

**MINUTES OF LOWCA PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014  
AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:**

**Lowca Parish Councillors**

Mr B Ennis  
Mrs G Strickland  
Mr J Crawford  
Mr F Hollowell  
Mr T Milligan  
Mrs M Moore  
Miss M J Oliver  
Mrs E Walker  
Mrs A Oliver

**Copeland Borough Councillor:**

Mr B Dixon

**Parish Clerk**

Mr M Milner

**Apologises:**

**Cumbria County Councillor**

Mrs S Hayman

**Meeting Opened:**

The chairman declared the meeting opened at 7.33pm.

**023.00**

**Declaration of Interest.**

023.01, The chairman reported that Cllr M Moore had asked about her interest concerning an item added to the agenda in respect of the Let's Play School group, but as Cllr Moore is connected with the Lowca school not the play school there was no conflict of interest.

**024.00**

**To approve and accept the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2014.**

024.01, Cllr T Milligan that the minutes did not record that he left the meeting at 9.45pm at the conclusion of the item 017.01, concerning the audit for year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014. The chairman invited the clerk to amend the copy which was to be the TRUE RECORD, the minutes were then proposed for acceptance,  
Proposed Cllr G Strickland  
Seconded Cllr M Moore  
Unanimous vote for by Cllrs who were at the meeting.

## **025.00**

### **Police Matters**

025.01 The police were represented by the new Community Police Support Officer Sarah Marshall who was attending her first parish council meeting. She advised the meeting that there had been very little antisocial behaviour either youth or adult so nothing to report and no traffic problems, just one suspicious vehicle which turned out to be locally owned and that problem was resolved.

Then she raised the subject of bikes and quads bikes, she thought that the problem was restricted to the pit bank track, but talking to local residents she has discovered that it also applies to the BMX track. She has been talking to David Strong of Copeland B.C about the track and it appears that C.B.C own the track and have given their permission for the track to be used for engine powered vehicles. She has asked for details of who sanctioned that possible authority. Then if the local residents are not happy with the situation they and the Parish Council know who to approach on the matter. If no authorisation has been given it would be advisable to get the C.B.C to erect signs to that effect, which would make the enforcement of no bikes or quads on the track must easier.

She stressed that the logs that they were receiving about the misuse of pit bank were anonymous, which as the control room receiving these calls is now Penrith based, not Workington, the officer taking the call will not have the local knowledge to direct anyone to the area precisely, leading to a time delay. It was pointed out to Sarah that a lot of the problems were created by village residents, a fact she acknowledged and that they were talking to individuals, but those approached were denying the offences. It was pointed out that some of the bikes were racing down West Croft Terrace, which was endangering life according to Cllr G Strickland. They were then going down the cycle track and along the pit bank. Which as Cllr M Oliver pointed out was a bridleway and horses and their riders were being scared. Sarah was unaware of the horse problem, but the police had gone to the area in response to an anonymous call and found a quad bike and individuals with it, but as they were not at that time riding the bike and the call was anonymous the police could take no further action.

The cllrs advised Sarah that a bad time for the problem was Sunday afternoon and Sarah stated that she would try and ensure where her duty shift allowed she would endeavour to be walking that area. The cllrs asked Sarah if it would be possible to get a more frequent police presence at the rear of West Croft Terrace, so the source of the problem was aware of the police being on the lookout for the trouble. The question was raised about people recording the actions of these bikers on mobile phones.

025.01 continued, Sarah said she would establish the legality of such video footage being admissible as evidence and report back. The chairman asked if Sarah could provide accident numbers for the Lowca junction on the A595. Her predecessor had been asked but never provided the details. Sarah was certain that information had been passed on to her and she would supply it. Sarah pointed out though that unless there is a police attendance or a hit and run report, her figures would not include accidents where only names and addresses were exchanged and then people continued on their way.

**026.00**

The chairman then suspended the meeting to allow representatives of the local kinder garden school, Let's Play School, state their case for a donation towards the rubber safety matting they wanted. The representatives of the group which is a registered charity were John Weir, chairman and Brian Ward, treasurer. The school as a group has been going 12 years, but 12 months ago the local Lowca junior school acquired lottery funding to convert a classroom for the group to move into. In March 2014 the school advised the group that the proposed extension for a play area could not proceed as the school had no further funds available. Let's Play required £5400 to pay for the area. They received donations from various sources totalling £2400, the parents found £1000 and the group had an emergency fund of £2000, so the project could proceed. However the concrete and tarmac areas now cause the children to trip as they go from one to the other and for safety they want rubber matting which will cover an area of 7mtr by 9mtr and cost £1500. They would like a donation towards that cost from the Parish Council, if possible. There followed a discussion about the group being disability friendly, the school having an excellent Ofsted report and because of the 23 youngster that they brought to the school it made a dinner club once a week viable. The chairman thanked them for their presentation and said the matter would be discussed later in the evening.

**027.00**  
**Planning Matters**

027.01 There was one planning application CH/4/14/2339/OF1 which concerned the change of use of an agricultural building, a barn, at Green House Farm, to a dwelling. The letter was dated the 12<sup>th</sup> August, so well outside the 21 day time limit that the council had to raise any objections.  
027.02, the councillors asked the clerk to write to the planning department to point out the possible time lapse that can arise between the clerk receiving the details and the next meeting, making a submission within 21 days impossible and enquire as to what action could be taken to ensure if there was a serious objection, the council's concerns could be heard and acted upon.

## **028.00**

### **Matters concerning District and Ward Councillors.**

028.01 C.B.C Brian Dixon advised that he had confirmation that the Parish Council's Notice Board did not require planning permission, that he had forwarded details concerning the Distington Hall Crematorium that Cllr G Strickland had requested and that Clinton Boyce the council solicitor had confirmed that the Lowca War Memorial land issue was now nearing completion. He had also received an apology from Janice Carroll and a confirmation that if she was ever to be attending a meeting involving Lowca residents he would be invited.

028.02 The chairman advised that unless there were any volunteers he had had an offer from Jonathan Davis to dig the two holes and set the Parish Notice Board legs in cement for the princely sum of £30/40. No volunteers from the room.

028.03 Cllr Strickland raised the issue of the donations for the Memorial Wall available on the Copeland website, but there is no memorial wall. She also quired with Cllr Milligan about the shelter erected at the crem, which he advised was as a result of the liaison group for the crem, which included clergy and funeral directors. The shelter is in fact a smoking shelter.

028.04, the clerk then read a précis of the report he had received from the C.B.Cs John and Jackie Bowman. They commence with a comment about the Costal Interpretation Boards and the drop in centres being proposed. They are also trying to assist Mercia Oliver find funds for her picnic tables on the pathway. There is to be a scheduled Estate Walkabout for 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014 starting at 9.30am at Ghyll Grove covering Vale View, Meadow View and West Croft Terrace.

Still ongoing problems with the main contractors workmanship, Wilmot Dixon, with Home Housing issues. Information is being distributed about the National Grid proposed new high voltage pylons and lines, their routes and finally on Highway Matters dates for its discussion have not yet been finalised by the Highway Agency. At the end of the précis Cllr Strickland advised that as far as she was aware the walkabout had been today 17<sup>th</sup>. It is a walkabout organised annually by Home Group, not the C.B.C and the invite letters generally go to Home Group tenants.

028.05, Cllr Strickland asked if someone Home Housing could be requested to attend the parish council meeting. C.B.C B Dixon advised the Housing Officer is David Monks and the chairman requested that the clerk contact D Monks, giving him the next 2 parish council dates and ask him if he could attend one of them.

028.06, Cllr F Hollowell asked if the clerk could contact C.C.C Sue Hayman about the withdrawal of Sunday and late night buses, as they are funded by C.C.C.

C.B.C Brian Dixon left the meeting at 8.50pm

## **029.00**

### **Matters arising from the last minutes.**

The clerk advised he had posted the year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 audit the day following the last meeting. BDO the external auditors had contacted him with 4 queries, one which concerned the radar gun which was a gift and he had located the minute confirming the same in the minutes for September 2004. No response to his submission so he thought the auditors were content with explanations.

### **030.00**

#### **To approve and accept New Standing Orders, revised October 2013, previously circulated to all Parish Councillors.**

030.01, Standing orders previously circulated were discussed, specifically where there were blanks in the wording, which required time limits or persons in number stipulated. The clerk advised that he would circulate a list of all the amendments once they were agreed, so they could be read in conjunction with the Standing Orders the councillors had before them. All new councillors would be issued with a set of Standing Orders when they took up their position on the council. Any amendments in the future would be discussed at a meeting prior to acceptance and circulation.

The Standing Orders were approved and accepted unanimously.  
Cllr Mercia Oliver left the meeting 9.11pm.

### **031.00**

#### **National Grid, North West Coast Connection, Onshore North Proposed route option, Public Meeting Venues.**

031.01, All councillors had received the various promotional material being distributed by the National Grid. The local consultation dates were confirmed and those present would try to visit one of the venues. The new larger pylons would appear to be going inland of Lowca, so would not be visible. However, would the existing lower voltage pylons through Lowca be removed?

Cllr M Moore left the meeting at 9.16pm and returned 9.18pm.

### **032.00**

#### **Matters of Report.**

032.01, the clerk reported that he had discovered that for the past two years Lowca PC had been paying the insurance for the footbridge between Parton and Lowca, without charging Parton PC with 50% of the cost. He had established the bridge charges and invoiced Parton PC for £229.54 outstanding, which had been paid by Parton and banked by the clerk. The chairman thought that the C.C.C had taken on the insurance liability, so asked the clerk to establish with C.C.C Sue Hayman if they had.

032.02, the chairman reminded the meeting that the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial would shortly taking place and it is normal practice that the school and the PC share a wreath, so this year he would like to provide two wreaths, one for the school and one for the PC, to save the embarrassment of a wreath being laid, then taken back and re-laid again.

Cllr M Moore proposed that the PC buy a wreath and donate it to the school for them to lay and it remain on the Memorial. Seconded, Cllr E Walker.  
Approved unanimously.

## **033.00**

### **Correspondence.**

033.01. Copeland Borough Council, Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2014, dated 22 August 2014.

033.02. Copeland Borough Council, Pole Replacement Funding, dated 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

033.03. Parton PC, letter and cheque for £229.54, 2 years footbridge insurance.

033.04. Copeland Borough Council, Parish Election 2015, Estimated Costs, dated 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

033.05. Email from CALC dated 29<sup>th</sup> August 2014, advising of a Data Protection and Freedom of Information Workshop, which they are trying to organise in Cumbria. It will be a free workshop to attend. The clerk advised that due to the importance of the topic he had confirmed that he would attend to ensure Lowca PC were fully acquainted with all the legal requirements to meet the legislation.

033.06. CALC email about a right to challenge parking polices, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> September

033.07. CALC email about Broadband via fibre optic, the roll out across the county. Did anyone wished to attend? The chairman confirmed his attendance, but if he is unable to attend the clerk would go.

## **034.00**

### **Let's Play School request for donation.**

034.01, subsequent to the presentation from the Let's Play School representatives a discussion and confirmation of the current bank balance being £8232.16, Cllr E Walker proposed that as the PC had received the reimbursement of the insurance premium, a donation of £500 should be made to the playgroup. This was seconded by Cllr G Strickland, a vote was unanimously in favour with Cllr Crawford abstaining.

## **034.00**

### **Cheques for signing.**

034.01, £500, cheque No 100292, Let's Play School, Lowca

034.02, £326.20, cheque No 100291, M Milner clerk, Salary £270, expenses £56.20

The clerk circulated a time schedule of his hours for the period 20<sup>th</sup> August to 16<sup>th</sup> September, as he had promised at the August meeting to maintain a record for councillors viewing. Cllr J Crawford wanted a discussion on the timings shown, but due to the lateness of the hour the chairman ruled it would be an item on the October's agenda.

## **035.00**

### **Date and time of next meeting.**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm Lowca village hall

Meeting closed at 9.50pm