

**MINUTES OF LOWCA PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18th MAY 2016
AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Lowca Parish Councillors

Miss M J Oliver (chairman)
Mrs A Oliver
Mr T Milligan
Mr J Crawford
Mr H Thinnesen
Mrs D Butterworth
Mr P Todd. Co-opted minute 276.00 refers

Parish Clerk

Mr M Milner

Copeland District and Cumbria County Councillors

None Present

Apologises

John Bowman CDC
Jackie Bowman CDC
Gillian Troughton CDC & CCC

Meeting Opened:

The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm.

273.00 Apologises.

Duly noted as above.

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

The minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr T.M and seconded by Cllr J.C
The vote by show of hands was unanimous for approval.

275.00 Public Participation/open Session (15 minutes allowed)

No public present

276.00 Council vacancy, sub-committee report

276.01 With reference to minute 266.01 Cllrs M.O, T.M & H.T had interviewed Paul Todd on Monday 16th May, with the clerk taking minutes. After the interview the Cllrs agreed unanimously that Paul would be potentially a good member of the team and approved his co-option as a Lowca Parish councillor.

276.02 The chairman Cllr M.O welcomed Paul and invited him to join the council members. The clerk got his signature on the acceptance of office document and provided him with a copy of the Standing orders and their addendum which govern Lowca Parish Council procedures.

277.00 Police Matters.

277.01 Clerk read out the response from PCSO Simon Kane as to the reason he would provide a monthly report that included Parton and Lowca incident logs together.

277.02 Incident report covering the period March 27th to May 15th was then read out by the clerk.

278.00 Applications for Development.

278.01 Development application CH/4/16/2114/OF1 had been received in respect of the Lowca Rugby League Club, for the erection of 6m x 30m ball stop net and a 1.1m high fence around rugby field play area.

278.02 The application arrived and needed a response prior to the PC meeting date, so clerk had contacted the chairman Cllr M.O who had agreed that as it was not a contentious development the clerk should advise Copeland B.C no objections.

278.03 Cllrs thought it was a good progressive step by the club as it would stop individuals driving on the playing area.

279.00 County and District Councillors Reports

279.01 No councillors present so no report and no matters Lowca parish councillors wished to raise for the clerk to pass on.

280.00 Confirm the internally audited Lowca parish Accounts for year ending 31st March 2016.

280.01 All Cllrs had received copies of the accounts at the last meeting for their perusal.

280.02 Clerk reported he had taken all the year’s financial documentation plus copies of the ledgers the Cllrs had and the bank reconciliation to the auditor. She had checked and approved the accounts and had signed the government auditor’s, BDO, paperwork to that affect.

280.03 No questions were raised and Cllr J.C proposed and Cllr T.M seconded that the accounts be approved, all present unanimously voted their agreement.

281.00 Lowca War Memorial

281.01 Clerk confirmed that on Monday evening he and Cllrs H.T and T.M had discussed the revelation that the railings were 800mm in height not 650mm as per the drawings. Planning permission not required if a wall and railings were less than 1 metre, so there is now to be no dwarf wall.

281.02 There are 6 x 2.9 metre lengths of railing made and 7 posts, which will be delivered sometime next week and stored at Cllr H.T's. Cllr T.M to try and establish a cost to have them powder coated and Cllr H.T to look at the cost of using a high quality boat paint, "Rust Bullet". A silver or white finish rather than black was agreed upon.

281.03 Cllr J.C discovering the posts would be set directly into the ground enquired as to what was to be the ground finish. He would like the whole area with a concrete surface to keep maintenance at a minimum.

281.04 Cllr A.O suggested putting a thick visqueen sheet down and then adding a thick layer of slate chippings. Cllr J.C felt the grass would grow around the edges. It was finally decided that the challenge was to erect the long awaited fence and when funds were available consider the ground area finish. There is a time limit to get the railings installed.

282.00 Purchase of a garden shed for Lowca School.

282.01 Cllr M.O advised the PC that the school were developing an eco-garden and that a volunteer gardener had been helping establish the project, using his own equipment. The school had purchased a shed to store equipment in and Cllr M.O was proposing that Lowca PC reimburse the school for the £200 outlay.

282.02 Clerk pointed out that the PC would need the receipt for the shed and would have to reimburse the school who he assumed had paid the gardener for his outlay.

282.03 After discussion it was decided to defer any decision on the funding, for the school to provide proof of purchase and the clerk to produce a letter requesting funding.

283.00 Progress Report, Clerk.

283.01 further to minute 265.01 the clerk reported that there appeared to be no funding for Lowca in respect of loss of council tax for demolished housing.

283.02 further to minute 269.01 the traffic counter equipment had been put down by Cumbria Highways department and would remain in situ for approximately two weeks. Cumbria Highways would then report back to Lowca PC with the results.

284.00 Councillors Reports.

284.01 Cllr M.O had requested a replacement school road sign which had been stolen.

284.02 Cllr M.O had lengthy discussions with Cumbria County Footpath man Bob Muscatt and he is proposing a £24,000 funded drainage scheme for the lower section of the pathway up from the Parton road to the top of Lowca Brow. He is also proposing bollards or similar to prevent quad and 4x4 vehicles going up that section of track, restricting access to push bikes and walkers. He has to establish the possible access to one of the fields via a top gate, but he has the project in hand.

284.03 Cllr M.O also wished it be recorded that Cumbria Highways following her recent requests had acted promptly to resurface and sort out potholes along Meadow View and also chop the trees over hanging Lowca Back Road.

284.04 Cllr T.M pointed out that the road past Micklam Cottages was in a very poor state of repair and Cllr M.O stated she would tackle Cumbria Highways about it.

284.05 Cllr D.B voiced her concerns about broken glass and an old fridge behind the Miners Welfare building. Cllr M.O to ask the social club about it.

284.06 Cllr J.C asked about the wreaths for Remembrance Day service. It appears that one of the old guard used to organise the wreaths and former Chairman Brian Ennis reimbursed him and then the PC paid chairman. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr J.C would in future liaise over the purchase of the 2 wreaths and that the PC would reimburse him on production of the British Legion receipt.

285.00 Correspondence.

285.01 Confirmation of receipt of bus shelter funding and a form to be completed and returned within 6 months.

285.02 Confirmation that Lowca PC had received its precept of £7000 and its additional C.T.R parish Grant of £544.19.

285.03 Invoice from Calc for clerk's induction course held on 3/11/15 at Cockermouth, £29.50p

285.04 Invoice from AW IT for next 12 months hosting charges for www.lowcapc.org.uk value £35.00p

285.05 NuGen Moorside package which the clerk had just received and not had time to study. There will be plenty of local press on the topic and a long term display at Whitehaven.

285.06 Insurance renewal received from Lincs Community Insurance, £709.25p the second year of fixed price contract and the Parton/Lowca bridge premium is £270.68 which is split with Parton.

286.07 Internal auditors invoice for £30

286.08 Email of resignation from Violet Stafford.

286.09 Email from Brian Ennis about the councils plans for the A595 road. As no proposals have been forthcoming from Highways England, the Lowca PC cannot actually comment on any options.

287.00 Payments approved for payment via internet banking.

IntPay 20 M Milner, clerk. £211.96, salary £183.10 and travel/office exp £28.86p

IntPay 21 HMRC clerks PAYE £26.00p

IntPay 22 Calc £29.50 Clerk's Induction course Nov 2015 at Cockermouth

IntPay 23 AW IT Services £35.00. 2016/17 internet hosting charge

IntPay 24 Lincs Community £709.25 PC annual Ins, including footbridge

IntPay 25 S Morgan Auditor £30.00

Meeting closed 8.40pm

288.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 15th June 2016 at 7.30pm Lowca Village Hall.