

**MINUTES OF LOWCA PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th AUGUST 2015  
AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:**

**Lowca Parish Councillors**

Mr B Ennis  
Mrs A Oliver  
Miss M J Oliver  
Mr J Crawford

**Parish Clerk**

Mr M Milner

**Copeland Borough Councillor**

None Present

**Apologises**

Gillian Troughton C.B.C  
Mr T Milligan, Lowca PC  
Jackie Bowman, C.B.C  
Mrs M Moore, Lowca PC  
Mrs E Walker, Lowca PC  
John Bowman, C.B.C

**Meeting Opened:**

The chairman declared the meeting opened at 7.40pm.

**148.00 Apologises.**

Duly noted as above.

**149.00 Declaration of Interests**

None

**150.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July, as a true record.**

The minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr A.O and seconded by Cllr M.O  
The vote by show of hands was unanimous for approval.

**151.00 Police Matters.**

151.01 PCSO Sarah Marshall was unable to attend, but had supplied a report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015, which the clerk duly read to the council.

151.02 Chairman B.E commenting about possible properties being used for drug distribution, and stressed to councillors that unless people contacted the police on 101 to log their concerns, then the police were unable to build a picture and case.

151.03 Cllr A.O voiced her concerns about the local police authority's attitude towards attending burglaries, based on her reading that other police authorities reportedly only attending those who lived in an even numbered property and not odd numbers and if that was the case how did they deal with properties in Lowca which only had a name? The clerk to establish that position and advise at the next meeting.

**152.00 Planning Matters.**

152.01 Cllrs A.O and M.O declared an interest in respect of the following, although not withdrawing from the meeting, made no comment. No planning matter as such but there had been an email from Copeland's planning department that an individual who currently rented grazing land just outside the village boundary had applied to purchase the land. As the land was within a larger band of land owned by Copeland and possibly of interest for future tourist development, Copeland was going to reject any sale. As the matter was dealt with earlier in the month, the clerk had consulted some councillors on the matter and Lowca PC agreed with Copeland's decision to retain the land.

**153.00 Matters concerning District and Ward Councillors.**

No C.B.C were present and no district councillor.

**154.00 Coastal Pathway Area Up Date.**

154.01 Cllr M.O distributed copies of documents relating to the bridle pathway which she had been involved with during the past few years. The clerk distributed copies of maps he had received from Cumbria CC mapping office confirming the bridleway being officially approved on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb' 2013.

154.02 Clerk circulated copies of the 2 pages he had drawn up for inclusion in the next Lowca Lowdown for distribution at the end of September.

154.03 Cllr B.E congratulated Cllr A.O on her work and input in getting all the relevant government and local departments to recognise her insistence that there was a pathway to the old boot room at the Micklam brickworks, along the Pit bank top and then on through to Harrington, not using the back road.

**155.00 Custodian trustee position re Lowca's Miners Welfare Building**

155.01 Cllr B.E stressed that the parish council were the Custodian Trustees for the charity, The Miners Institute and Recreation Ground, known in Lowca as the Miners Welfare Building and land. The PC has a responsibility to ensure that its management committee is run and maintained by the terms of the Charity Commission scheme.

**155.01 continued**

That scheme schedule states that Lowca PC must supply 4 representative members, the Northern Welfare Committee of the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation should supply 2 representatives, and that other organisations that used the building or grounds could supply up to a further 4 Elected Representatives, to the management committee.

155.02 Therefore to conform to the scheme requirements the PC need to provide 2 more representative members. After discussions Cllr A.O and Cllr M.O both agreed to attend the next management committee of the Miners Welfare AGM. Cllr B.E thanked them both for volunteering to fill the vacancies.

**156.00 Millennium Play Area Up Date.**

156.01 Cllr B.E advised that he now had 4 quotes in for the project and the costings were all in the region of £50,000. His next task will be, once Lowca school returns from its summer holiday break, too go and do a presentation to the children and ask for their input as to what they would like to see installed. Their feedback would be vital at the planning stage before commitment to any scheme.

156.02 Cllr B.E also stated that any funders for such a project would demand that the local residents had been consulted, that a questionnaire had been circulated to villager. To comply with that requirement in the September issue of the Lowca Lowdown there would be an A5 sized questionnaire inserted asking villagers to fill it in and return to the PC. The questionnaire layout out and questions have already been communicated to the clerk, who will write an item for the Lowdown and ensure the questionnaire is inserted.

**157.00 War Memorial Landscaping and Fencing Up Date.**

157.01 Cllr B.E advised he had got two of the companies who were quoting for the Millennium Garden Play Area refurbishment, too also look at fencing the war memorial. Copeland Services had already looked at the project and provided him with a ball park figure of £7,000.

157.02 Cllr J.C pointed out that the apprentices at Sellafield were always looking for suitable community projects. They had recently been involved with a wall painting project at Lowca school. All present agreed that the war memorial fencing and landscaping would be an ideal community project for them to be involved in and that Cllr J.C would provide all the contact details of Chris Caruthers at Sellafield to Cllr B.E or the clerk.

**158.00 Matters arising from the last minutes.**

158.01 At the last meeting (140.02) the clerk had been asked to clarify the planning details and time limit for the original Lowca Wind farm. Nick Hayhurst, Senior Planning Officer for Copeland BC, had responded to the clerk’s request for information on the point and confirmed that the wind farm, operated by E ON, had started operation on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2000, with a 20 year operational planning approval, making them due to cease use under that planning condition at the end of February 2020.

## **159.00 MATTERS OF REPORT**

159.01 The clerk circulated a preview of an item he had written for the September edition of the Lowca Lowdown. It concerned the Emergency Carers Card system which Cumbria CC supports to help ambulance crews when attending emergency call outs to individuals who have carer responsibilities.

159.02 The bus shelter request by villagers could well be best served by a similar questionnaire in the September Lowca Lowdown, similar to the Play area one, to gauge village enthusiasm for the project. Clerk to create the questionnaire and promote and insert in the September Lowca Lowdown.

159.03 Following the last meeting of the Lowca Miners Welfare Building management committee, that management committee and the Social Club are to share the £90 annual fee for a full page advert to promote the use of the building in the Lowca Lowdown. In return the social club and the booking of the hall will get an additional minimum half page of promotional editorial.

159.04 Cllr B.E presented a letter from villager Chris Mason about the flora and fauna that he has photographed and written about in the letter. The clerk is to contact Mr Mason about using the material in the Lowca Lowdown and on the website.

## **160.00 Correspondence**

160.01 The clerk advised that he had received the latest PC's bank statement showing £9357.73 in the account. He had written to the bank to ask for the bank statements to be issued on 6<sup>th</sup> of each month, rather than the 12<sup>th</sup>, to enable them to arrive earlier so when required for use in accounts presentations the most recent details were available.

160.01 Clerk has received War Memorial bank statement, showing funds of £454.10

160.02 Letter received from National Grid advising that they would shortly be providing all homes within 1km of the proposed new power line from Moorside through Copeland to Carlisle.

## **161.00 Cheques for signing**

161.01 Milburns Solicitors, 100322. £343.00 war memorial land lease fees

161.02 M Milner clerk, 100323. £247.79. Salary £204.70 and expenses £43.09

161.03 HMRC Clerks PAYE, 100324. 31.04 payable to Post Office Ltd

Meeting closed 9.00pm

**162.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 7.30pm Lowca Village Hall.**