the views of the local residents and in light of this he wished to call for a 'Vote of No Confidence' in the Council.
- a complaint has been lodged with the Borough Council regarding the decision of Cllr. Deeks not to declare an interest in the application considered at the Special Planning Meeting.
- to avoid any future possible conflicts of interest the Parish Council should pass a motion that would ensure that the Council did not take a view on any further planning applications from Parish Councillors

The Clerk informed those present that CALC had informed him that:

'There is no provision in parish law for a vote of no confidence in the council – parishioners have the power to not elect members of the council at the next election which is deemed in law to be adequate redress if a parish council is not considered to be effective. This isn't to say that motions of no confidence do happen, but the clerk should advise the council that they have no basis in law and therefore are irrelevant.'

There are no legal provisions for members of the electorate to call a parish council meeting. Two councillors can sign a requisition that the council be convened (an extraordinary meeting) and if the Chairman or Vice Chairman neglects to do so for seven days, then any two members of the council have the powers to convene a meeting

There is no other way to call a meeting of a statutory local authority such as a parish council, outside of the published meeting schedule. I hope this clarifies the situation.'

The Clerk stated that he had not yet heard form Allerdale Borough Council with regard to the complaint.

Councillors agreed that a motion regarding planning applications from Parish Councillors should be put to the September meeting.

The Clerk informed the meeting that he intended to meet up with Mr. Williams to further discuss the issues he raised.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange a meeting with Mr. Williams.
ACTION: Motion to be on the agenda for the September meeting.

The property adjacent to Lime Tree House, Low Lorton: concerns were expressed about the continued lack of progress in completion of the property adjacent to Lime Tree House. It was acknowledged that the

unfortunate death of the owner of the development will have complicated the completion of the house but it is some twelve months since any progress has been made.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Compliance Officer at the LDNPA for an update.

A number of highways issues were also raise, see below.

49.17 Progress Reports:

A: The Clerk’s Progress Report:

Actions on the Clerk from the previous meeting:

- 34.17: Clerk to register Council with NEST scheme: Not necessary.
- 34.17: Cllrs to send Clerk articles for summer newsletter: ongoing
- 37.17: Clerk to report various issues to Cumbria Highways: Done & response team have undertaken work
- 38.17: Clerk to send out all payments: Done and all cleared through the account

A list of correspondence received, as below, was read out and duly noted by councillors.

Correspondence	For information	For action
CALC Newsletter May and June	X	
Various emails re: Croft Barn planning application	X	
Report from Allerdale Parishes LDNPA member: April, May & June	X	
Confirmation from Aon that PC is covered by insurance	X	
Pensions regulator:Acknowledgement of declaration of compliance	X	
Household Emergency Planning leaflets from ACT	X	
Electoral review of Allerdale: Final recommendations	X	
Email re: parking on road at Whinlatter	X	X
Email re: Councillors and planning (see above)	X	X

The Clerk drew the attention of councillors to the following:

Email from Gill Locking regarding her concerns about the on-road parking by the Visitors Centre at Whinlatter Forest. It was agreed that there were a number of issues related to the on-road parking and these included the lack of parking on the site, the cost of parking on the site and the danger to other road users of the on-road parking. It was agreed to contact Cumbria Highways with regard to this issue.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Cumbria Highways with regard to the concerns raised.

A: Parish Maintenance Report:

Parish Benches: The Clerk is to meet up with David Brindle shortly to discuss maintenance work on the benches. Cllr. Deeks is to update the bench schedule and email to the Clerk.

ACTION: Cllr. Deeks to forward the updated bench schedule to the Clerk.

Hedges in the Parish: a number of complaints have been received regarding the need for cutting back of hedges in various parts of the Parish. In most cases it is the responsibility of the land-owner to maintain their hedges. It was noted that farmers are not supposed to cut back any hedges until September 1st.

Action: Clerk to ask Councillors for locations of hedges requiring attention, the name of the land-owner and then report to Cumbria Highways

B: Report from the Borough Councillor:

Cllr. Annison reported that he had been in attendance at the planning application that had been recently refused by the DCC, (Land adjacent to Rothersyke) and the main issue had been the description of the development as affordable. Members of the DCC had not found this to be credible.

The findings of the Boundary Commission had now been presented and the overall aim of reducing the number of Borough Councillors from 56 to 49 had been achieved but unfortunately it meant that his ward of Crummock would be split up and Lorton will find itself in a ward to be called Crummock and Derwent. Each of the wards after the changes have been introduced will have 1,500 electors.

C: The Melbreak Communities Report:

Cllr. Irlam informed the meeting that the group was now ready to re-launch the Emergency Plan which would be delivered to every house in the four parishes. Some funding had been successfully applied for and with it a number of hydro snakes and sacks had been purchased. The next Coffee morning was being run by the Gardening Club.

D: The Parish Council Newsletter:

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Summer edition of the newsletter was just about ready to go to the printers. It should be available for collection on Friday 14th.

ACTION: Clerk to complete newsletter and send to printers. When ready for collection the newsletters are to be dropped off with the Chair.

50.17 Planning:

There were no new applications to consider.

One planning application has been dealt with between meetings at a special planning meeting held on June 29th:

Ref: 7/2017/2129
Location: Land adjacent to Croft Barn, Low Lorton CA13 9UW
Proposal: Outline application for residential development (Local need and local affordable need)
Reply by: 4th July 2017

A response of '**No Objections**' was sent on 30th June.

Notice of Refusal of Planning Permission: Councillors are asked to note the following:

Ref: 7/2017/2049
Location: Land adjacent to Rothersyke, Low Lorton
Proposal: Local needs dwelling

Councillors have been sent a copy of the decision notice and the officers report.

The above were duly noted.

51.17 Report from the Police:

The Clerk reported that the most recent incidents on the Police website related to April 2017 and there were two incidents reported for Lorton Parish. One incident was described as 'anti-social behaviour' and one as 'violence and sexual offences'. It was noted that one report of 'ant-social behaviour' was reported at Whinlatter Pass.

52.17 Highways issues:

A number of pot-holes and breaking away of the road edges were reported on the stretch of road between Armaside Farm and Roundclose Hill (B5292).

Some concern was expressed about the inconsiderate behaviour of some bus drivers on the narrow roads in the Parish.

Cllr. Bowness reported that eventually he hoped that all the roads in the area would be re-surfaced and that Councillors should consider which stretches of road were most in need of re-surfacing and that these should be suggested to Cumbria Highways.

**ACTION: Clerk to report the above to Cumbria Highways.
Action: Cllrs to consider which local roads are most in need of resurfacing.**

53.17 Finance:

The Clerk informed the meeting that the balance of the account as given in the most recent bank statement dated 15th June 2017 was £9,314.54p with all the payments agreed at the last meeting having cleared through the account.

The Clerk reported that the following payments were outstanding:

i: D. Smith Salary Qtr 1 (17/18):	£356.50p
ii: HMRC PAYE Qtr1 (17/18):	£89.00p
iii: D. Smith Expenses Qtr1 (17/18)	£86.60p
iv: R. McCree - grounds maintenance May & June:	£330.00p

All councillors present agreed to these payments.

Taking the above payments into account, the reconciled balance of the PC account as of 5th July 2017 is £8,452.44p.

ACTION: Clerk to send out all payments.

54.17 Reports from other meetings:

Councillors had not attended any meetings since the last Parish Council meeting.

55.17 Items for the next meeting:

It was agreed that a motion should be put forward for the Parish Council to consider not commenting on any future planning application from a Parish Councillor.

ACTION: Clerk to place motion on the September agenda.

56.17 Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 6th September 2017 at 7.30pm

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____

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