

**MINUTES OF LOWCA PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21th DECEMBER 2016
AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Lowca Parish Councillors

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

Parish Clerk

Mr M Milner

Copeland District and Cumbria County Councillor

Gillian Troughton CBC & CCC

Apologises

Mr P Todd.
John Bowman CBC
Jackie Bowman CBC

Meeting Opened:

The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm.

360.00 Apologises.

Duly noted as above.

361.00 Declaration of Interest

None

362.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 16th November, as a true record.

362.01 The minutes, after amendment about Cllrs Bowman leaving at 351.05, were proposed as a true record by Cllr T.M and seconded by Cllr J.C

363.00 Public Participation

No public present

364.00 Police Report

364.01 Clerk read report obtained from police website, but only correct to October and it only showed a theft reported in Ghyll Grove. Cllr J.C commented that Lowca as a community was a relatively crime free area.

364.02 Clerk had a meeting on Sunday 4th Dec at 11am with Insp' Craig Lory at Whitehaven police station. The main points raised were the time lag in updating the police crime website and the parking problems caused outside Lowca school.

364.03 Cumbria County Council Highways have emailed, 20th Dec', to confirm that the yellow road markings around the school are to be repainted the next time the lining team are in the area.

365.00 Applications for Development.

None

366.00 County and District Councillors Reports

366.01 Cllr G.T CCC advised that she had been involved with a discussion document about the health impact assessment of Moorside. This was not just about site health and safety but also the affects across the region. She wanted to make the point that traffic delays caused by problems on the A595 or possibly parking at Parton Station for folk using the train to get to work at Moorside could cause stress for locals, which would be a health impact from Moorside.

366.02 Cllr J.C wanted to know how planning permission could be granted for the Moorside project without the roads and transport system being part of the planning approval. Cllr G.T pointed out the Moorside was a National Strategy decision so planning was nothing to do local councillors. Hence her desire that wherever possible local parish councils provided local input. Such input could in sufficient quantity help influence the decision makers.

366.03 Broadband availability was raised. Cllr G.T to investigate the position with regard to Lowca, as availability varied and was this due to the infrastructure or the broadband suppliers.

366.04 Cllr G.T advised she was still investigating the size of the School sign and pathway by the church, minutes 351.04/05 refer.

367.00 Lowca's response to National Grid pylons.

367.01 Although the new taller pylons will not actually encroach on Lowca it was agreed the clerk should write to National Grid and express concerns about possible traffic congestion on local roads as the pylon traffic could become involved with the A595 embankment problem.

367.02 Cllr A.O raised the question of safety of the pylon above the embankment area that is currently being surveyed. It was agreed the clerk should contact ENW for confirmation that the pylon and its power supply were safe.

368.00 Bus Shelter Progress Report

368.01 The bus shelter, in kit form, has been delivered to Lowca. Clerk thanked Cllr T.M for all his assistance in arranging the unloading of the shelter.

368.02. Cllr T.M was provided with the working and installation drawings and will organise the installation of the shelter.

369.00 Precept for 2017/18

369.01 Clerk had been in touch with Copeland Finance department and advised that for 2017/18 there would be no additional grant on top of the precept that the council requested. This had been £544 in the 2016/17 year.

369.02 After discussions the Cllrs considered a proposal from Cllr T.M that the PC should request a precept figure of £7500, last year it had been £7000, plus the additional grant. Cllr J.C seconded the proposal and a vote by hands showed a unanimous decision to support the proposal.

370.00 Progress Report, Clerk.

370.01 Minute 352.00 refers, councillors to keep monitoring the HGV traffic in Lowca.

370.02 Clerk advised that a recent Microsoft Windows 10 update had meant a loss of internet connectivity on Lowca laptop. He had had to resort to taking the laptop to adiTech in Workington who had resolved the problem for a £39 charge. The problem was widespread and made BBC news.

371.00 Councillors Reports

371.01 Chairman reported that there had been an incident involving 2 lads delivering Lowdown's and also some adverse comment about the new fencing around the war memorial.

371.02 The fact that dogs could get under the fencing was no different from the fact when unfenced dogs could walk all around the memorial, Cllrs agreed the positive comments far outweighed the odd adverse views.

371.03 Cllr D.B was aware of a light not working on Meadow View. Cllr G.T would investigate and also take a drive around Lowca to inspect, in the dark, the new lights that have been installed and report back. Clerk advised Cllr D.B that 2 years ago, when a replacement light was being requested in Ghyll Grove, the cost to the PC for a completely new lamp pole, head and all connections was £2700, which the PC precept could not afford.

371.04 Cllr T.M requested that the Lowca Lowdown show the cost of projects that the PC had undertaken, so the residents of Lowca could see how their money was spent locally. Clerk to write a piece for the March Lowdown.

372.00 Correspondence.

372.01 Clerk had received from Elizabeth Norton, Archivist at the Whitehaven Cumbria Archive Office, a complete list of documents deposited from the cupboard behind the Lowca Welfare building stage.

373.00 Payments approved for payment via internet banking.

IntPay 46 Great North Air Ambulance, grant approved at November meeting £50

IntPay 47 M Milner, clerk, £380.79, salary £227.40p and expenses £153.39p

IntPay 48 HMRC clerks PAYE £37.20p

IntPay 49 Printpoint, December Lowca Lowdown, £186.00

All approved.

Meeting closed 8.27pm

374.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 15th February 2017 at 7.30pm Lowca Village Hall.

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