

Loweswater Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2nd March 2017 in Loweswater Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Mitchell (Chair), Leck, Todd, Walker & Meadley.

Apologies: Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Bowness (CCC) & Cllr. Annison (ABC)

Also in attendance: David Smith (Clerk).

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

13.17 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest.

14.17 Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the January meeting were accepted as an accurate record by the councillors present:

Proposed: Cllr. Leck

Seconded: Cllr. Meadley

The Chair duly signed them.

15.17 Public Participation:

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

16.17 The Clerk's Report:

The Clerk reported that after the January meeting he had undertaken the following actions:

04.17: Clerk to contact Cath Johnston to ask her to contact Cllr. Walker: Done and she has made contact.

04.17: Clerk to contact Allerdale BC again re: return of waste bin: Done & asked Cllr. Annison to assist.

04.17: Clerk to chase up the street-light issue in Mockerkin: Done and light now replaced.

04.17: Clerk to request quotes from local joiners re: notice-boards: little interest shown locally.

06.17: Cllr. Annison to provide Cllrs with an update on Mockerkin Hall: Done via officers from ABC

07.17: Clerk to send out all payments: Done

08.17: Clerk to inform the LDNPA of the views of the Council: Done

10.17: Clerk to request an update on works undertaken by Cumbria Highways: Done (see below)

10.17: Clerk to forward response of Cumbria Highways to Roger Hiley: Done

10.17: Clerk to report concerns to Highways Hotline: Done

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

Correspondence	For information	For action
LDNPA Allerdale Members Report: Dec & Jan	X	
CALC Newsletter: Feb	X	
Confirmation from Awards for All (Big Lottery Fund) grant of £400	X	
Allerdale Electoral Review Draft Recommendations consultation	X	X
Letter from Pensions regulator: Dec of Compliance	X	X

The Allerdale Electoral Review: the proposals will mean that Crummock Ward no longer contains Embleton which will become part of All Saints (Cockermouth) ward. Councillors had no objections to this proposal.

Councillor Resignation: Cllr. Walker has verbally submitted his resignation as from the March meeting due to increased work commitments. Cllr. Walker confirmed that he still wished to step down from the Council. The Chair thanked Cllr. Walker for all the work he had undertaken on behalf of the Council and for the support he had given her in their joint representation of the Mockerkin area. The chair also stated that his local knowledge would be much missed.

The Clerk confirmed that he would during the next two weeks place Vacancy notices on the boards and inform Allerdale Borough Council of Cllr. Walkers resignation. He further stated that, all being well, the Council should be in a position to co-opt a new Councillor at the May meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to place Vacancy notices on the boards and inform ABC of resignation.

17.17: Chairman's Announcements:

Cllr. Mitchell reiterated her thanks to Cllr. Walker for his work as a Parish Councillor over the last eight years before explaining that she had not attended any meetings recently as she had been abroad for much of the last two months. However, she had recently been invited to look round Mockerkin Hall by the new owners and she informed the meeting that various works were progressing on the Grade 2 listed building. The new owners were keen to move into the house but could not give a date as to when this was likely to happen.

The Chair reminded Councillors that there was a LDNPA Parishes meeting on March 13th in Thirlmere Recreation Hall at 7.00pm and she would be attending if any other Councillors would like a lift.

18.17: Update from Borough Councillor:

Cllr. Annison was not able to attend the meeting due to ill health and there was no report.

19.17 Finance:

The Clerk informed the meeting that the balance of the main account as of the most recent bank statement dated 15th February 2017 was £4,958.85p with all payments agreed at the last meeting having cleared through the account and a grant of £400 from Awards for All having been paid into the account. The balance of the reserve account was £2,361.49p thus giving a total balance of £7,320.34p

The Clerk reported that the following payments were outstanding:

- i. D. Smith Salary Qtr4: £293.20p
- ii. D. Smith Expenses Qtr 4: £72.00p
- iii. HMRC PAYE Qtr 4: £63.20p

Councillors agreed to these payments. Taking the above payments into account, the total reconciled balance of the two accounts as of 2nd March 2017 was £6,891.94.

ACTION: Clerk to send out all payments.

20.17 The Notice-boards Project:

The Chair explained that, in light of the difficulty in getting quotes for the work, the Clerk had put together two additional costings using firms from the internet. The following quotes were the three options:

Company	Cost of Boards	Additional costs	Installation costs	Total
Greenbarnes Ltd., Brackley, Northants	£2,915 Inc 4 x posts	£640 4 x headers	£200 estimated	£3,755 Plus VAT
The Acorn Workshop, West Sussex	£2,280 Inc 4 x posts	£360 4 x headers	£200 estimated	£2,840 Plus VAT

W.S. Reid Ltd., Aspatria	£2,320 Inc 4 x headers	£100 4 x posts	Included	£2,420 Plus VAT
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After some discussion it was agreed to accept the quote from W. S. Reid Ltd., at £2,420 plus VAT, on the understanding that the firm would be able to undertake and complete the work by the end of June 2017.

It was noted that the Council could reclaim the VAT.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the successful firm and ask if they are able to complete the work by the end of June.

21.17 Planning:

There were no new planning applications to consider.

Two planning applications had been dealt with between meetings:

Ref: 7/2017/2008
 Location: Gillerthwaite, Loweswater CA13 0RU
 Proposal: Extensions & alterations
 Reply by: 16th February 2017

A response of '**No Objections**' was sent on February 16th 2017.

Ref: 7/2017/2005
 Location: Crabtreebeck Cottage, Loweswater CA13 0RU
 Proposal: Installation of underground LPG tank
 Reply by: 22nd February 2017

A response of '**No Objections**' was sent on February 16th 2017.

Councillors duly noted the above.

21.17 Report from the Police:

The Clerk reported that, according to the police website there had been no reported incidents in the parish, though the website had not been updated since December. Councillors were not aware of any recent incidents occurring in the Parish.

It was noted that not only was the website out of date but it was also user unfriendly.

22.17 Highways issues:

The Clerk went through the update as provided by Cumbria Highways:

1. Pot hole has re-emerged at the top of Fangs Brow.
Part of the resurfacing scheme for the coming year but a more permanent temporary patch will be put in place. This work has now been done.
2. 'Slow' signs on the road in the Waterend area need to be re-painted.
This has been passed to the Traffic team who have put in an order for the repainting of the lines. This work is weather dependent but will be done within the current works order.
3. The gully under the road in the Pinfold area needs to be cleared.
The gully has recently been cleaned using a power jet.

4. Gullies in the vicinity of Church Bridge and the Kirkstile need to be cleared.
This work has recently been undertaken.
5. Uneven road surface beyond Thrushbank
This is part of the 2017/18 resurfacing programme.
6. Breaking away of the road edge and associated pot holes on the Mockerkin to Fangs road
This is part of the 2017/18 resurfacing programme.
7. Pinchpoint in Mockerkin - larger lorries
This has been passed to the Traffic team to assess and evaluate.
8. Blockages in the beck under the bridge at Waterend
Photos attached indicate that the clearance levels under the bridge have not changes dramatically over many years. Water levels will be monitored but no work is planned.
9. Large pothole on the Sosgill Road just beyond the last house.
Work has been undertaken.
10. Blocked gully to the east of Thrushbank
Work has been undertaken.
11. Drains and gullies by Stonebarns house in Mockerkin need cleaning
Work has been undertaken

Cllr. Todd, who had observed some of the above works being undertaken suggested that a letter of thanks should be sent to Cumbria Highways to show the appreciation of the Parish Council for the work done by Andrew Ginn and Michael Murphy of the Cumbria Highways team. All those present agreed.

ACTION: Clerk to write a letter of thanks and send to John Smitham.

The Chair informed the meeting that she had driven to the end of the Old Mosser Road and noted that Cumbria Highways had not yet installed a 'Don't Follow Your Sat Nav' sign as had been promised.

ACTION Clerk to chase this up with Cumbria Highways.

Additional highways concerns raised by Councillors were:

- Various blocked drains in the Mockerkin area (by Dancing Pastures, Beechcroft Farm, just beyond the village sign at the Loweswater end of the village, by Kilndale Farm and by Mid-town.)
- Stones washed onto the road mid-way between the A5086 and the western entrance to the village

ACTION: Clerk to report the above to Cumbria Highways.

23.17 Melbreak Communities Update:

Cllr. Mitchell read out a report from Cllr. Robinson who had attended the most recent meeting of the Melbreak Communities group on behalf of the Council.

Among the items discussed at the meeting were Community Energy, Coffee & Cake sessions, all of which have now been booked for the coming year, insurance cover for the group and the Emergency Plan.

Glenis Postlethwaite informed the meeting that the Community Energy sub-group that she was involved in would initially be looking at energy saving ideas such as draft proofing etc. It had also been agreed that a

small-scale community hydro scheme should be further investigated and a number of potential sites will be investigated in the coming months.

Upcoming meetings are: April 4th AGM: Cllrs. Robinson and Mitchell are to liaise with regard to which of them will attend on behalf of the Council.

24.17 Date of next meeting:

Thursday 4th May 2017 at 8.00pm. The Annual Parish Meeting followed by the May meeting of the Council.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chair

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