

LOWCA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 21st Nov' 2018

Meeting Opened: - The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Miss M Oliver(chair), P Todd, Mrs A Oliver, T Milligan. Mrs D Butterworth, H Thinnesen

Copeland Borough and Cumbria County Councillors: Mrs J Bowman CBC. M Barbour (CCC)

Clerk: Mike Milner

Members of the public, three

666.00 Apologises for absence. J Crawford (LPC), Mrs G Troughton (CBC)

667.00 Declaration of Interest.

667.01 Cllr Mrs J Bowman, planning

668.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 17th October 2018, as a true record.

668.01 Resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.

669.00 Public Participation.

669.01 There were 3 members of the public present and they wanted to voice concerns about the Holiday Park planning application. Chair Cllr M.O advised she would allow public participation at that agenda item.

670.00 Police Report

670.01 Clerk advised no police report.

671.00 Applications for Development.

671.01 Application 4/18/2448/0F1 Becksde, Stamford Hill, clerk had circulated details by post 29th October. No Cllr had raised any objections so parish council No Objection.

671.02 Application 4/18/2476/0B1 for variance of style of caravan units on Lowca Holiday Park, as per planning permission reference 4/06/1013. Clerk had circulated various documents prior to the meeting and also requested Copeland Planning Officer Nick Hayhurst to provide a written statement as to his observations on the variance order, which the clerk read out in its entirety.

671.03 Chair invited public to voice their comments. The first concern was that on the original planning approval the visual criteria of the park was that the lodges proposed would be difficult to distinguish from conventional construction buildings and that the developer intended a top of the range park facility. The intention being to attract an exclusive type of holiday market clientele to the park and the local area. This latest application was to vary the units on the park to permit anything that would officially fit the legal definition of a caravan.

671.04 Residents and Cllrs were concerned that it could become a "trailer park" type facility where, as the park is open all the year round, offering an alternative cheap housing option for people, not a holiday park. There were also concerns that to get the site up and running there could be an influx of touring caravans in the first phase. Neither of these options fitted the original concept at the initial planning stage as a high-end holiday park development.

671.05 If there was a revival in the Moorside project, could the site become a glorified housing complex for sub-contractors working at Moorside?

671.06 The access of traffic to the park was discussed, access should be from the direction of Harrington, especially touring caravan visitors. Clerk to advise Copeland Planning department that although they did not object to the variance application, there must be a firm control by planning too ensure that all phases as proposed and undertaken contain an acceptable mix of all styles/types of caravan accommodation.

671.07 Clerk to point out that in document presented by Placed Town Planning dated 28th October 2018, on page 2 the paragraph commencing, "Permitting the siting of caravan units,.....(ending) twin unit lodge type caravans." The wording included, ***differing accommodation types across the site depending upon the levels of demand experienced, which is fundamental to successfully raising commercial funding*** this implies that the developer would be making the decision as to the style/type at all stages and this is the concern of all councillors and members of the public. The developers in that wording could be implying that market demands will allow them a *carte blanche* approach to the mix in phases. Lowca parish council and members of the public require that that Copeland BC planning do act as the penultimate paragraph on page 2 of the submission states and also stated in the email provided by Copeland planning to the parish council meeting, that should the approval be granted, "the Local Planning Authority to impose a condition that requires the approval of caravan types on a phase by phase basis to ensure that a suitable mix of accommodation is delivered across the site."

671.08 Clerk to make the appropriate submission to Copeland BC planning and also circulate by email a copy to members of the public present. Members of the public thanked the parish council for listening to their concerns, and declined the offer to remain for the rest of the meeting.

672.00 County and District Councillors Reports

672.01 Cllr Mrs J.B (CBC) advised the only thing she had to report was the further public consultation meetings concerning the A595 embankment road works.

672.02 Cllr M.B (CCC) reported on his request, minute 658.01 refers, about the removal of one of the support posts on the 30mph sign at village entrance by the speed humps. He read the email received that explained that it was correctly situated as per statutory guidelines and that it was appropriate for wind loading requirements in that location. It would not be changed, but Highway's would remark the carriageway markings prior to the speed humps. Cllr T.M (LPC) was not happy with the response, but acknowledged the request had been made.

672.03 Cllr M.B also asked if Cllrs had received the green pamphlet about the A595 survey and requested they prompted locals to respond by completing and returning, plus reminded Cllrs that there were still 2 more public consultation meetings, one at Beacon Museum 28th November and one at West Lakes 29th Nov' both 2pm to 7pm.

672.04 Cllr M.B also stressed that Highway's department were constantly monitoring the integrity of the A595 embankment.

673.00 Receive audited accounts for 6 months ending 30/9/2018

673.01 Clerk had circulated the accounts prior to the meeting. They had been audited by an independent auditor and signed off as correct. No questions were raised by Cllrs.

674.00 Receive budget up date 30/9/18 and proposal for year 2019/20

674.01 distributed the relevant budget forecast sheet, which indicated that he expected to be approx. £250 under the budgeted figure for the year. He was waiting for Cllr T.M to provide his expenses for the war memorial project.

674.02 Clerk indicated in his budget that for 2019/20 he anticipated an expenditure of £7735, but obviously the precept was not for discussion at this meeting.

674.03 Clerk stated that at the 4 other parish councils he is employed as clerk, his salary is based on salary scale SCP23 at an hourly rate of £11.05. For Lowca where he has been employed for over 4 years his salary scale was currently on SCP19 at an hourly rate of £9.75, he requested that the council adjust his salary scale to that of his other councils, making it payable from 19th December 2019 and fixed until April 2020. If that was resolved he would bring an amended contract of employment to the next meeting for signature.

674.04 Cllr M.O proposed that the clerk's salary was adjusted as requested and Cllr D.B seconded the proposal and Cllrs approved the proposal. Clerk thanked them for their support.

675.00 War Memorial ceremony update.

675.01 All Cllrs agreed that both the rededication ceremony and then the actual Remembrance Day service had been well attended by local residents. The rededication had been attended by children from the local school and taken place in bright sunshine. The Remembrance Day ceremony was held in pouring rain, but 50 folk turned out to celebrate the centenary of the end of WW1.

675.02 During the Remembrance Day ceremony, 6 major wreaths were laid and 15 small wooden crosses with names for all the fallen heroes of both wars etched on the memorial. A seat was also presented by David Gorman to the village, which is now a permanent part of the war memorial site. Currently chained to the railings for security, but Cllr T.M will slab the area it stands on and fix it down more securely.

675.03 Cllr T.M submitted his expenses for the war memorial project to date. They totalled £264.71 made up as follows, 4 bags of postcrete and 7 gravel boards to create the wall, £154.17, 5 additional gravel boards £85.14, the Poppy Sunset panel £9.40, 5 large ceramic Poppies £15 and then councillors agreed an additional £10 to cover the cost of petrol used in the running about collecting and delivering all the materials. Chair and Cllrs thanked Cllr T.M for his much-appreciated efforts. There have been numerous comments by members of Lowca community about how attractive the war memorial area now looks.

676.00 Lowca Scarecrow Week for 2019

676.01 Cllr T.M had asked for agenda item, a scarecrow week in 2019 before Harvest Festival could involve Lowca community and its school. Clerk had contacted St Bridget's and the church had confirmed they would be interested in being involved, but not as a fundraising event, certainly as a free community event though.

676.02 Cllr P.T volunteered to take on the responsibility of co-ordinating the event and would make contact with Lowca school. Cllrs wondered if Parton and Moresby parishes may want to be involved.

677.00 St Bridget's Bell Appeal.

677.01 Cllr T.M asked for this to be on the agenda because he wanted to propose a grant towards the St Bridget's bell appeal. It was resolved a grant of £100 be made. Clerk would contact St Bridget's about making the payment.

678.01 Lowca No10 Mine Memorial Plot

678.01 All Cllrs agreed that Cllr T.M could source and purchase an old local mining Tub, plus a section of railway track to place it on. Cllr T.M indicated approx. £200 for the tub.

679.00 Progress reports, clerk

679.01 minute 661.01 refers, clerk still chasing Natural England for cost of repair to Parton/Lowca footbridge. Since last meeting he had had phone conversation with Hilary Scott who is organising the payment. She has raised a job contract, all paperwork completed and bank details provided.

679.02 clerk had provided Hubert Donnan with a personal cheque for £34 to cover the purchase of the 2 wreaths for the Remembrance Day ceremony, he would be claiming the money in his expenses.

679.03 Clerk has passed on the bank account reclamation form to former Cllr Brian Ennis for him and Marjorie Moore will take the form to HSBC and transfer the funds from the war memorial fund to Lowca parish council account. Funds to open the account had originally come from the parish bank account.

679.04 Clerk had got enough material for the December edition of the Lowca Lowdown. Cllr T.M requested that the cost of the war memorial materials be clearly itemised.

680.00 Lowca Councillors Reports

680.01 Cllr P.T confirmed that Lowca Social Club would sign the Occupational Licence on 6th December and it will be implemented from 1st January 2019. The Lowca Management Committee had spent £210 on solicitor's fees.

680.02 Both Cllrs M.O and H.T brought up the heavy vehicles going through the village. It appears they are providing large rocks for sea defence work. There is no weight restriction or vehicle size restriction through the village, however Cllr M.O would contact the haulier to see if during school time the vehicles could come in via A595 and down past the church rather than past the school from Harrington direction.

681.00 Correspondence.

681.01 Invoice received from Simone Morgan for half yearly audit fee £30.00

681.02 Details of Calc AGM which had actually been held 10th November.

681.03 Letter from Great North Air Ambulance thanking Lowca for £100 grant.

681.04 Email from St Bridget's inviting all parish councillors to the St Bridget's bell rededication service being held on Monday 26th November at 6pm.

682.00 Payments for approval

IntPay 111 M Milner, clerk, £301.30, salary £192.11p and expenses £109.19p

IntPay 112 HMRC clerks PAYE £28.40p

IntPay 113 Simone Morgan, £30.00 half yearly audit fee

IntPay 114 Tom Milligan, £264.71, war memorial material costs

IntPay 115 St Bridget's Church, £100 grant towards bell appeal.

All approved

683.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 19th December 2018 at 7.30pm Lowca Village Hall.

Meeting closed 8.41pm

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