

LOWCA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Lowca Parish Council Meeting

held on Wednesday 18th Dec' 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), T Milligan, Mrs D Butterworth

Copeland Borough and Cumbria County Councillors: Cllr Martin Barbour (CCC)

Clerk: Mike Milner

Members of the public, none

861.00 Apologises for Absence. H Thinnesen (LPC), Mrs A Oliver (LPC).

862.00 Declaration of Interest. None

863.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 20th November 2019, as a true record.

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

864.00 Public Participation.

864.01 No reports from last meeting and no public present at this meeting.

865.00 Police Report

865.01 Clerk read out the latest crime reports from Police website. He then circulated a copy of his report to Inspector Rachel Gayle in which points out the draw backs, problems and public concerns about the effectiveness of the police crime reporting on its website. He also circulated the response from the Inspector. The response acknowledges that there are problems, remedial actions are planned, but the actual up dating of the website is done by a civilian organisation not the police.

866.00 County and District Councillors Reports

866.01 Cllr M.B advised the council that he had nothing to report as he had been busy with the recent general election canvassing.

Chair invited him to remain if he wished, an invite accepted.

867.00 Applications for Development.

867.01 No development applications

868.00 Set Parish precept figure for financial year 2020/21

868.01 Clerk circulated the budget figures and reminded them that as per minute 852.01 he recommended no increase in the precept this year. After a brief discussion Cllr M O proposed the precept remain as 19/20, 2nd by Cllr D B and resolved as such. £7725.00

869.00 Lowca Village Hall Management Committee report

869.01 In the absence of Cllr H T, Cllrs M O and D B advised on the success of the opening of the bar area by the new Lowca Community Club. The new Community Club have redecorated the bar area and retiled in the toilet areas. Councillors agreed it was to be hoped that the new Community Club and its bar were a commercial success for the benefit of the community and the village hall itself.

870.00 Lowca Christmas Tree display

870.01 Cllrs M O and T M had spent time that day installing the village Christmas Tree on the grassed area behind the bus shelter in East Road. They had battled gales and rain, but it was in position despite the best efforts of the wind to stop the exercise.

870.02 Cllr T M said he would strengthen its security in daylight tomorrow. Clerk confirmed he had a licence for the tree from Copeland and he also handed over some Public Safety Notices to Cllr O M to put on the fencing plus some spare batteries for the lights on the fencing. Battery operated lights kindly donated by a local resident.

871.00 Consider parish council match funding Lowca Village Hall Management Committee funding to refurbish main hall or exterior of property, not refurbishment of Community Club bar area. Toilet facility for disabled use.

871.01 Cllrs O M and D B after a discussion said they would report to the Village Hall Management Committee that if they could produce quotations for work that is being contemplated the parish council could consider providing some funding to match the management committee's monies.

872.00 Consider the future of Lowca Lowdown should it continue as a printed and distributed newsletter, or just an electronically available item?

872.01 Concerns had been raised about it being delivered to every household in Lowca. Chair M O explained how it was distributed and by whom. It was acknowledged that in some homes it was probably read by one occupant and then put in the recycling.

872.02 Finally agreed that the Lowdown would continue as currently produced, then a copy distributed to every house in Lowca, plus on the Lowca official website and now on the Lowca Community Group Facebook page.

873.00 Lowca War Memorial Centenary Celebrations 25th April 2020.

873.01 Clerk confirmed that the Christmas Lowdown had both a front cover containing details of the recent Remembrance Day ceremony and then on the back a reminder of the proposed War Memorial Celebration next April. He would make contact with the team organising the celebrations after the holiday period, plus turn his attention to the memorial celebration booklet with the lady who was compiling the material and photos.

874.00 Progress reports, clerk

874.01 Clerk confirmed Lowdown, produced, printed and distributed.

874.02 He reminded the councillors that there were 4 vacancies on the current council and although he had mentioned them in the Lowdown, could Cllrs please consider possible candidates. If there was a new Community Club and volunteers for that committee could some residents not consider joining the parish council.

874.03 Clerk reported as per minute 857.02 he had contacted Copeland and their Scientific Officer, Thomas Greer, had visited the area suspected of having Japanese Knotweed and reported he could see no evidence. His comments had been reported in the Lowdown.

874.04 Cllr T M to go across with the individual who reported the matter initially, inspect, photograph and get a GPS fix to report back to Copeland via the clerk.

875.00 Lowca Councillors Reports

875.01 Cllr M O reported that she had received comments about the recycling bins having been removed, but as the village gets a fortnightly collection and the area now looks tidier the parish had to accept Copeland's decision to cease the facility.

876.00 Correspondence.

- 876.01 Clerk reported exchange of emails with new Community Club for Lowdown content.
- 876.02 Clerk had been in contact with Andrew Ward about Lowca website web hosting, issues with Adobe Flash resolved and 2 invoices for £35 hosting charges received.
- 876.03 Content from Calc confirming parish councils cannot provide funding to churches for property repairs, but contributions to maintain enclosed graveyards was permitted.
- 876.04 Calc December newsletter received and content noted.
- 876.05 Clerk had received emails from a resident about street lights not functioning. Highways had confirmed that they would replace the poles and lights on the road up to St Bridgett's, however still trying to ascertain who was responsible for lighting up from Blomfields, they may have been abandoned in budget cuts.
- 876.06 Received the latest Great North Air Ambulance newsletter.
- 876.07 Another email from resident about fly tipping on Lowca Brow, a fridge freezer and washing machine, duly reported to Copeland. Clerk had also received pictures of a burnt-out car. The car was on private land and therefore not something that was responsibility of Copeland to dispose of, car in fact since removed by owner's insurance.
- 876.08 Clerk had copy of the details of Copelands Local Plan 2017 – 2035.
- 876.09 Clerk had reminded Parton parish council that they owed Lowca £148 for their 50% contribution to the footbridge insurance. New chair at Parton had asked for historical clarification of the agreement for Parton councillors information. Clerk had gone through his bridge paperwork and provided the details via a scanned file. Money should be approved at January Parton meeting.

877.00 Payments for approval

- IntPay 153 M Milner, clerk, £260.55, salary £205.59p and expenses £54.96p.
- IntPay 154 HMRC clerk's PAYE £31.80p.
- IntPay 155 Andrew Ward 2 years web site hosting fees 18/19 & 19/20 £35 = £70

All approved

878.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 15th January 2020 at 7.30pm Lowca Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.09pm.