

LOWCA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Lowca Parish Council Meeting

held on Wednesday 16th Oct' 2019 at 7.30pm in Lowca Village Hall.

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

Present: Cllrs Miss M Oliver(chair), Mrs A Oliver, T Milligan, H Thinnesen,

Copeland Borough and Cumbria County Councillors: Cllr David Banks CBC,

Cllr Martin Barbour (CCC)

Clerk: Mike Milner

Members of the public, One

826.00 Apologies for Absence. Mrs D Butterworth (LPC), Cllr Jackie Bowman CBC,

827.00 Declaration of Interest.

827.01 Cllr M Oliver declared an interest in planning application

828.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 18th September 2019, as a true record.

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

829.00 Public Participation.

829.01 No reports from last meeting and no public report at this meeting.

830.00 Police Report

830.01 clerk read out three reports from the Cumbria police website. He then pointed out all reports after the initial entry were a basic copy and paste and identical.

830.02 Cllr M B(CCC) remarked that he had attended a meeting where it was acknowledged the police website was well short of expectations. However, the question was asked by the police of what did having an officer attend a parish council meeting achieve and what did councils actually do with the information supplied? An efficient website was a target to be achieved and the PCSO or police officer should be out on the beat.

831.00 County and District Councillors Reports

831.01 Cllr D B(CBC) advised that Copeland had finished its Nuclear storage report revision. It was now stating that Copeland recognised that the government were supporting underground storage of nuclear waste, but Copeland were not offering to provide that facility.

831.02 He further remarked that he had recently been involved with a Copeland parish council's problem with personal conflict between councillors and the clerk, he reminded the Lowca team that civility was paramount for a successful functioning council.

831.03 Cllr M B (CCC) advised that Highways were again keen to resurrect the "Working Together" option. Parish councils to take on some of the Highways tasks. Clerk reminded the chair and Cllrs that the council did not have a lengths man policy, if they adopted one, the precept would require increasing, so necessitating a council tax rise to residents and would CCC reduce their council tax charge? Lowca successfully has volunteer litter picks and to continue operating such volunteer tasks was the solution, not accepting additional work and cost.

831.04 Cllr M O asked Cllr M B to ask Highways to get the trees on the left-hand side of the road from the church cut.

831.05 Cllr H T requested that the trees on the approach to the chicane also be trimmed back. Cllr M B to log the request.

831.06 Cllr M B concluded by saying that Highways in bad weather conditions had requested a list of key infrastructures in the area for emergency treatment. He had mentioned Lowca school but considered that was the only one, there being no hospital, surgeries etc in Lowca.

832.00 Applications for Development.

832.01 Clerk advised 2 development applications. First one 19/2343/0F1 3 Church View, Lowca. This is a single storey extension on the rear of the property for 2 extra ground floor bedrooms on bungalow. Clerk displayed the plans and Cllrs resolved to confirm no objections to development, clerk to advise Copeland accordingly.

832.02 The next planning application to be discussed was that for Cllr M O's property, Cllr T M, took over as chair. 19/2358/0F1 concerned a proposed single-story extension at first floor level at 6 Micklam Cottages. After being shown the plans by the clerk no objections were raised and the council approved the development, clerk to advise Copeland. Cllr M O took no part in the discussions or vote. Cllr M O resumed the chair.

833.00 Lowca Village Hall Management Committee Report

833.01 Cllr H T advised that there had been a recent village hall committee meeting and plans were under way for the use and promotion of the building by community groups. He advised that the clerk had helped them get the electric and gas reconnected and they had thanked the clerk for his assistance with that.

834.00 Presentation of half yearly audited accounts April-September 2019

834.01 Clerk had circulated the audited accounts with the agenda for the meeting. He now further circulated a copy of the purchase ledger and the sundry purchases ledger to the councillors.

834.02 There were no questions raised by Cllrs and the accounts were accepted. Clerk showed the signed copy of the bank reconciliation sheet by the internal auditor.

835.00 Lowca War Memorial Centenary Celebrations 25th April 2020.

835.01 Clerk advised that for the Remembrance Day service he had supplied Hubert Donnan with one of his personal cheques for £34 to cover the cost of the usual 2 wreaths for the war memorial. Clerk confirmed that H D had advised that he would be concentrating on Centenary celebrations once November Remembrance service completed.

836.00 Scarecrow competition. 20th October 2019

836.01 Chair advised that vicar Paul Kerry was expecting the scarecrows at 10.15 on Sunday morning, the service would commence 10.45 and the judging would take place after the service. Clerk advised that he had purchased 30 rosettes for the children taking part and each rosette had the legend "Well Done." Any not used could be used for a future occasion. Cost was £25.50, 85p a rosette.

836.02 Clerk requested that pictures were taken for use in the Lowca Lowdown.

837.00 Millennium Garden play area funding update.

837.01 Chair Cllr M O advised that she has a busy morning the next day attending a general fund-raising seminar at the Beacon in Whitehaven and she has various appointments with funders arranged to discuss the play area and also Heritage Funding for the Lowca village hall refurbishment.

838.00 Progress reports, clerk

838.01 Clerk confirmed the half yearly audit had been completed and at the next meeting he would present the revised Financial Code for Lowca

839.00 Lowca Councillors Reports

839.01 Cllrs had made various comments and requests to Cllr M B in minute 831.00

839.02 Chair Cllr M O would be contacting the new owners of Haigh Mine, West Cumbria Mining to see if they had a spare coal tub which the parish could have for their project behind the war memorial.

839.03 Cllr M O also enquired if the parish could have a Christmas Tree? Cllr D B (CBC) suggested that she contact Egremont Council as they have one at they could advise the source of the tree and how it was lit.

840.00 Correspondence.

840.01 Clerk read an email he had received from Copeland concerning the small recycling sites across Copeland. An issue Cllr A O had raised earlier. 15 of the sites were to close, one would be the Lowca facility based on East Road.

840.02 The email indicated that the combined running cost of the 15 sites was £40k per annum but the return from recycled content was £10k. Also, these sites were being misused by commercial users to save having the correct facility at their premises.

840.03 The new refuse collection facilities across Copeland with the improved weekly household collection service rendered the sites redundant. Cllr A O was not convinced but she was a lone voice of concern at the meeting.

840.04 The Great North West Air Ambulance had sent their annual request for a donation to support their charity and the Cllrs approved another donation of £100, clerk to arrange.

840.05 Copeland had sent their invoice for the ground’s maintenance contract up to the 31st Dec, £247.31p

840.06 Action in Cumbria, ACTs, had provided their details of its new “neighbourliness” campaign. Cllr H T took it to consider. Chair Cllr M O advised that folk in Lowca looked after their neighbours well.

841.00 Payments for approval

IntPay 146 M Milner, clerk, £243.57, salary £158.67p and expenses £84.90p.

IntPay 147 HMRC clerk’s PAYE £20.00p.

IntPay 148 Copeland Grounds Maintenance £247.31

IntPay 149 Great North West Air Ambulance donation £100.00

All approved

842.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 20th November 2019 at 7.30pm Lowca Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.21pm.