

**MINUTES OF LOWCA PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15th JULY 2015
AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Lowca Parish Councillors

Mr B Ennis
Mrs E Walker
Mrs A Oliver
Mrs M Moore

Parish Clerk

Mr M Milner

Copeland Borough Councillor

John Bowman

Apologises

Gillian Troughton C.B.C
Mr T Milligan, Lowca PC
Jackie Bowman, C.B.C
Miss M J Oliver, Lowca PC

Meeting Opened:

The chairman declared the meeting opened at 7.32pm.

135.00 Apologises.

Duly noted as above.

136.00 Declaration of Interests

None

137.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 17th June, as a true record.

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

138.00 Police Matters.

138.01 PCSO Sarah Marshall 5388 was unable to attend but she had provided a written report which the clerk read out. It was commented on that this very day more horses had been loose in the village, but Dennis Boyes from Middle Gill Farm the owner of the animals had collected them. Concern was raised about the use of a property on Solway Rd for drugs and the clerk was requested to contact the police and lodge a formal request for action.

139.00 Planning Matters.

There were no planning applications for consideration.

140.00 Matters concerning District and Ward Councillors.

140.01 J.B C.B.C advised the meeting of new government legislation about wind turbines and use of brown field sites. He would forward details to the clerk for reference and up date when more details available.

140.02 Cllr B.E commented that the Lowca wind turbines were now 17 years old and that planning permission stated a lifespan of 20 years and then they would be dismantled. The clerk requested to contact Nick Hayhurst in Copeland planning department for clarification and J.B C.B.C to investigate as well.

J.B C.B.C left the meeting at the conclusion of the item at 7.55pm

141.00 QUARTERLY BUDGET UPDATE 1ST APRIL TO 30TH JUNE 2015.

141.01 The clerk had circulated with the summons for the meeting relevant financial documents concerning the budget period. He briefly explained the current budget position and asked for questions. All Cllrs were happy with the position and raised no questions.

142.00 LOWCA SCHOOL HORTICUTURAL PROJECT

142.01 As Cllr M.O was not present this item could not be discussed.

143.00 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT, PLAYGROUND, WAR MEMORIAL AND LOWCA LOWDOWN.

143.01 The chairman Cllr B.E confirmed he was in the process of obtaining 4 quotations for the refurbishment of the play area in the Millennium Garden. The playground equipment suppliers have visited the site and he brought along a tall stack of brochures for inspection by fellow councillors. The play area would be in two half’s a young infants section and then one to cater for youngsters up to 10/11 years of age. He has been to see the school headmistress, Joanna Crawford, and once he has got firmed up ideas on what equipment could be supplied he will take it to the school and ask the children for their input and ideas. It is for children to use. The school have just had a new activity playground. The chairman is monitoring the current play area use.

143.02 With regard to the war memorial he had now got 3 possible companies involved in providing quotation and specifications.

143.00 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, continued

143.03 The Lowca Lowdown had been printed by Printpoint of Whitehaven and distributed at the end of June. The clerk advised that the original quote for printing 350 had been £105 as advised. However he had asked the printer to provide a 160g thick outer cover which had increased the cost to £120, but the finished product was easier to handle and distribute. The chairman asked that for the next issue in September all members of the council got involved with its distribution. This last issue had been handled by his wife, Cllr M.O and Cllr T.M. The clerk asked for content from the councillors and advised that Whitehaven Citizens Advice Bureau had been in touch about putting relevant material into future issues. That idea was approved of by the councillors.

144.00 PARAGLIDERS

144.01 The chairman had asked for this item, but as he pointed out its was more to do with the local area known as "Pit Bank" on the way up to the paragliders flying area, and the fly tipping there. He had been asked to go to the area by a local who was concerned for the flora and fauna that was being affected by the actions of the fly tippers. There was builders rubble and garden waste, which as the council provide bins for lawn cuttings etc, why fly tip that material?

144.02 If the PC can get enough detail on the flowers and wildlife documented they could perhaps get the road way blocked to stop the fly tippers, but still allow the paragliders to enjoy their sport. It would make a good topic for the Lowca Lowdown.

145.00 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES.

145.01 with reference to minute 126.03 the chairman had visited the Civic Hall in Whitehaven about the U Gen team. They had been far from helpful and advised that he attend a further meeting the next day, 16th July 2015, which he was going to do.

145.02 minute 128.00 refers the A595, still no response from Karl Melville about the "Right Turners" signage at Mirehouse and could something similar not be used at the top of Church Brow?

145.03 with reference to 131.01 and the Miners Welfare Committee the PC Clerk attended a meeting of that committee on 25th June and was now the treasurer. He would have the accounts done and audited, with appropriate records made with the charity commission on their website. He would confirm that at the next PC meeting. He reminded the PC that they were Custodian trustees for the Miners Welfare Club through its management committee.

145.04 The clerk had written to the Rugby club as per minute 131.03.

145.05 At the last meeting 132.04 refers, the Bats at the Methodist Church were mentioned, since that meeting the building owner has provided the latest Bat expert's report which confirms that there is NO Bat activity in the building. The situation will continue to be monitored.

146.00 MATTERS OF REPORT

146.01 Clerk reported that there had been a meeting on 8th July in respect of the Coastal Path. The District Council had asked the Howgate Partnership to take the lead in the Northern Community Team covering the coastal pathway from Sellafield to Lowca. The District Council representative was to go back to the D.C and clarify the points raised at the meeting, one of which was that only coastal parishes should be involved for the funding.

146.02 The clerk and Cllr T.M had attended a meeting at St Bees, "Good Councillors" which had been run by a CALC trainer advising on what should be expected of parish councillors.

146.03 On Thursday 9th a West Funding Event had been held at Distington Community Centre. In view of the playground and war memorial projects currently under consideration by Lowca PC, the Lowca chairman Cllr B.E and clerk attended to establish sources for funding for the projects. A very informative event.

147.00 Correspondence

147.01 As an employer, Lowca P.C had to register under new government pension legislation which the clerk has done. There will be no liability under government plans as current clerk is retired by definition of the act, however if Lowca ever employ a clerk below pensionable age then there would be a liability.

147.02 There was a request from Lowca Rugby League Club for a financial contribution towards their new mower and pitch fencing. Total cost £33052.90 of which they still require £9469.90. Cllr A.O proposed a donation of £100 however her proposal was not seconded as others felt that the parish councils had 2 large community projects themselves, so no contribution to the request. Clerk to write a letter accordingly.

147.03 Lets Play Pre School who had received a £500 donation last year from the PC for its play area safety matting, had written to say thank you and supply photographs of the finished play area and a plaque erected to show the contributors to the area.

147.04 Invoice received from Copeland B.C for £80 to cover Lowca's uncontested Parish Election.

147.05 Invoice from Printpoint for £120 for the June edition cost of Lowca Lowdown.

146.00 Cheques for signing

147.01 Copeland B.C chq 100318 £80 for uncontested Parish Election

147.02 Printpoint chq 100319 £120 Lowca Lowdown printing cost.

147.03 M Milner clerk chq 100320 £218.55 salary £174.45, expenses £44.10

147.04 H.M.R.C chq 100321 £24 PAYE for clerk.

Meeting closed 8.32pm

134.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 19th August 2015 at 7.30pm Lowca Village Hall.

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