

**MINUTES OF LOWCA PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16th MARCH 2016
AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Lowca Parish Councillors

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

Parish Clerk

Mr M Milner

Copeland District and Cumbria County Councillors

Jackie Bowman CDC
John Bowman CDC
Gillian Troughton CDC & CCC

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

Jonathan Reade, Highways England, Assets Manager
Karl Melville, Cumbria Highways Manager
Chris Shaw Parton Parish Council Clerk
Brian Ennis. Member of the Public

Meeting Opened:

The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm.

On opening the meeting the chairman advised all present that she was bring forward agenda item 4 to the first item, and then introduced Jonathan Reade, Highways England, Asset Manager. She reminded all that this was not a question and answer session and that the speaker was to advise about the A595 embankment and promote an open question and answer session to be held at Lowca Village Hall 7th April between 2pm and 6.30pm.

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247.00 To receive notification of potential options to repair the A595 carriageway embankment at Lowca.

247.01. Jonathan Reade spent approximately 20 minutes advising on the state of the current A595 road at Lowca, and outlined some of the options and stressed that he and his team really need the attendance and input of local residents at the drop in arranged for 7th April, so that all options were considered and the best solution hopefully found to the problem.

The basic problem is that the embankment the carriageway stands on dates back to 1860 and has reached the end of its useful life. There is no imminent risk of the road disappearing down the bank and in normal circumstances Highways England would put in place instrumentation to measure any movement as options were considered. However as he pointed out in 2020 the work at Moorside should commence for the new nuclear power plant and the big dread was 3 weeks after the work started the road would slip away and that would mean a 40 mile diversion lasting up to 2 years. A risk that HE could not allow, hence the action now and public involvement in the best possible solution, the drop in session.

The timescale is that the consultation, land purchase where appropriate and decision on best solution would take 2 years, then 1 year to complete the project, with completion before Moorside work commenced.

Drilling and ground surveying by Kier Group had confirmed that there was no chance of a local repair, surrounding ground is not stable and culverts and drainage channels have collapsed which was already leading to localised flooding. JR put forward some options and why they may not work.

- A) If HE tried to replace the existing retaining wall there was concern that such action would create the embankment to slip, the scenario they are trying to avoid.
- B) Soil nailing had been considered, driving steel pins into the ground to stabilise the situation, but drilling had proved that all the ground was unstable and that was not an option.
- C) Had considered a Bailey Bridge over the area, but again unsuitable on the south side of the area and concerns that traffic vibration on any temporary structure would again start the landslip they are trying to avoid.

Therefore HE have to look at a more suitable solution to the problem which could also involve the adoption of local ideas to easy existing traffic problems and therefore to a scheme that was not a sticking plaster option, but one that improved the local traffic problems. Hence the importance of the local residents input and that of local parish councils in the immediate area. Any solution would obviously involve the purchase of local land and HE would like local landowners who may be affected to attend the drop in as district valuers etc would be there to explain compensation options. JR stressed the value of the local interested parties and individuals to visit the drop in session, when his full team would be present, geologists etc with large maps laying out some of the options they have considered.

At the end of his presentation the chairman thanked him for his presentation.

At 7.50pm JR, KM, CS and member of the public BE left the meeting.

The chairman then resumed the meeting at item 1 of the issued agenda.

248.00 Apologises.

None to record

249.00 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 D.D and seconded by Cllr V.S
The vote by show of hands was unanimous for approval.

250.00 Public Participation/open Session (15 minutes allowed)

No public present

251.00 Police Matters.

251.01 PCSO 5357 Hollie Dennis was present and read out her police report. Part of her report concerned anti social behaviour and she reported that some of the major culprits were in fact older aged girls. There was now a much greater police presence, with more frequent traffic patrols in evidence.

251.02 Cllr H.T asked what had happened about the theft of his garden furniture which he had reported via 101 phone line. HD advised she was not personally involved with that incident but would investigate and report back via the clerk.

251.03 All councillors were of the opinion that the current 101 system now in place was not working properly. Despite being asked for her views on the system HD explained again how it should work and diplomatically refrained from any personal views.

At the end of this section the chairman thanked her for attending the meeting in her own time not police time.

252.00 Applications for Development.

None

251.00 County and District Councillors Reports

251.01 Cllr John B advised that the subject of dog fouling was to be taken into local schools. The theory being catch them young, stress to the children the importance of clearing up dog mess.

251.02 Cllrs expressed their concerns that there was a shortage of dog litter bins, but both Cllrs John and Jackie B stressed that now dog mess correctly bagged and double wrapped could be put into a normal litter bin. Chairman M.O was going to Moresby on Thursday to see Janice Carrol about a litter matter and she would get clarification on bin locations and replacement and emptying procedures. If not on a public highway, but cycle track they were not Copeland's responsibility.

251.03 Cllr Jackie B reported that in the most recent transport report for the north of England, although the north east got plenty of coverage, Cumbria and the A595 which runs to the nuclear plant was not mentioned.

251.04 Cllr G.T on the topic of highways pointed out how important it was local folk and action groups had their say about the A595 embankment situation. She pointed out that the cheapest solution for HE was to put in a good local solution and leave in place the old routes, so saving potentially £m's in removal and make good costs.

Locals must also get involved because there could be local diversions.

251.05 Cllr A.O asked about the disabled parking area by the chicane on the main road through Lowca. Parking opposite was a traffic hazard. Cllrs asked the clerk to contact the police on the matter as it was a traffic problem for the police to resolve, not a Copeland or Cumbria problem, the disabled parking bay was correctly approved and still in current use legitimately.

At the end of this item the chairman asked the CB and CC councillors if they were leaving or would they like to stay for the rest of the meeting. All accepted her invitation to stay.

252.00 Lowca War Memorial

252.01 Clerk advised that since the last meeting he had resolved all planning, legal and highways issues and that what was now need was a meeting at the memorial site to correctly assess the fall of the ground from its high point to construct how to build a wall with appropriate steps to keep height below the 1 mtr height limit which would elevate the need for a planning application.

252.02 Cllrs, T.M, J.C & H.T would liaise with the clerk to arrange a suitable date and time, probably immediately after the Easter week.

253.00 East Road Bus Shelter Progress Report.

253.01 Clerk advised that he had received the Cumbria Council bus shelter report following the site visit and that report approved the shelter. A copy was already in the village notice board. There were letters to be sent to the immediate local residents and there would need to be a discussion with Copeland about repositioning the waste recycling bins but otherwise it was all systems go.

253.01 Clerk advised the council that Cllr G.T through her local scheme funding was providing a sum of £2000 towards the costs. Council thanked her for her contribution.

254.00 Lowca Lowdown content March edition.

254.01 The clerk had spent 8 hours 53 minutes creating the March edition of the Lowdown and had brought a box with 350 copies printed by Printpoint to the meeting. It was same format as December edition, colour front and back pages.

254.02 The councillors distributed copies amongst themselves to distribute about Lowca village over the next few days.

255.00 Progress report, clerk

255.01 North Copeland Community Coastline Team update given by the clerk. If any Cllr would like a pdf copy of the submitted full report then he would he mail them a copy, but as it ran to 30 pages he was not going to print them off.

255.02 Letter received from John Davis Copeland's Parks Manager which he read out explaining how the £307.36 charge was arrived at, as requested at the last meeting. All Cllrs agreed that following the explanation the bill should be paid.

255.03 Clerk advised that council vacancies would be advertised in the notice board when he put the draft minutes on display next week. He would advise the Copeland monitoring officer. Advised the councillors that although there are now vacancies they are under no obligation to fill them if they feel potential applicants are not suitable, providing they followed the Equality Act of 2010 and did not turn anyone down based on grounds of race, religion, gender etc.

255.04 This to be last meeting of current financial year so Cllrs would be over the next few months be receiving accounts etc for discussion and approval.

256.00 Councillors reports

256.01 Chairman M.O reported on the meeting she and the clerk had had with Kevin Cosgrove of Cumbria Highways. The main topic was the installation for a period of time of vehicle count equipment at either end of the village and along East Road.

256.02 She had also requested local maps, large ones detailing pathways and cycle tracks and a map of services in the war memorial area.

257.00 Correspondence

257.01 Clerk had that afternoon received an email about "values to be set by the council when adopting Financial Regulations" He would over the next couple of months assess its impact on Lowca PC and present a suitable document for consideration and adoption.

257.02 That evening clerk had received by hand from Cllr Marjorie Moore a letter of resignation to take effect immediately. The clerk read the letter out. Cllr T.M requested that the clerk write to thank M.M for her service to the community.

258.00 Payments approved for payment via internet banking.

Intpay 11, M Milner, clerk. £326.58, salary £271.35 and travel/office exp £55.23p.

Intpay12, HMRC clerks PAYE £38.60p

Intpay13, Copeland Parks Department Millennium garden lighting maintenance £307.36

259.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 19th April 2016 at 7.30pm Lowca Village Hall.

NB this meeting will be immediately following the annual Village Meeting to be held at 7pm at the same location.