

Buttermere Parish Council

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 5th September 2023 in The Old School Room at 7.30pm.

The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs H Fear Davies (chair), Y Kahane, J Temple (vice chair) K Beard, L Kyle, Cumberland Councillor, Jill Perry.

Clerk: Mike Milner. Peter Walter, North Distinctive Area Representative.

Apologies for absence: R Wilkinson (BPC), E Beard (BPC) A Maguire (BPC)

382.00 Apologies. As noted above.

383.00 Declaration of Interest. None

384.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Buttermere parish council meeting held on Tuesday 31st May 2022 as a true record.

384.01 The minutes were approved by councillors present at that meeting and duly signed.

The chair then used her power to bring agenda item 9 forward for discussion.

385.00 visitor management issues after August bank holiday. Forward action?

385.01 the chair welcomed Peter Walter to the meeting and she stated that the councillors would discuss the questionnaire about visitor management circulated by Emma Moody of LDNP.

385.02 before discussing the questionnaire all agreed that local residents are not going out as much during periods of high visitor numbers. All present agreed that due to the Safer Lakes team, visitor management had improved over the past few years, but problems were still numerous, and there was still a local feeling that it was best to avoid Buttermere. Parking issues, congestion and blocked roads deterred locals from moving about during periods of high visitor numbers. The clerk was requested to establish the ticketing programme protocol used by highways department and how and when enforcement officers were allocated.

385.03 the Councillors then consider the questionnaire from LDNP. After much discussion they ranked traffic volumes and inconsiderate parking as first and second major issue. They as a group put dogs out of control in 10th position, however it was acknowledged that Cllr Robert Wilkinson, not present, because of the issues he suffered with out-of-control dogs worrying his flock leading to loss of livestock, that he would probably make that the first major issue, and it affects other farmers too.

385.04 after discussing the questionnaire Councillors agreed Buttermere felt let down as a community, there should be more patrols, better permitted parking within the valley and that the seasonal patrols etc should start earlier. The chair enquired if there had been any multi agency events as had been promised? It appeared there had not.

385.05 at the end of the session the chair advised the clerk that she would complete the questionnaire form and submit it on behalf of Buttermere parish council. She thanked Peter Walter for his attendance and hoped that he now had a better understanding of the tourist issues that Buttermere experienced. Peter Walter left the meeting.

The chair then resumed the meeting at agenda item 4.

386.00 Public participation, no members of the public present.

387.00 Police Matters. As normal clerk had circulated the relevant police e newsletter, when he received it.

388.00 Matters concerning Cumberland Councillor.

388.01 Cumberland Councillor Jill Perry was present and advised that Cumberland Council were considering the priorities in the area. Also, they were considering applications for funding. The new community panel had held its first meeting. The chair, ask that Cllr Perry make highways commitment and communication a priority after the earlier discussion about visitor management. The chair thanked Cllr Perry for her attendance and invited her to remain, which she did for a while.

389.00 Applications for development.

389.01 Croft house 2023/2077 21st June 2023 no objections by Councillors. Clerk advised that the Go-Ape facility on the Whinlatter Pass had applied for zip wires that crossed the main road, he had objected on behalf of Lorton parish council to the application along with others and the application had been withdrawn. Gatesgarth farm 2023/2108 had applied for a new agricultural shed roof but this was not a matter for council consultation. He concluded by advising that the Gatesgarth telephone mast application was likely to be resubmitted with a lesser mast height and for emergency services only use. The chair asked the clerk to establish if emergency services meant that it would receive 999 calls from the members of the public?

390.00 Crummock Water Weir removal, update on current position. Reminder next public UU drop in at Loweswater Village Hall 27th September starting 1.00 PM for 5 hours.

390.01 the chair who is the lead contact on behalf of Buttermere, Lorton and Loweswater parish councils updated Councillors on the current situation. A local land owner is taking legal advice about the proposal and there is to be a meeting online which the chair will attend and if permitted report back on. The landowner concerned has also arranged for local archives to be inspected to establish what was historically agreed. There has been a discussion with UU about alternative parking when the Scale Hill National Trust parking facility is closed during the works. It would appear that the favoured alternative parking will be the field used by Loweswater church, as there is easy walking access to the lake, obviously UU will upgrade the hard standing parking facility, which will benefit the church and the fields long-term parking for them. The Environment Agency and Natural England plus Cumbria Wildlife Trust will hold a meeting on site at the wetlands areas as it is felt the project does not currently appreciate the environmental significance of those areas. The parishes must engage with highways to ensure that they are fully involved with the traffic circulation decisions during the project. UU are holding two further drop-in sessions one on the 26th September in Cockermouth and the following day 27th September at Loweswater village hall.

391.00 Election of vice-chair, Cllr John Temple resigning as leaving the parish.

391.01 the chair thanked John Temple for his service as Cllr to Buttermere. She had approached councillor Ed Beard about accepting the position of vice chair.

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391.02 although Cllr Beard was unable to attend this meeting, he had indicated that he was prepared to stand for election as vice chair. On hearing that statement all Councillors present instantly indicated their intention to propose and second the appointment. It was resolved unanimously that Cllr Ed Beard become Buttermere parish council vice-chair.

392.00 Progress reports, clerk.

392.01 minute 377.01 referring to the existing and new double yellow lines proposed, a map had been provided. These are under consideration but it was noted that the clerks request to remove the double yellow lines opposite The Bridge Hotel had been actioned- the chair thanked the clerk for this.

392.02 with regard to the parking issues around Gatesgarth Farm the clerk had been asked why the pop-up parking in the farmyard no longer appeared to be available. The chair thought that the parish council cannot intervene in tenancy agreement terms about the use of land, and that no further action by the parish council can be undertaken.

392.03 the clerk following the June meeting and the issue of buses becoming stuck had made contact with the Assistant Operations Manager at Workington bus station. He then read the content of the email exchange, it clarified the issues experienced by the bus drivers and the management's enthusiasm to assist and support actions to control inconsiderate parking by visitors.

392.04 clerk concluded by confirming the report of a mysterious CCTV camera which appeared at Lansdowne just below the cattle grid and then disappeared just as quickly. No official agency had any knowledge, no further action.

393.00 Buttermere Councillors reports,

393.01 the only report was provided by the chair who raised concerns about the new discovery of New Zealand pygmy weed in Crummock Water now Buttermere is the only lake which has not been so blighted. She is concerned to understand how West Cumbria Rivers Trust and the National Trust will communicate to the wider public how to avoid it being brought to Buttermere and other areas of Crummock. Paddle boards, swimmers and dogs if they have visited infected lakes must clean down at those areas not at Buttermere or Crummock, depositing the weed locally to Buttermere and Crummock water will only encourage its spread. The clerk will follow up on the situation between the relevant agencies.

394.00 Correspondence.

394.01 the clerk reported that he had had numerous exchanges with UU about the Weir removal. He had also been in communication with Connecting Cumbria and Fibrus about landownership in Buttermere as Fibrus look to provide high speed fibre broadband in the parish. Clerk confirmed that he had circulated relevant correspondence to Councillors but acknowledged that he had been offline for 10 days as he moved home.

395.00 Payments for Approval

Intpay100, M Milner, £138.60, salary August £108.00, Exp' £30.60.

Intpay101, HMRC, PAYE, £26.80

Also paid July, M Milner Intpay 96, July salary £99.80 and Intpay 97 HMRC PAYE £25.00

August M Milner Intpay 98, August salary, £99.80 and Intpay 99 HMRC PAYE £25.00

All approved

396.00 Date and time of the next meeting. Tuesday 5th December 2023, 7.30pm, at Old School Room, Buttermere.

Meeting closed 20.57.

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