

LOWCA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Lowca Parish Council Meeting

held on Wednesday 19th Feb' 2020 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, H Thinnesen, Mrs A Oliver, Mrs R Barwise, Mrs D Butterworth, Miss K Thinnesen, Miss L Tumelty-Harris

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

Clerk: Mike Milner

Members of the public, two.

900.00 Apologies for Absence. None

901.00 Declaration of Interest. None

902.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 15th January 2020, as a true record.

902.01 Resolved by Cllrs present at the meeting in January to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.

903.00 Co-option of new parish councillors.

903.01 An interview panel consisting of three Lowca councillors, M O, T M and D B had interviewed three appropriately qualified Lowca residents, Ruth Barwise, Katherine Thinnesen and Lola Tumelty-Harris on Monday 17th Feb' and unanimously agreed that subject to council's approval all should be co-opted.

903.02 Cllr D B proposed their co-option seconded by Cllr A O and they duly elected unanimously. The clerk obtained signed declaration of office forms and provided the new councillors with a copy of The Good Councillors guide. Chair M O welcomed them to the council.

904.00 Public Participation.

904.01 No outstanding reports from last meeting. The public present wished to participate in agenda items 9 and 10. Chair approved latter participation.

905.00 Police Report

905.01 Clerk read the information he had established from the local Cumbria Police area crime map.

906.00 County and District Councillors Reports

906.01 Cllr M B (CCC) advised that he had nothing to report. Cllr D B (CBC) handed the clerk an official A3 laminated coloured Copeland Information Map, he also advised that at a recent meeting his comments had been misinterpreted and he had been accused of being antisemitic. He therefore apologised to Lowca council and those present that if his remarks had caused any offence, that was not his intention. Chair thanked both for their attendance and invited them to stay for the remainder of the meeting. Both accepted the invitation.

Hubert Donnan was present to discuss the war memorial centenary celebrations therefore the chair proposed that she moved agenda item 10 to the next item to save H D having to sit through what could be a lengthy planning discussion.

907.00 Lowca War Memorial Centenary Celebrations 25th April 2020.

907.01 The clerk updated the council on his actions since the last meeting. He has emailed Cumberland Rugby League fixture secretary and received confirmation there will be NO home fixture for Lowca rugby club on Saturday 25th April. Once he had heard H D's comments this evening, he would have better idea on numbers and would contact the police.

907.02 Clerk had invited the grandson of the gentleman, Thomas Crellin, who had unveiled the Lowca Memoria on 25th April 1920. Don Crellin confirmed he would be attending the ceremony. He lives at Holmrook.

907.03 Clerk handed around mock ups of the commemorative booklet that he had compiled, he explained they would be A4 size and 12 pages. He had obtained prices of £415/400, £460/450 and £500/500 copies. Cllrs discussed distribution and should it be part of a larger Lowca Lowdown. As it was a commemorative booklet not an insert it was agreed that it should be a special booklet. However, it would be distributed at the same time as the Spring/Easter Lowca Lowdown and that would contain an invite to all Lowca villagers to attend the Centenary Ceremony. 450 copies to be ordered.

907.04 H D then outlined his proposals. He was hoping to have 2 Duke of Lancaster standards on parade. Sgt Murphy the Permanent Staff Officer of Workington TA had agreed to act as Parade Marshal, he had done task at the rededication ceremony. It was hoped to have 6 TA cadets in the parade, similar from the Whitehaven Air Cadets. Also, he was hoping that the Whitehaven Brass Band would lead the parade and British Legion would attend with standards. If that was achieved, then he wanted the parade to be of at least 200 yards down East Road to provide the sense of impact the occasion and those attending deserved. He had a plan B with mobile sound system if band not available. H B hoping for a bugler to do the Last Post.

907.05 Then raised the issue of the buffet, it must not be a tea and biscuit affair. Clerk confirmed Lowca Community Club would provide their facility FOC, just a token charge for electricity and gas, nothing for staff. A discussion about potential number of invited guests it was finally agreed to cater for 120 people, finger buffet but no salad content. Chair to organise and clerk would provide the £50 deposit requested. Council have agreed £400 so 120 at £3 per head was within budget.

907.06 Cllr T M would provide his pulpit as per the previous occasion and Rev Paul Kerry has confirmed he was attending. Chair thanked H D for his input and contribution to helping too making the actual ceremony something the village of Lowca community could be proud of.

Chair resumed the agenda at item No 8

908.00 Applications for Development.

908.01 Clerk had circulated to councillors' documents about the planning application by Woodland Nurseries, Blomfields Ltd CH/4/20/2022/0F1. It is for an additional 3.2ha of glass housing to the north of the present glass houses and its access would be off the Sustrans track, which is on land owned by the applicant but rented by Sustrans for a peppercorn rent.

908.02 Chair invited Cllrs for their observations before clerk made any comment. Cllr A O raised serious concerns about Sustrans track.

908.03 Clerk then explained his approach to the application. On straight forward planning grounds, the applicant and the agent had provided a good case for the development it was alongside an established business and quoted in their access and planning statement at note 5.2 that it conformed to NPPF Feb 2019 version, paragraphs 83 and 84.

908.04 The clerk then detailed his thoughts on how Lowca parish council could tackle the development, his use of NPPF guidelines and that Lowca should be attempting to achieve planning gain from the development. Road surfaces are suffering from the HGV traffic flow, Solway Road from East Road to the nursery entrance was never designed to take multi axle HGV vehicles, especially as permitted weight limits have increased. Also, on that stretch of road are 4 access points for children from play areas, but only one has constraints to stop children running in front of motor vehicles. Could traffic calming be a consideration? Vehicles are still using Stamford Hill as an access to the nursery, even though Cumbria Highways have installed a not suitable for HGV's notice. This requires a more specific sign stipulating not for nursery deliveries. HGV's are using car Sat Nav equipment. Finally, there is a traffic flow submission, which does not provide data that matches the April 2019 survey the parish council had Highways conduct.

908.05 Cllrs discussed other details, wildlife in the area, and also internal irrigation disposal and discharge into Distington Beck. Clerk was requested to compile a response and circulate to all councillors with email access on Sunday 23rd February. Councillors to respond with urgency as Lowca has until Monday 24th to make its submission. If the application is to go to a planning committee clerk to ensure Lowca is invited and can make additional verbal submissions.

909.00 Lowca Village Hall Management Committee report

909.01 The management committee secretary advised that the Copeland Rates Department had been in contact and that for the first time the status of the building from a rates aspect has been resolved. The new Lowca Community Club will be responsible for the rates for all the building apart from the big hall. As the Community Club is a correctly registered small business it will be exempt paying rates. The hall management committee as a registered charity will get an 80% rate reduction on the remaining bill and are hopeful it will be approx £300 per annum.

909.02 The roof over the games area in the bar area needs repairing, but weather not conducive for such repairs. The main hall interior roof has 2 new ceiling tiles and once the bank account situation is resolved additional new tiles will be purchased. The annual insurance had been paid by the secretary; however, the bank account now has in excess of £9k in it so all outstanding commitments to those currently paying bills on the management committee's behalf were more than adequately covered.

909.03 There is an ongoing volunteer painting group refreshing the hall's internal decorations.

910.00 Progress reports, clerk

910.01 clerk referred to minute 891.01, as new councillors had been co-opted this evening and there was still one to interview for the remaining vacancy, he will no longer pursue this topic as a live item.

910.02 Clerk confirmed that he had sent signed copy of grounds maintenance to Copeland.

910.03 The antivirus on Lowca laptop required renewal, clerk had purchased another 12 months Total Protection by McAfee from Argos for £7.99.

910.04 All other progress reports covered by specific agenda items.

911.00 Lowca Councillors Reports

911.01 Cllr D B had been asked about erecting a marquee on the ground behind the village hall. Advised that it was a matter for the hall management committee. Also a query about rubbish being dropped outside various properties, again not a parish council matter, it is Copeland's domain. They are the authority to issue appropriate action over illegal tipping, rubbish disposal.

911.02 Cllr T M enquired if there was any further news on a flag pole. Chair to enquire.

911.03 Cllr T M and H T advised that the waste treatment plant at Parton, currently omitting a much stronger smell than normal. Clerk to contact UU.

911.04 Cllr M O was in process of organising a litter pick but would wait until more clement weather in early spring.

912.00 Payments for approval

Clerk advised that this month he had done 40hrs 6min, nearly double what he normally does, but planning application, war memorial and new councillor co-option arrangements had added considerably to his work load this past month.

IntPay 160 M Milner, clerk, £397.19, salary £370.30p and expenses £26.89p.

IntPay 161 HMRC clerk's PAYE £72.80p.

IntPay 162 Calc, £12.00, Good Councillor Guide x 4 off.

All approved.

913.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 18th March 2020 at Lowca Village Hall. It will immediately follow the Lowca Annual Parish meeting that will commence at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.12pm.