

Loweswater Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on:

Tuesday 3rd November 2015 at Loweswater Village Hall

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

Also in attendance: Cllr. Annison (ABC) & David Smith (Clerk).

84.15 **Apologies:** Cllr. Robinson & CCC Cllr. Bowness.

Cllr. Mitchell, the Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

85.15 **Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr. Todd declared an interest in the Planning agenda item.

86.15 **Minutes of previous meeting:**

The minutes of the September meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record as:

Proposed: Cllr. Meadley

Seconded: Cllr. Leck

The Chair duly signed them.

87.15 **Public Participation:**

No items were raised under this agenda item.

88.15 **Clerk's Report:**

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

- 73.15: Clerk to look into who owns the land at Thackthwaite: See below
- 73.15: Clerk to inform Allerdale BC of agreement of land-owner re: new street-light: Done
- 74.15: Clerk to complete Call for Evidence response form and send to OND: Done
- 75.15: Clerk to send out information on various types of notice-board: Done
- 76.15: Clerk to send out all payments: Done
- 79.15: Clerk to report issues to Highways Hotline: Done
- 79.15: Clerk to report street-light problem to Allerdale BC: Done, see below
- 80.15: Clerk to send documents for placement on Melbreak Communities website: Done

The Clerk reported that the following correspondence had been received since the last meeting:

Correspondence	For information	For action
LDNPA Allerdale Members Report: Aug & Sept	X	
CALC Newsletter: Sept & Oct	X	
LDNPA: Notice of Planning Applications	X	
CALC Annual Report	X	

Land at Thackthwaite: The Clerk reported that he had been informed by the Commons Land Registration Office in Carlisle that the land at Thackthwaite was not on the Register of Common Land. It was agreed that prior to making enquiries with the Land Registry office in Durham, Cllr. Meadley was to make enquiries regarding the ownership of the land with Ann Hayton.

ACTION: Cllr. Meadley to make further enquiries.

ACTION: The Clerk to contact Cllr. Meadley in mid November.

Mockerkin street-light: Allerdale BC required letters from Loweswater PC officially requesting the replacement light together with a letter from the land-owners stating they were happy to have a replacement light placed on their land. Both letters have now been sent. Confirmation has been received from ABC that the street-light will be installed shortly (work carried out on Wednesday 4th November) and that ENW would then connect it to the nearby electricity supply.

89.15 Chairman's Announcements:

The Chair reported back from the recent LDNPA Parishes meeting at which an update was given on the LDNPA application to become a World Heritage Site. A decision is expected in 2017.

The 'Miles without Stiles' programme was discussed. Cllr. Astley informed the meeting that there were three 'Miles without Stiles' footpaths in the local area but the problem with the programme was that whilst there was funding for the creation of wheel-chair footpaths, funding for the maintenance of the paths was very difficult to come by.

Also on the agenda at the meeting had been the NW Coastal Connections project that will see new power lines heading both north and south from the proposed new nuclear power station at Moorclose by Sellafield. The pylons to be used are going to be twice as high as those currently in use and on part of the route south the pylons will be sited within the National Park in the Ravenglass area. The LDNPA would prefer to see the new power lines buried underground, as they have been in other NP's, and Parishes were encouraged to write to the National Grid, as part of the consultation process, to express their views on the current proposals.

ACTION: The Clerk is to write to the National Grid urging them to develop an underground option for the new power lines.

90.15 Report from the Borough Councillor:

Cllr. Annison provided an update on Mockerkin Hall in which he stated that officers at ABC were still pursuing the matter and were going to undertake an internal inspection with a view to serving a further Section 215 notice on the owner. Cllr. Walker stated that the detached outbuilding was now in a serious state of disrepair and that local residents were concerned about a wall falling into the adjacent road.

Cllr. Annison reported that as a member of the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee he was currently looking into youth unemployment which in many parts of Allerdale was both high and persistent.

The recently announced cuts to the police budget had not taken into account the rural nature of Cumbria and Cllr. Annison suggested that the Parish Council should write to the local MP with any concerns they might have with regard to this issue.

A new blue sign has now been installed on the Mosser Road informing users that it was not suitable for motor vehicles beyond that point. However, this still did not prevent a recent incident where a large lorry, following a sat nav, got stuck after ignoring the sign.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Jamie Reed MP re: cuts to the Police budget.

91.15 Parish Notice-boards:

The Clerk handed round some example of notice-boards together with prices and there followed a general discussion about the need for new notice-boards and the type that would be most appropriate to the area.

It was agreed that Oak boards would be the best type and that the Clerk should put together an outline proposal for funding and let Cllr. Annison have it to see if funds would be forthcoming from Allerdale BC.

ACTION: Clerk to pass on proposal to Cllr. Annison.

92.15 Draft Budget 16/17:

The Clerk took councillors through the various budget headings in the proposed draft budget for the coming financial year. Most of the expected costs associated with each of the budget headings would remain the same for the coming year with three exceptions.

It was proposed that the Clerks salary would increase from Scale Point 18 to Scale Point 20 and that there would be an increase in monthly hours worked from 11 to 12 to more accurately reflect the work undertaken. It was further proposed that the amount charged by the Clerk to cover IT, internet and phone use, i.e. office costs, would be increased from £5.00 per month to £8.00.

There followed a discussion on grounds maintenance with the Chair informing councillors that a volunteer had been recruited to undertake work on Mockerkin Green during 2016. Thus it was agreed that this budget heading should be reduced from £500.00 to £250.00.

The expected expenditure for 2016/17 was given as £2,481.00 and the Clerk recommended that there should be no change in the precept of £2,450.00.

The draft budget for 2016/17 was agreed by the councillors present.

93.15 Council Finance:

The Clerk reported that the balance in the main account, with all cheques cleared, as per the bank statement 15/10/15 was £2,584.77p. The amount in the Business Money Manager Account was £2,359.16p thus giving a total balance of £4,943.93p.

There was one payment to be agreed:

Richard McCree Grounds Maintenance Sept & Oct: £120.00p

The above payments were agreed by councillors.

The reconciled balance of the Council accounts as of November 3rd 2015 was £2,464.77p in the main account which, together with the monies in the reserve account, gave a total reconciled balance of £4,823.93p.

ACTION: Clerk to send out all payments.

94.15 Planning Matters:

There was one new planning application to discuss.

Ref: 7/2015/2223
Location: Lowpark, Loweswater, Cockermouth, CA13 0RU
Proposal: Conversion and part re-build of byre to create one dwelling
Reply by: 3rd November 2015

After some discussion councillors agreed that they should 'OBJECT' to the above planning application for the following reasons:

1. It is unclear from the application whether the proposed development is for local occupancy use or for holiday letting.
2. Access: it is felt that this development would disrupt public use of the adjacent bridleway and would lead to increased vehicular use of the said bridleway.
3. It was felt that the proposed sewage treatment element of the development was not appropriate to the site.
4. The development would provide little if any community benefit.

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

Planning application dealt with between meetings:

Ref: PB/2015/0103
Location: Phone box near Kirkstile Inn, Loweswater
Proposal: Removal of telephone and replace with defibrillator in kiosk
A response of 'No Objections' was sent.

Notice of Planning Permissions Agreed/Refused:

Ref: 7/2015/2150: Crabtree Beck, Loweswater - conversion of redundant barn to dwelling: REFUSED
Ref: 7/2015/2150: Crabtree Beck, Loweswater - conversion of redundant barn to dwelling: Listed Building Consent REFUSED

Councillors noted the above refusal of an application that they had no objections to.

95.15 Report from the Police:

A report from the Police had been received in which it was stated that there had been three incidents in the parish reported to the police since the September meeting.

On the 21st September 2015 the Police attended the Loweswater area after a member of the public discovered a human bone. Police investigations into the incident are ongoing. It is believed that the bone is of some age and the Police are working with an archaeologist to gain more information.

