

## LOWCA PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 16th August 2017

Meeting Opened: - The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.33pm

Present: Cllrs P Todd (acting chair), J Crawford, Mrs D Butterworth, Mrs A Oliver.

Copeland Borough and Cumbria County Councillors: M Barbour CCC, Cllr J Bowman CBC

Clerk Mike Milner

Members of the public, one.

**467.00 Apologies for absence.** Cllrs H Thinnesen LPC, Miss M Oliver(chair) LPC, T Milligan LPC, Mrs J Bowman CBC.

**468.00 Declaration of Interest.** None

**469.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017, as a true record.**

469.01 The minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr D.B and seconded by Cllr A.O approved unanimously.

**470.00 Public Participation**

470.01 Lowca school headmistress Joanne Crawford was present and wanted to thank the parish council for sending Cllrs P.T and D.B to visit the school and see on behalf of the Lowca parish council the work that the school was undergoing. She advised the meeting that Cllr P.T was now officially on the school's board of governors. Starting on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August for 4 consecutive days between 9.30am and 5.30pm there are to be open days for people to view the new school and nursery facilities and she offered a cordial invitation to all the parish councillors and clerk. She then left the meeting.

**471.00 Police Report**

471.01 In the absence of PCSO Hollie Dennis the clerk read out her brief report. There were a couple of reports of criminal damage on Solway Road, a small motor cycle had been reported riding around Vale View and Meadow View, but officers unable to find the machine and riders, so no further action.

7.45pm Cllr J.C joined the meeting.

**472.00 Applications for Development.**

472.01 Clerk was in receipt of two planning applications.

472.02 Application CH/4/17/2250/OF1 the erection of an agricultural bungalow and garage at Lowca Cottage Farm. No objections by parish council.

472.03 Application CH/4/17/2267/OF1 erection of a detached garage/workshop at Rydyl House Lowca. No objections by parish council.

**473.00 County and District Councillors Reports**

473.01 Cllr J.B CBC, raised the issue of parking in the area of a disabled resident's bungalow in Vale View which is stopping access to a property and by that fact stopping a disabled individual gain access to the disabled area of the property via the rear entrance.

473.02 Parish councillors agreed that it should really be a matter for Home Group or the police, but Cllrs J.C and P.T agreed to go and assess the problem before the clerk took the issue up with Home Group.

473.03 Cllr J.B CBC also raised the issue and importance of individual residents of Lowca completing the forms about those registered to vote in their property. Elector numbers will carry importance when assessing the current boundary commission electoral reforms.

473.04 Councillors agreed that it was up to other agencies to get the forms completed, but clerk will mention it in the next Lowca Lowdown.

473.05 Cllr M.B CCC advised that he had been in touch with the Enforcement Officers in Whitehaven about the Lowca school parking problems. As they pointed out it is a problem for ALL schools. They will though send an Enforcement Officer at the start of the new term to see if the situation can be improved.

473.06 Cllr J.C asked the question of who was best person to contact about the recent smells coming from the United Utilities plant at Parton. Cllr J.B CBC advised it was the environmental officer at Copeland, but that individual may end up talking to the same answer phone as Cllr J.C. This smell was a problem governed by weather conditions and wind and was something no solution could easily be found.

#### **474.00 Proposal to provide Grant to Lowca School for wet play area flooring extension.**

474.01 Lowca Cllrs P.T and D.B, after the discussions at the last parish council meeting had gone to the school to meet the headmistress and see for themselves the problems, the redevelopment and the embracing of a new nursery Happy Hours. Cllr P.T outlined what had been discussed and what the parish council may consider for a grant towards the new flooring. It was revealed that the nursey company will pay £90 per week to the school, but if that meant that the nursery pupils became school pupils, that could help sustain the school numbers and allow the school to develop more long-term planning and projects.

474.02 The clerk advised the council that the grant of £539, half of the flooring cost, would be equivalent to about 7% of its precept and would be a fair representation of the children from Lowca at the school, compared to the village population.

474.03 A discussion about the school benefitting from a grant, when Cllr J.C felt that it was a private company who were benefiting, followed. Cllrs P.T & D.B explained at great length the internal changes within the school were being made to benefit all current pupils, not just to accommodate the nursery. The flooring cost had to be looked at with regard to all the changes to internal classroom facilities being undertaken, at substantial cost to the school budget.

474.04 Cllr P.T formerly proposed that the parish council grant the school £539 half of the cost of the MS Flooring work undertaken from the entrance hall to the new toilet block. Cllr D.B seconded the proposal. On a show of hands, the vote was 3 to 1 in favour of the grant. Cllr J.C voted against the proposal.

#### **475.00 Progress Report, Clerk.**

475.01 Clerk was still awaiting a reply from Copeland solicitor Clinton Boyce on the ownership of the BMX track. Cllr P.T had been talking to former parish councillors and the rugby club were obtaining a copy of their deeds because those deeds should help clarify the position.

475.02 minute 462.01 the clerk had received a quotation to cut the left-hand section of grass at the end of Solway Road/East Road. One off cut, £54.27 then £23.37 on a regular 2 weekly cycle. Cllrs agreed with the quotation and clerk to advise Susan Fryer, Open Spaces Manager, to put the contract in hand. While confirming that would he point out the large area of grass off Stamford Hill is not being cut as well as it used to be, has the machine being used changed.

475.03 CISWO have finally advised the clerk of a company who will do a CRB on individuals of the Lowca Welfare Management Committee if they feel they need one at a cost of £5.

475.04 The Parton/Lowca footbridge will cost £430 ex Vat to repair. Parton are prepared to meet half the cost but Natural England will also contribute a substantial amount 70% is expected, once clerk had made the appropriate application. Cllrs agreed to get the task completed. Clerk to oversee the project.

475.04 Cllr M.B CCC had already dealt with the clerk's Enforcement Officer item, but it was agreed to revisit the topic at the October meeting.

475.05 Clerk had been asked to seek advice about adoption of Stamford Hill. He had been to Highways Department at Lillyhall and had a very informative discussion with Kevin Cosgrove. Lowca Cllrs listen to the clerk's report and the potential costs and varying stages needed to be considered meant it was something that the parish council would not pursue.

475.06 During visit to Highways Dep't clerk had discussed the HGV problem in Lowca, Highways traffic survey report and what further action could be taken. Clerk advised the councillors how another similar situation had been resolved at Colour Grow in Distington.

475.07 Cllrs agreed that a factual traffic survey recording types, size and times and descriptions of vehicle movements was a necessary step. The clerk had prepared a proposed spreadsheet to record such information and Cllrs agreed to implement the survey. Clerk to provide further supply for sheets for councillors to use.

475.08 The yellow lines at the school have been repainted.

475.09 Road signs for Stamford Hill advising unsuitable for HGV's are just waiting to be positioned.

475.10 The Moresby arrester lane has been assessed by Highways Department and they consider that a few minor tweaks of signage will in the short-term be adequate. They don't to spend vast sums on major changes because of the A595 road repair which is under discussion.

8.46pm Cllr A.O left the meeting.

475.11 Clerk advised that the autumn Lowca Lowdown will completed in early October.

#### **476.00 Councillors Reports**

476.01 No Lowca Cllrs had anything else to add to the meeting, other than Cllr P.T said that following the recent bad weather he had been asked about the installation of the purchased bus stop. Clerk advised he had mentioned the project to Cllr T.M but that Cllr was at work this evening so it would be pursued over the next few days.

#### **477.00 Correspondence.**

477.01 Final external audit report received from BDO, government auditors. No problems the clerk will display the accounts as appropriate and advised that as the PC turned over in excess of £10,001 last year there was a mandatory £120 fee payable.

477.02 Invoice received from Printpoint £186.00

#### **478.00 Payments for approval**

IntPay 68 M Milner, clerk, £197.14, salary £159.05p and expenses £38.09p

IntPay 69 HMRC clerks PAYE £20.20p

IntPay 70 Printpoint £186.00 Summer Lowca Lowdown

IntPay 71 BDO Audits Fees £120.00

IntPay 72 Lowca School Fund £539.00

All approved.

Meeting closed 8.53pm

**479.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7.30pm  
Lowca Village Hall.**