

**MINUTES OF LOWCA PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th JANUARY 2016
AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Lowca Parish Councillors

Miss M J Oliver (chairman)
Mr H Thinnesen
Mrs V Stafford
Mrs A Oliver
Mr T Milligan

Parish Clerk

Mr M Milner

Copeland District and Cumbria County Councillors

Jackie Bowman CBC
John Bowman CBC

Apologises

Mr J Crawford
Mrs M Moore
Mrs E Walker
Gillian Troughton CBC & CCC

Meeting Opened:

The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm.

219.00 Apologises.

Duly noted as above.

220.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 16th December, as a true record.

The minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr V.S and seconded by Cllr H.T.
The vote by show of hands was unanimous for approval.

221.00 Police Matters.

221.01 PCSO 5357 Hollie Dennis was not present but had sent a report that advised that for the month of December 2015 there had been no logged incidents in Lowca.

222.00 Applications for Development.

None

223.00 County and District Councillors Reports

223.01, Cllr John Bowman reported that due to the holiday period things were quiet at present, but Copeland's budget proposals were now closed. There had been a lot of public input to the website page opened asking for public participation.

223.02 Cllr A.O asked who was monitoring the A595? The traffic congestion at peak times was still bad and what was happening about the cones in the Lowca junction area of the A595? Clerk to contact Parton clerk about getting Highways England to attend a parish meeting or hold an open drop in session for the public to attend.

223.03 Concerns were raised by councillors about the flooding in the Rosehill Jct area which had got worse since the drains lower down had been supposedly cleared. At the conclusion of this agenda item the chairman thanked Cllrs Bowman for their attendance and advised they could depart or stay. They accepted the invitation to remain.

224.00 Report for 3rd quarter 2015/16 of Lowca PC's financial year.

224.01 The clerk had prior to the meeting circulated the Lowca councillors with the relevant paperwork. As the accounts had been discussed in detail at the December meeting and the precept set, the Cllrs raised no questions.

224.02 The bank reconciliation showed there was a difference of £17.50 between the clerk's figures and the bank statement ending 31st December 2015. This was due to a cheque posted in November to Printpoint, yet to be presented. The clerk had clarified the situation with Printpoint and it would be banked shortly.

225.00 Council Vacancy

225.01 There are 2 applicants for the vacancy that exists on Lowca PC. The council decided that an interviewing panel of 3 councillors, M.O, T.M & V.S would interview the candidates and their decision on which candidate was suitable would be presented to the Feb' PC meeting and be accepted without further discussion.

225.02 Clerk to arrange times etc and Cllr V.S to provide an interview sheet to be the basis for interviewing both candidates.

226.00 Lowca Village Meeting

226.01 Clerk reminded that between 1st March and 1st June the PC must organise a village meeting. It was decided that it would be held prior to the April meeting 20th April at 7pm.

226.02 Clerk also pointed out that in past years the PC had normally not held a January meeting but one every other month. The councillors agreed that they would in keeping with most other parish councils have a summer break during August.

227.00 Progress report, clerk

227.01 With reference to minute 212.04 the clerk had submitted the approved precept for 2016/17 of £7k. Copeland had acknowledged the submission.

227.02 The bus shelter in minute 213.00 was now subject to a CCC site visit on 4th February at 13.15hrs. Copeland BC was in the process of confirming the use of the land in East Road where an existing former bus shelter base stands. The clerk had measured the site as 6.5mtr wide by 4.5mtr deep, 29.25sq mtr which currently has 4 recycling bins on them, whose footprint is 6 sq mtr. Cllr Jackie Bowman drew the clerks attention to the fact that if Copeland were going to allocate the land to Lowca, as there is a litter bin situated on it, Lowca must ensure that Copeland in any contract confirm they will continue to maintain that bin at no cost to Lowca.

Chairman thanked Cllr J.B for her advice.

227.03 Cllr H.T was doubtful that the existing base would be suitable for a bus shelter. This to be resolved with potential shelter suppliers.

227.04 Advised the PC that normal funding sources would not be interested in funding part or totally such a venture.

227.05 The clerk went into a lengthy report about the 10 hours of time he had spent attending North Copeland Coastline Team meetings and making a submission on Lowca's behalf of Lowca's coastline proposals. There was to be a final report produced by a retained consultant to be discussed on 27th Jan, prior to submission to central government by the end of Jan 2016. When the clerk received the report he would circulate it all.

227.06 It is proposed that the team continue to meet after the report has been submitted. There is a fund of £4k approx left from initial government funding to the team and a proper constituted and legal group should be formed to keep the momentum going. Lowca PC thought the idea of a Copeland based tourist brochure enveloping all the area from St Bees to Lowca was an excellent idea. The coastal path should highlight the brickworks, the steel works; there is much to promote which is not done adequately at present.

227.07, minute 215.04 refers, £200 donation made to the Cumbria Community Fund, for the benefit of the December floods in Cumbria and an acknowledgement received.

227.08 clerk had as requested, minute 216.02 refers, requested from Copeland's parks department a quotation for a 3 year period. Parks manager John Davis had advised he was asking the finance department for figures for the proposed 3 year contract.

227.09 Clerk raised the content of the next Lowca Lowdown due for printing and distribution in March 2016. Councillors agreed that it should retain the front and rear colour page format, as feedback from residents had indicated it looked a far more professional product.

228.00 Councillors reports

228.01 Cllr T.M asked about the proposed fencing of the war memorial area. The ground having finally come into Parish Council ownership, he felt the project should be brought swiftly to a conclusion. The fencing to encompass all the land now leased to Lowca at the War Memorial site.

228.02 Council agreed that the War Memorial would be a specific item on February's agenda and the clerk would seek clarification from Cllr J.C as to the current state of progress on the fencing as he had the situation in hand.

228.03 The suggestion was put forward about creating a "Junior Parish Council" which had support. It would need the support of Lowca school and older children from the senior schools. Modern senior schools have democratic councils involved with their running, so perhaps engaging Lowca youngsters would be a good thing and instil a community spirit from a much younger age and make the step up into adulthood and so a desire to become a parish councillor at a younger age a positive community benefit.

229.00 Correspondence

229.01 Queen's 90th Birthday Anniversary Beacon. The UK is to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday on 21st April, with the burning of beacons. So far 220 parishes have indicated that they will take part and Lowca parish council will explore the prospects of having a bonfire beacon and involve the rugby club, Lowca School and Miners Welfare Club. The clerk to sort out the requirements and possible use of the Brow for a beacon.

229.02 Chair Cllr M.O pointed out that the Queen has a further birthday celebration in June and perhaps a Lowca Village Street Party could be organised.

229.03 Thank you acknowledgement received from Great North Air Ambulance of their £50 donation.

229.04 Clerk had taken all previous minutes passed on to him in July 2014 to the Cumbria Archives Offices in Whitehaven and received receipts for them. The archive office had pointed out that minutes from 1955 to 1985 were missing. Enquiries had revealed that there was a cabinet in a locked room to the left of the village hall stage. That very morning the clerk had been given a key and found the cabinet. It was full of old files, covered in mould and cultures of possibly penicillin, which had filled his car boot and back seat. They had been taken directly to the Archive Office in Whitehaven, for sorting and acknowledgement of the contents. There were some old maps in the paperwork and the clerk has requested that they be returned as historically they could perhaps be of use to the school or framed in the village hall.

230.00 Payments approved for payment via internet banking.

Intpay 6, M Milner, clerk. £273.30, salary £237.30 and travel/office exp £36.56p.

Intpay7, HMRC clerks PAYE £39.60p

Meeting closed 8.50pm

231.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 17th February 2016 at 7.30pm Lowca Village Hall.