

Lorton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5th November 2014

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

Apologies: Cllr. Steve Irlam, Cllr Alan Bowness (CCC), & Adele Lyall (Cumbria Police).

Also in attendance: Geoff Davis (LDNPA Member), Dave Smith (Clerk) & four members of the public.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

78.14 Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Deeks declared a prejudicial interest in a planning application to be discussed.

79.14 Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the September meeting were accepted as an accurate record by the councillors present and the Chair duly signed them.

80.14 Public Participation:

It was agreed that this agenda item should be combined with the item below..

81.14 Report from the LDNPA Allerdale Parishes Member:

Geoff Davis, the recently appointed Allerdale Parishes Member to the LDNPA, was introduced to the meeting. The chair then asked Cllr. Deeks and Tony Cresswell to provide Geoff with an update on the ongoing planning application: Land to the south of Lime Tree House, current App No: 7/2014/2269

After giving a brief resume of the planning history of the house, much of which GD was aware of, Cllr. Deeks explained the background to the current planning application as it related to the roof-lights on the rear roof elevation. He informed the meeting that the applicant had been instructed by the planning inspector to undertake three things:

- Remove the window from the gable end: this has now been bricked in
- Ensure that a chimney stack, fake or real, is placed on the roof: not done yet but work is still being undertaken on the roof so the applicant is technically not in breach
- Replace the current Velux style roof lights with conservation roof lights. Conservation roof lights are flush with the roof and have a central glazing bar: not done, the current planning application seeks permission to use Velux style.

A number of comments were made questioning why and how this current application had been allowed to be submitted when both the LDNPA officers and the planning inspector had previously informed the applicant that conservation roof lights must be installed and that Velux style roof lights would not be acceptable.

GD informed the meeting that he was aware of the report by the Local Government Ombudsman which had highlighted faults in the handling of the case by the LDNPA and that he had talked to David McGowan, the head of Development Management for the LDNPA about the case prior to this meeting. He also informed the meeting that he could ask that this application be brought before the Development Control Committee rather than it be handled solely by officers and that any application that was opposed by at least five households in the vicinity would automatically be referred to the Development Control Committee.

There was some discussion as to whether the council would like GD to ask for this application to be handled by the Development Control Committee and it was agreed that Cllr Deeks would first speak to the Planning Officer to see what their take on the application would be.

ACTION: Cllr. Deeks to contact GD if it is felt that it would be advantageous for the application to be referred to the Development Control Committee.

There followed further discussion and comments on the current application. The chair then asked the councillors present to consider the application in front of them. Cllr. Deeks took no part in the vote.

Those Councillors in support of the application: one
 Those Councillors who opposed the application: three
 Councillors who abstained: one

It was therefore agreed that the Council would oppose the application on the grounds cited by both the LDNPA Planning Officers and the Planning Inspector.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the LDNPA of the views of the Council.

GD then went to explain his role as the Allerdale Parishes representative to the meeting stating that the area reps were supposed to ensure the involvement and influence of local communities in the decisions the LDNPA made. He also made the point that he was a representative and not a delegate. Currently the views of local councils and communities were being sought on the draft Partnership Plan as it relates to the achievement of World Heritage Site status. There are four themes, these being: Vibrant Communities, Productive economy, Visitor Experience and Landscape. GD encouraged the Council to engage with the consultation process. As the closing date for comments is not until mid January it was agreed to look at this at a future meeting.

GD also provided the meeting with an update on the Connecting Cumbria project. The BT Project Manager expects that 80% of the homes in Lorton Parish will receive super-fast broadband (24mb/sec) and that the works will be completed early in the new year. The point was made that only people prepared to pay for a super-fast broadband service would benefit from the infrastructure works.

82.14 Progress Reports:

A: The Clerk’s Progress Report:

Actions on the Clerk from the previous meeting:

- 68.14:** Cllrs Poate & Deeks to liaise with EA re: The Pound turfing etc: Done
- 68.14:** Clerk to contact ABC to get more information on Street-lighting issue. Done.
- 68.14:** Clerk to send dates of upcoming meetings to Melbreak Communities website: Done
- 69.14:** Clerk to inform the LDNPA of the views of the Council: Done
- 72.14:** Cllr Irlam to remove information Board from the supports: Done
- 73.14:** Cllr Deeks to complete work on Memorandum of Agreement: see below
- 74.14:** Clerk to inform local residents of current situation Re: Boon Beck Road: Done
- 74.14:** Clerk to talk to Kevin Cosgrove (CCC) re: traffic monitoring in Low Lorton: Done but with no satisfactory explanation (see previous minutes).
- 74.14:** Clerk to request Public Footpath sign at Low Swinside: Done
- 75.14:** Clerk to send out all payments: Done

Correspondence	For information	For action
CALC AGM invitation	X	X
LDNPA Allerdale Parishes Member: reports x 2	X	
Lorton Complaint: updates x 2	X	
LDNPA Partnership Plan	X	X

Great North Air Ambulance: request for a donation	X	X
CCC Budget constlation	X	X
CALC November newsletter	X	

B: Parish Maintenance Report:

The Pound Wall: Mark Tyson reported that the work on the wall undertaken by Gary Todhunter had now been completed as per the plans drawn up by Cllr. Deeks. Additional drainage has been put in to try an ensure that there is no pooling of rain water in the vicinity of the new wall. The exposed part of the Pound adjacent to the road is now ready for the work to be undertaken by Tolsons. There was some discussion with regard to the need for the Council to pay for a Minor Works on the Highway Licence. One Cumbria Highways officer has asked for the payment, another has suggested that there is no need for any payment to be made.

Mark Tyson informed the meeting that he had noticed some loose capping stones on the section of the wall by the bridge which would seem to indicate that this section of wall had been knocked again by large vehicles.

ACTION: The Clerk is to find out if any payment is required for the licence and then apply for the licence.

ACTION: Clerk to write on behalf of the Council and thank Mark Tyson for the work he has done on the wall and for his contribution to the works.

Street Lighting: An email has been received from Allerdale Borough Council indicating that no decision had been made with regard to accessing the fund set up by ENW to assist with the installation of new lights when those placed on ENW or BT poles were removed. However, it was reported that streetlight of concern in High Lorton had been replaced, presumably by Allerdale Borough Council.

The Parish Maintenance contract 2015: After some discussion it was agreed that the same contractor Richard McCree should be used to undertake the Parish maintenance work for 2015. Some additional areas in High Lorton would be added to the contract and this would mean an increase in the fee to be paid of some £200.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Richard McCree to discuss additional works and revised fee.

C: The Melbreak Communities Report:

Cllr. Poate informed the meeting that the organisation was still looking to recruit a new co-ordinator to replace Penny Poole and a new chair to replace John Hayton. The Coffee & Cake mornings continued to be well supported. There is to be a childrens disco held on December 18th for the children of the area. Ideas are still being sought in relation to the funding awarded to the group by Age UK.

83.14 Planning:

One new planning application has been received:

Ref: 7/2014/2269
Location: Land to the south of Lime Tree House Low Lorton
Proposal: Variation of replacement condition no. 2 on 7/2012/2158 - change to rooflights in rear (western) roof slope.
Response by: November 26th

After some discussion (see above) councillors voted 3 to 1, with 1 abstention, to object to this application on the grounds that had previously been given by both the LDNPA and the Planning Inspector.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the LDNPA of the views of the Council.

One planning application has been dealt with between meetings:

Ref: 7/2014/2245 (Resubmission of 7/2014/2037)
Location: Hobcarton, Low Lorton

Proposal: Demolition of existing bungalow and replacement with a single storey dwelling
A response of 'No objections' was sent.

Notice of Intention for Demolition (for information only)

Ref: 7/2014/2274
Location: The Bungalow, High Lorton
Proposal: Demolition of existing dilapidated bungalow and pre-cast concrete garage to create two new gardens. New opening to be formed in rear perimeter wall.

Notices of Grant of Planning Permission have been received for:

7/2014/2146: Swinside End Farm, Lorton - extension to existing cattle housing to cover yard & midden.
7/2014/2160: Brackenrigg, Low Lorton - conversion of attic space into bedroom accommodation.
7/2014/2082: Yew Tree View, High Lorton - vary condition to allow use of UPVC windows instead of wood.

84.14 The Christmas Newsletter:

Cllr. Sloan reported that she would still like some additional articles for the Christmas newsletter and that the deadline for submission is the end of November. It was agreed that this edition should be in colour and that there would be two adverts placed in the magazine, one from Border Hydro and one from The Wheatsheaf.

ACTION: Councillors and Clerk to submit articles and dates. Clerk to submit invoices to Border Hydro and The Wheatsheaf.

85.14 Report from the Police:

PCSO Adele Lyall had presented a written report that highlighted the following incident:

On the 3rd October a fuel tank was reported to have been punctured in the High Lorton area. Around £40 pounds worth of fuel had been taken. Enquires are ongoing into this incident.

86.14 Lorton Tennis Club Lease:

Cllr. Deeks reported that he had now completed the Memorandum of Agreement and would forward a copy to Cllr. Poate and Penny Lees of the Tennis Club for the various signatures.

Julian Cruickshank of the Tennis Club informed councillors that their bid to Sport England for funds to pay for additional lighting for Court 2 had been successful. The installation of the new lighting is still subject to planning permission but all being well work on this project should start in the New Year.

87.14 Highways issues:

Councillors reported that gully cleaning had been undertaken in parts of the Parish there were still issues regarding blocked gullies. The gully cleaning contractors are not paid to dig out blocked gullies or drains and don't rod blocked gullies that run under the roads. This means that some of the work undertaken is having little effect and not ensuring that drains and gullies run free when heavy rains come.

ACTION Clerk to report this issue to Cumbria Highways and highlight the specific problem areas that are known of.

88.14 Finance:

The Clerk had previously circulated a suggested draft budget for the financial year 2015/16 to councillors. He then talked the meeting through this budget looking at each of the seventeen budget headings and

recommending that there be no increase in the precept from £5,500. After some discussion councillors agreed the draft budget for the financial year 2015/16:

Proposed: Cllr. Deeks

Seconded: Cllr. Armstrong

It was further agreed to ask Jacques Hankin to continue in his role as internal auditor for the council.

It was agreed that a donation of £100 be given to the Great North Air Ambulance.

The Clerk reported that following payments were outstanding:

i: R. McCree Grounds maintenance Sept/Oct:	£250.00
ii: The Yew Tree Hall rent 2014/15:	£200.00
iii: Gary Todhunter (The Pound Wall):	£1,165.00
iv: Great North Air Ambulance:	£100.00

All councillors present agreed to these payments.

The balance of the PC account as per the latest bank statement, dated 15th October 2014 was £9,960.16p, this figure included recently received income from Awards for All of £2,000 and the second instalment of the Precept of £2,750. Taking into consideration the above payments, a yet to be cleared payment of £144.00p to Jamie McKenzie, the reconciled balance of the PC account as of 5th November 2014 is £7,761.16p.

ACTION: Clerk to send out all payments.

76.14 Items for the next meeting:

- Lorton School Play Area
- Feedback from CALC meetings
- LDNPA Draft Partnership Plan

77.14 Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 7th January 2015 at 7.30pm in The Yew Tree Hall.

Signed: _____

Chair

Date: _____

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