

MINUTES OF LOWCA PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16th JULY 2014

AT 7.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

Present:

Lowca Parish Councillors:

Mr B Ennis (Chairman)
Mrs G Strickland (Vice Chairman)
Miss M J Oliver
Mr T Milligan
Mrs A Oliver

Copeland Borough Councillor:

Mr B Dixon

Cumbria County Councillor:

Mrs S Hayman

New Parish Clerk:

Mr M Milner

Apologises:

Lowca Parish Councillors:

Mrs E Walker
Mr J Crawford
Mr F Hollowell

Retiring Clerk:

Mr R Adams

Absent:

Mrs M Moore

Meeting Opened:

The Chairman declared the meeting opened at 7.30pm. However before dealing with the agenda items he explained that also present was the proposed new clerk, who would be formally introduced at item 8 Matters to Report. The chairman had invited Mr Milner along to witness the meeting, but had requested that he commence his clerk's duties from the start of the meeting, if no one present objected. Mr Milner was invited to provide short introduction of himself to those present.

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001.00

TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE MINTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18TH JUNE 2014.

The clerk pointed out that the minutes presented had the incorrect date for the June meeting, as did the agenda convening July meeting. All present, who were there in June, agreed the date was 18th June not 21st. The chairman requested that the minutes presented for the above meeting subject to the date being corrected be approved and accepted as a true record.

PROPOSED: Councillor Mrs M Moore.

SECONDED: Councillor Mrs G Strickland.

VOTE: Unanimous for the proposal.

002.00

DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

None

003.00

POLICE MATTERS.

No police representatives present, no discussion.

004.00

PLANNING MATTERS.

004.01 Chairman Mr B Ennis was going to clarify with Copeland Council if planning permission was required for the new village notice board.

004.02 Councillor M Moore enquired if anyone knew what was happening down at Blomfield's. The chairman replied that they had received planning permission for a new green house, a 5 acre one. The PC had objected to the original planning application, but was not represented at the site meeting to voice their objections. This was because the letter to attend the site visit was sent to the former clerk, as a personal invite, but unfortunately as he was in hospital that correspondence was not brought to his attention so enabling him to contact the PC. The matter had been discussed at a previous meeting and no further discussion would take place on the matter.

005.00

MATTERS FOR WARD AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

005.01 C.B.C Mr B Dixon, He apologised for not being able to attend the past few meetings, but that had been due to personal matters. He then discussed the topic of the misuse of the disused BMX track. He confirmed that he had no authority to approve the use of the track for motor bikes and disassociated himself from any comments that he had approved its use for motor cyclists.

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005.01 continued, The track again is being inappropriately used by motor cyclists, who are at times coming off the BMX track and using local lanes as a race track. Some of the motor cyclists using the track were from outside Lowca village and if the police were called, the motor cyclists disappeared at the first sign of the police. It was stressed that when ringing 101 to advise the police of the actions of these motor cyclists, the person calling the police must ask for a log number, otherwise the call is not recorded and it prevents the creation of an official history of the problem. The chairman concluded the discussion by stating that he would go to the police Thursday morning, report the latest problem and get a log number.

05.02 Chairman Mr B Ennis wished to raise the point that C.B.C Mr B Dixon had stated that he had not received the minutes for the last PC meeting, although they had been handed in by himself personally at the Copeland Council Offices. He asked councillor T Milligan if he knew whether councillors John and Jackie Bowman had received their copies for the past few months as theirs had also been handed in to Copeland Council. Councillor Milligan knew that they had received the last set of minutes, but did not think they had received earlier copies.

The clerk then advised the chairman that although he would continue to post or distribute hard copies of all minutes, agendas and other appropriate documents to the relevant councillors, he proposed to email them, to those with email addresses, at the same they were posted, to try and eliminate the non-receipt problem. That was confirmed as acceptable.

05.03 Cumbria County Councillor, Mrs S Hayman. She read out a very apologetic email from a council representative Jill Ackalay concerning a name plate for Croft Terrace in Lowca. The signage had been long promised but never delivered, however this was a council problem, the writer of the email acknowledged that fact and the manufacturer and erecting of the signage on No 1 Croft Terrace, would be priority. The email writer said if she could not contact the owner of No 1 Croft Terrace for approval of the sign being attached to their property she would contact the owner of No 4 Croft Terrace.

05.04 C.C.C Mrs S Hayman then confirmed that she had that morning attended a meeting with chairman Mr B Ennis at a County Highways Department meeting to discuss the P.O.P.E report. It is 7 years since the by-pass opened and all the problems that had been predicted had occurred, but with no solutions proposed. This is an ongoing matter.

05.06 Chairman Mr B Ennis reported that he had received a letter from councillor J Bowman, the contents of which he was not prepared to read out, but that councillor J Bowman was, following discussions with CALC and its monitoring officer, reporting the chairman and his actions for censor.

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- 05.07 Councillor Mrs G Strickland, who had also seen a letter from councillor J Bowman stated that in one paragraph he was claiming credit for some bridle path improvements, councillor G Strickland wished the clerk to minute the fact that the work was actually as a result of Councillor M J Oliver endeavours not councillor J Bowman. The discussion concluded with C.B.C Mr B Dixon requesting the clerk to minute the fact that Chairman Mr B Ennis acted, to his knowledge, with the backing of the Lowca Parish Council, decisions may not always have been unanimous, but always at vote the majority supporting the chairman's actions and that C.B.C Mr Dixon would unreservedly support the chairman if he were censored by CALC.

- 05.08 Councillor G Strickland asked B.C.B Mr Dixon if he knew what happened to the local crematorium donation fund. He replied that he did not know but would make enquiries. The state of the grounds was considered far from satisfactory and that with the charges made from cremation and burial fees a better appearance at the facility should be possible. G Strickland made the point that she thought the cremation facility was emission free according to the providers of the equipment, but the crematorium charges an emissions fee of approx £100. The chairman said all these points had been raised before and they would await C.B.C Mr Dixon's response to the question.

- 05.09 Chairman B Ennis asked C.B.C Mr Dixon why the Whitehaven Mayoral election had been deferred from October to May. His response was that it was due to financial cut backs and that the people of Whitehaven, according to the council were happy for the present mayor to continue in office. He had discussed the situation with a council employee Mr Ian Barber who had clarified that position to him.

- 05.10 C.C.C Mrs S Hayman then advised that she had been at a Howgate Ward meeting where the Around England Coastal Path had been discussed and a talk given by a Diane Ward who discussed the Interpretation Boards which are to be placed around the route and that they as a body were interested to get local feedback as to what local communities would like on the boards to be placed in their area. The boards are to be interactive with users. Councillor M J Oliver then told the meeting that she had been discussing with a Countryside Ranger Bob Muscat the state of the path. He had confirmed to her that he had £7500 allocated to do repair work and provide a gate allowing access for all. She had also been talking to Diane Ward, who had already walked the pathway with John Bowman and so she invited her to attend the next Lowca PC meeting. Diane Ward was seeking local input from local organisations and that the PC meeting would be a good place to get access to the local community. The chairman B Ennis thanked M J Oliver for her work on this matter as he appreciated the effort required to pull the project together.

Continuation 005.10, The discussion about paths then involved a supposed path by the rugby club, which is not shown on a map, but according to the chairman had been used as part of an emergency access to a previous planning application for a holiday village. Councillor Oliver will pursue that line of enquiry and would like to see a pathway approved around the school as well. This concluded the ward and district councillors part of the agenda and both left the meeting.

006.00

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES.

None

007.00

MATTERS OF REPORT.

007.01 The chairman B Ennis welcomed the new clerk Mike Milner and wished him well and felt assured his contribution would be a vast improvement on the last couple of month's records.

007.02, The chairman brought up the topic of a play area for Lowca school and the grants available. He felt that the PC should be applying for more grants and include Letts Play School as well as the Lowca school, they should be treated as equal.

008.00

CORRESPONDENCE

008.01 The chairman B Ennis said he had a letter of apology from the former clerk Roy Adams, which was actually a letter of resignation as he would not be attending any further meetings. There was no other correspondence.

009.00

CHEQUES FOR SIGNING.

009.01 None, however there was an invoice from Glasdon's, which covered the Public Notice Board, but that could not be filed at present as the cheque book had been returned to Roy Adams, so he could complete the financial audit. The question was raised by councillor A Oliver about monies outstanding to the former clerk and the chairman clarified that there would be no claim for meetings he had not attended, but that there were be remuneration for the time that he has spent preparing the financial report and audit.

010.00

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting will be held in Lowca village hall on Wednesday 20th August 2014 commencing at 7.30pm.

The chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm

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