

Buttermere Parish Council

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 6th December 2022 in The Old School Room at 7.30pm.

The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.32pm

Present: Cllrs Y Kahane (chair), H Fear Davies (v chair), E Beard, L Kyle, J Temple, K Beard.

District and County Councillors: J Perry Unitary Shadow Councillor

Clerk: Mike Milner. Russell Adams (planning agent) 2 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: A McGuire, R Wilkinson (both BPC)

324.00 Apologies. As noted above.

325.00 Declaration of Interest. None

326.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Buttermere parish council meeting held on Tuesday 6th September 2022 as a true record. Also approve the minutes of the meeting 11th October 2022, covering visitor management with LDNP and NT agencies.

326.01 Both minutes were approved by councillors present at that meeting and duly signed.

327.00 Development applications, 7/2022/2269, Hope Farm Barn.

327.01 For this application the agent for the applicant and two neighbours of the barn under discussion were present. The chair invited the agent to make his statement on behalf of the applicant and then the members of the public made their presentation of objection.

327.02 The agent explained that according to local housing plan there was a need for this development, although his client was not proposing to undertake the development, this was just an outline proposal. Documents had been circulated by the clerk, the agent explained vehicle access would be by its furthest point from other buildings in the cluster and parking would be at the back of the barn not on the roadside. The objective was to get a change of use from agricultural building to residential building. The agent pointed out the property would have to have local occupancy clause. The members of the public then made their presentation as to why the application should not be approved.

327.03 The councillors then consider the application and the information from the participants. There was much discussion about local occupancy and its effectiveness. Then the need for such a large residential property in an area dominated by smaller holiday dwellings was considered.

327.04 The chair finally asked for a show of hands in favour of the application and then against it. The result was 5 against the application, one abstention. Clerk to make the appropriate submission to planning department. The chair thanked the agent and members of the public for their attendance.

327.01 Public participation, none present.

328.00 Police Matters.

328.01 Clerk had as normal circulated the police e newsletters as they were issued.

329.00 District and County Councillors Reports.

329.01 Shadow Cllr J P advised that she was sorry but she had failed to establish any concrete information about the circulation of licensing events in the area, she had received a rather vague email response about no current calendar dates available. She reminded Cllrs about Dark Skies and the Cllrs were not aware of any change of the lighting situation at the former Fish Hotel.

330.00 Finalise the submission to LDNP in respect of the scoping document reference 7/2022/0001S0. Proposed document circulated by Cllr H F-D prior to the meeting.

330.01 Cllr H F-D had circulated a lengthy document on the scoping issue at Crummock Water. There were serious concerns about Loweswater and Buttermere traffic problems being exacerbated by United Utilities use of Lanthwaite Wood Carpark during the construction phase thus reducing public parking. The lowering of Crummock Water would enlarge the beach areas and councillors were aware that the drop into deep water would be closer to the water's edge, a cold-water lake and drowning issues.

330.02 Cllrs all agreed that the document was as comprehensive as it possibly could be and that the clerk should submit on behalf the parishes of Buttermere, Lorton and Loweswater.

331.00 Receive and approve the audited parish council accounts for 6 months to 30th September 2022. All documents distributed prior to the meeting.

331.01 Clerk had circulated the audited half yearly accounts with a copy of ledgers, bank reconciliation and the appropriate bank statement confirming ledgers and bank were correctly reconciled to the 30th September.

331.02 There were no questions and Cllrs unanimously approved the accounts.

332.00 Approve replacement of Buttermere parish laptop and make an annual reserve within precept for future replacement.

332.01 Clerk was able to announce that after his lengthy trials and tribulations with the laptop, he had actually finally discovered that by forcing the laptop to accept an update to Windows 10 version 22H2 he could report that the laptop was operating in an acceptable fashion.

332.02 Clerk did though think it appropriate that Cllrs should approve an annual laptop reserve of £100 to cover future replacement costs, plus an agreement that as the laptop had displayed a possible electronic malfunction, he could have permission to purchase, in an emergency, a replacement laptop around £450 ex VAT if required. Cllrs unanimously agreed the annual £100 additional budget allowance in the precept and that if a replacement was necessary, one could be obtained. As the council only meet 4 times a year, no time to be wasted using clerk's own laptop which would not have all the parish material unless downloaded from one of the back-up systems.

333.00 . Receive an update on budget for financial year 2022/23 and consider the budget presented for 23/24. Finalise the precept figure for 2023/24. Budget spreadsheet and budget notes to be circulated. Budget submission required 6th January 2023 to Allerdale.

333.01 Clerk had circulated the budget documents and associated notes. The notes showed that there would be a likely deficit at the end of this financial year of £146. The precept for the current year was £2220 and the budget forecast by the clerk was £2679, which included the £100 for the laptop replacement contingency and also a figure of £120 for training. After various calculations, expertly carried out by Cllr E B, displaying his excellent mental arithmetical dexterity, the Cllrs unanimously agreed to remove the training allowance from the budget figure and then set the precept request at £2500 for 2023/24.

333.02 Clerk pointed out that the biggest outlay for the parish is the cost of the clerk. However, as a parish council they were achieving a lot of parish specific projects, visitor management, broadband updates and the Crummock Water project as well as the ordinary more repetitive issues, they were proactive. Did they want to be amalgamated with another adjacent parish? No was the unanimous response.

334.00 Report by chair Cllr Y K on meeting with Tony Watson of LDNP as a result of actions proposed at the extraordinary October meeting and other actions taken.

334.01 The chair Cllr Y K reported back on her recent meeting with Tony Watson, LDNP, about Buttermere toilets and how they were charged, could they be free at point of use and local businesses have toilet locks that would restrict their toilet use to their patrons. As the options were discussed it was decided that the best solution was for the effected local businesses should have a joint meeting with Tony and that perhaps the Bridge Hotel should be the venue. Clerk to organise with Cllr A M.

335.00 Progress reports, clerk.

335.01 Clerk confirmed that he spent a lot of time on Crummock Water and also the visitor management meeting and project.

335.02 Clerk advised that he had reported the kerbs that Cllr L K had spoken about at the September meeting and as far as he understood they had been repaired. However, Cllr L K told the meeting the repairs undertaken had just been hardcore which had washed away again. Clerk to chase again.

335.03 The road sweeper has been requested for the usual annual build up of leaves in the drains.

335.04 The ongoing broadband speed project has again moved forward and the clerk was going to provide all the Cllrs addresses to his Cumbria CC contact to get the village brought back to the fore of the issue.

335.05 Cllr L K stated that the drain outside his entrance was still a problem, long promised gully repairs under the rod towards the beck are still outstanding.

336.00 Buttermere Councillors reports,

336.01 The Hydro Project is moving on but waiting for permissions and a few other issues to be settled. We are forming a Community Benefit Society to be able to raise a share offer, hopefully in the Spring, and proceed to construction next Summer, dependent on those final permissions and issues being sorted.

336.02 Cllr J T advised that he had been approached by NT to rent out his field at Hause Point to them, for an evening Big Screen event. Cllrs thought that such a scheme was beyond believe and requested the clerk contact NT to establish the full facts.

337.00 Correspondence

337.01 Allerdale Borough Council had requested the precept figure be returned by Friday 6th January. All paperwork had been supplied electronically.

337.02 Invoice received from auditor S Morgan, £60 to cover the annual year end audit 21/22 and the recent half yearly 22/23 audit. £30 each.

337.03 Frequent HSBC advice on keeping accounts safe.

337.04 Great North Air Ambulance had sent their annual request for a donation. It is not something the parish council normally contributes to. No change of policy.

337.05 Clerk had successfully rescinded the HMRC late penalty notice.

337.06 After the last note a further to subsequent penalties have been issued and he has appealed them.

338.00 Payments for Approval

Intpay74, M Milner, £269.60, salary 2 months Sept/Oct paid 2/11/2022

Intpay75, HMRC, PAYE, £53.80, 2 months Sept/Oct paid 2/11/2022

Intpay76, M Milner, £142.86, Salary £107.80 Nov, Exp £35.06

Intpay77, HMRC, PAYE, £27.00, Nov.

Intpay78, Simone Morgan, £60.00, audit fees.

HSBC Bank Charges £8 per month up to and including Nov, £24.00

All approved

339.00 Date and time of the next meeting. Tuesday 7th March 7.30pm, at Old School Room, Buttermere. An additional extraordinary meeting is to be held 21st February 2023 to discuss additional visitor management updates and invite local police chief, at Old School Room.

Meeting closed 9.03pm