

Buttermere Parish Council

Minutes of the annual general meeting of Buttermere Parish Council held on Tuesday 31st May 2022 at The Old School Room, Buttermere followed by May parish council meeting.

The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Y Kahane (chair), J Temple, A McGuire, R Wilkinson, H Fear Davies, K Beard, E Beard (vice chair)

District and County Councillors: Cllr A Bowness (CCC), Jill Perry (Cumberland Shadow Councillor)

Clerk: Mike Milner.

Apologies for absence: L Kyle (BPC).

286.00 Apologies. As noted above.

287.00 Appoint a chairman and vice-chairman for the coming year.

287.01 Cllr Y K, the current chair advised that she was prepared stand again as parish chair' and Cllr K B proposed her and Cllr J T seconded the proposal. No other nominations, Cllr Y K elected.

287.02 Chair advised that the current vice chair Cllr E B had indicated that due to business commitments he did not to continue as vice chair. After a brief discussion Cllr H F-D offered herself as open to taking the position if fellow Cllrs so wished. Cllr J T immediately proposed her and that was seconded by Cllr A M and unanimously approved.

287.03 declaration of office forms will be signed at September meeting.

288.00 Declaration of Interest. None

289.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Buttermere parish council meeting held on Tuesday 1st March 2022 as a true record.

289.01 Clerk confirmed that two typos had been changed and wording attributed to Cllr H F-D had been amended to confirm no professional consultation implied with regard to the church organ bequest. Cllrs unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 1st March 2022.

290.00 Public Participation. Limited to 15 minutes, inc' clerks updates.

290.01 No reports from last meeting and no public present this month.

291.00 District and County Councillors Reports.

291.01 Cllr A B (CCC) advised that he had not stood for re-election as a councillor to the shadow Cumberland Council taking over when the Unitary Council to be known as the Cumberland Council from April 2023 becomes the legal entity. He asked if there were still any outstanding issues he could pursue on behalf of the council? Cllrs were happy with the extended yellow lines, but concerned about new Passing Places signage being proposed, he would investigate.

291.02 He concluded by thanking Buttermere for the courtesy he had received over the past 8 years and was not sure if he would visit again before the Unitary Council took over.

291.03 The newly elected shadow Cumberland Councillor Jill Perry was at the meeting. She had been elected at the May 5th 2022 and she is part of the new unitary council which will shadow the existing county and borough councils until April 2023 when they take over the rolls of the existing councils as the unitary authority. Cllr J P advised that they had held one meeting, at which they adopted the new council's Constitution was a document created by government. Their next meeting would be in July 2022. She had nothing else to report.

291.04 Chair thanked both Cllrs for attending the meeting and invited both to stay for the rest of the meeting. Cllr A B declined the offer but Cllr J P accepted the invitation.

292.00 Police Matters.

292.01 Clerk had circulated police e-newsletters as appropriate. He advised that he refrained from circulating the numerous missing person emails.

293.00 Applications for development. None for consideration.

294.00 Receive and approve the parish council accounts for the financial year 2021/22. Consider and approve the 2021/22 Certificate of Exemption, Annual Internal Audit Report 2021/22, Accounting Statement 2021/22, Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 plus receive the bank reconciliation and variance report for 21/22. Draft documents circulated prior to meeting to all councillors.

294.01 Clerk had been asked to clarify by the chair why the expenditure ledger showed a payment ref 65a, b, c, d and a sum of £2000. He explained there was a £500 maximum daily payment limit therefore it required 4 equal payments of £500 to complete the transfer. It was part of the internet banking security.

294.02 Clerk then went through the various documents he had circulated and he and the chair signed where necessary once they had been approved by the councillors.

294.03 Certificate of Exemption, AGAR 2021/22 Part 2. This confirms that the parish has neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25k. Inspected by councillors and signed by clerk and chair.

294.04 clerk had circulated the signed Annual Internal Audit Report. Internal audit had taken place 8/10/21 and 25/04/22. All boxes correctly ticked, and no issues or recommendations raised by the auditor.

294.05 Annual Governance Statement. Clerk read the content of the 9 boxes on the form and at each statement to be ticked Yes box with Cllrs approval. Cllr H F-D enquired about the Finance Code and risk assessment; clerk confirmed the relevant docs would be presented later in the year for councillors to re-affirm. Document signed by clerk and chair.

294.06 Finally the accounting statement, which had been circulated was approved by councillors and again was duly signed by RFO and chair.

294.07 Advised that he had presented the bank rec and the variance statement as the difference in boxes 3 and 6 were greater than the 10% allowance. Due purely to the £2k bequest received and paid to the local church for organ repair.

295.00 Buttermere traffic, parking and tourist issues this year.

295.01 Cllrs all agreed that the parking problems in Buttermere were greatly reduced by the "Meet and Greet" warden that LDNP had provided as part of the traffic management plan.

Also, the additional yellow lines had eased some of the pinch point areas, but when the bluebells were in full bloom the problems remained at Rannerdale and immediate area.

295.02 Cllr J T explained that he had allowed his field at Rannerdale to be used as overflow parking and NT had advised that this year, NT would man the parking facility and make a one off payment to Cllr J T of £400, which he had not yet received, but he still had to pay the annual rent on the field and had the loss of use for stock during parking use.

295.03 Cllr K B pointed out that the traffic Action plan promised in early March had not appeared until 27th April, only after the clerk had requested it. It was thin on actual actions to be undertaken and it was supposed to be updated every month. Clerk requested to contact NT raise the issue of the payment to Cllr J T, who would raise an invoice and clerk to request if the plan had been updated since its first issue to reflect experiences on the ground. Clerk to also write to LDNP and thank them for the benefits the area felt while the meet and greet team were in the village.

295.04 Cllr A M asked if the signage for the public toilets could be reinstated and made more visible as all business owners were getting public requests to use the businesses facilities as signage to the public toilet block not visible. Clerk to make the request.

296.00 Crummock Water. The dam removal.

296.01 Cllr H F-D had researched the old documentation that was available online and advised that the original objective was always to remove the dam once the water usage from Crummock Water was terminated. As she pointed out it has been in place for 60 years and there was going to be an issue with long term maintenance which must be considered.

296.02 Cllr J T pointed out that he had seen photographs taken prior to the dam being installed and if it was removed the islands would again become part of the main land mass as the waters dropped. Cllrs decided that clerk to contact UU, register the parish council's interest in what action UU were to undertake and ask to be kept advised.

297.00 Renewal of Buttermere parish council annual insurance with Zurich.

297.01 Clerk reminded the councillors that the parish council was in a long-term agreement with Zurich Insurance and the renewal this year was £144.59, exactly the same as the previous year. The parish has to have insurance. Cllrs approved the renewal.

298.00 Update on Hydro scheme in Buttermere.

298.01 Chair Cllr Y K admitted that the challenge of dealing with all the red tape that the project was creating is very arduous, but slowly the project moves forward. She hoped that by the next parish council meeting in September she would be able to confirm that obstacles had been overcome and a planning application was in place.

299.00 Progress reports, clerk.

299.01 Clerk had reported the 6' 6" sign at the bottom of the road up to Buttermere, minute 282.04 refers, and a road narrows sign seemed to have appeared.

299.02 further to minute 282.01 the clerk had investigated "Traffic Signs, Regulations and General Direction" legislation, TSRGD. Within TSRGD there are 19 separate schedules covering all possible road signs. Schedule 11 and within that schedule at subsection 11 of its 86 subsections, Passing Place signs were covered. A white background with black lettering measuring 450mm up to 600mm width and height displaying Passing Place was the approved sign and provided it conformed to that specification, no planning application or approval was necessary. Clerk recommended TSRGD as an insomnia cure.

299.03 Clerk had renewed the laptop McAfee annual internet anti-virus via Amazon £9.99.

300.00 Buttermere Councillors reports,

300.01 Cllr A M raised the issue of the growth of gorse on roadsides approaching Buttermere, clerk again to contact NT, the land owners.

301.00 Correspondence

301.01 Clerk had received the annual Calc membership subscription renewal, totalling £87.32. He advised that the parish now has just 74 electors.

301.02 Clerk advised he had received many emails from a non-parish resident objecting to fluoride in the village water supply and the change of the name at the old Fish Inn to Buttermere Court Hotel. He had advised the emails author to please stop the correspondence and not use his name or that of the parish council in emails sent to third parties implying that either he or the council supported their campaigns.

301.03 Clerk had had email exchanges with Jack Ellerby of Friends of the Lakes and its Dark Skies project about contacting Buttermere Court Hotel lighting, to resolve the issues.

301.04 Parish council had finally received a copy of the NT/LDNP Traffic Management Plan on 27th April.

301.05 Received and circulated the holiday season Buttermere Shuttle bus timetable.

301.06 Reminders received from HSBC about online safety and an updated set of Banking Business Terms that come into use in August.

301.07 clerk read an email he had received the previous day about a Trail Pursuit which had been based at Gatesgarth over the weekend. The email's author complained about the events lack of organisation and level of noise in the evening. Clerk had responded and advised that not a parish council matter and forwarded the email to LDNP for their comments.

301.08 Cllrs were aware that the original course was on NT land, but NT had forbidden use of their land. Cllrs wondered how that could be the case as surely a public footpath is by definition a Public Right of Way. Clerk would continue to monitor the situation and advise Cllrs accordingly.

302.00 Payments for Approval

Intpay66, M Milner, 223.39, salary 2 months April to May £196.00, Exp' £27.39

Intpay67, HMRC, PAYE, £48.80, 2 months

Intpay68, Calc, £87.32, Annual Calc submission.

Intpay69, Zurich Insurance, £144.59, annual parish insurance renewal.

All approved

303.00 Date and time of the next meeting. Tuesday 6th September 2022 at 7.30pm at Old School Room, Buttermere.

Meeting closed 8.48pm