

Loweswater Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd May 2018
at Loweswater Village Hall**

Meeting opened: - The chairman declared the meeting open at 8.00pm.

Present: Cllrs K Mitchell, L Meadley, K Leck.

Cumbria County Councillor and Allerdale District. None present

Clerk: Mike Milner, plus 1 member of the public.

Apologies for absence: Cllrs R Thompson (LPC) C Todd (LPC) M Astley (LPC)
D Robinson (LPC) A Bowness (CCC)

27.00 Apologies for absence

27.01 As noted above.

28.00 Declarations of interest. None

29.00 To read and approve the minutes of the last annual general meeting of Loweswater parish council held on Thursday 4th May 2017.

29.01 Minutes proposed for acceptance by L.M and 2nd by K.L and unanimously accepted by the council. Chairman signed as a true copy.

30.00 Chairman's report.

30.01 Cllr K.M presented her report. A 2 page copy of which is attached at the end of these minutes.

31.00 Election of Chairman

31.01 Cllr L.M proposed that K Mitchell be returned as chair for the coming year, this was 2nd by Cllr K.L and unanimously agreed by council. Cllr K.M accepted the position and thanked Cllrs for their support. Acceptance of office form signed.

32.00 Election of Vice chairman.

32.01 Cllr K.M proposed that Mrs. K Leck be returned as vice chair, which was 2nd by Cllr L.M and unanimously agreed by council. Cllr K.L accepted and thanked Cllrs for their continued support.

33.00 Receive and approve the Loweswater Parish accounts for the year end March 2018.

33.01 Clerk confirmed that former clerk had handed over the accounts for the year 2017/18, duly audited by David Walmsley as required. Clerk to write to D.W and thank him for his years of service as auditor, as he was now retiring from the task.

33.02 Clerk explained that government had changed external auditors to PKF and PKF had changed the rules of presentation. As Loweswater had neither income or expenditure that exceeded £25k the council could complete and forward a certificate of exemption. He and the chair then duly signed that certificate.

33.03 Clerk then showed Cllrs the annual Internal Audit report signed by D.W

33.04 Clerk then went through the annual Governance Statement and ticked boxes 1 to 8 in the Yes column. That was then signed by chair and clerk.

33.05 The annual accounting statement for 2017/18 was then presented and approved by the council and duly signed by the clerk and chair.

33.06 Clerk to complete the minute reference boxes on forms where appropriate, forward relevant documents to PKF and arrange for all documents being placed on the Melbreak Communities website.

34.00 Public participation

34.01 No public participation other than a thank you from the member of the public present to the chair and Cllrs for their continued efforts over the past year.

That concluded the business of the meeting and the chair thanked all present for their respective contributions and closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

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Loweswater Parish Council Chairman's Report – May 2018

Welcome to the Loweswater Annual Parish meeting

This is the third annual report I have completed as Chair of Loweswater PC - this year seems to have been particularly busy! Events that have occurred over the 12 months, since my last Chair's report, include:-

David Smith our Parish Clerk for over 7 years retired at the end of March 2018. We were fortunate in recruiting Mike Milner as his successor, an experienced clerk who, although he has not been with us for long, has already been very busy on our behalf. I would like to officially welcome Mike and will look forward to working with him further.

Rachel was welcomed as a new member of the Parish Council this time last year, stepping in to replace Geoff; and we are grateful to her for attending and feeding back from Melbreak Communities meetings. From this Emergency Plan leaflets have been distributed to each household within the parish, and we now have better access to equipment that can be used to help avert flood waters.

The noticeboard project was completed and an official 'opening' event was held in October, at Loweswater Village Hall, with Mr Alan Smith, Leader of Allerdale Borough Council in attendance; there was remarkably good press coverage of this. It is pleasing to note that, where possible, the old noticeboards have been recycled and put to good use within the wider community.

A laptop computer was obtained via the Transparency fund to help ensure that the Parish Council is able to comply with the Government's Transparency Code, which aims to improve clarity of local government finances by making them available digitally.

Some progress has been made on highways issues, including installation of salt bins in Mockerkin, replacement of a street light in Sosgill and obtaining a new bin for the layby at Loweswater. There are some ongoing issues, such as signage to alert drivers not to follow their Satnav on the Mosser fell road; and further response to the letter requesting that the valley road is gritted during icy spells. However, plans are in place for further road re-surfacing within the parish this financial year.

5 residential planning applications have been reviewed, 4 of which went through with 'No Objections' and one was withdrawn. Though not a statutory consulting body, a letter of concern was also sent to BT regarding placing poles along a narrow road to bring fibre broadband to Mockerkin.

Regular updates relating to the LDNPA, from the North Distinctive Area Member Geoff Davis, continue to be received on a regular basis.

The 2018-19 precept has been increased by 2% to assist in recruiting and covering the new clerk's salary; and enable ongoing work, for example at Thackthwaite following removal of

the two potentially dangerous, larch trees. However, small donations have been made to both the Air Ambulance and St Bartholomew's church, Loweswater.

Although there are several ongoing issues, such as the state of Mockerkin Hall, progress has been made in numerous areas. There are many people to thank for their input in enabling the work of the Parish Council, such as:-

Mike Starkie – the Mockerkin resident who has continued to maintain the village green.
David and Dianne Hayton who have helped in keeping the parish area in Thackthwaite tidy.
David Warmsley for auditing our finances.

Tony Annison who regularly inputs to our meetings; and continues to chase up issues with Allerdale Borough Council.

Alan Bowness, who keeps us up to date on County Council matters, particularly those regarding highways.

Last but not least, a big 'thank you' to my fellow Councillors and clerk for their help and support; without which the past year would have been considerably less successful.

Thank you

Kathryn Mitchell
Loweswater Parish Council Chair
May 2018