

**MINUTES OF LOWCA PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016  
AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:**

**Lowca Parish Councillors**

Miss M J Oliver (chairman)  
Mrs V Stafford  
Mrs A Oliver  
Mr T Milligan  
Mr J Crawford

**Parish Clerk**

Mr M Milner

**Copeland District and Cumbria County Councillors**

Jackie Bowman CBC  
John Bowman CBC

**Apologises**

Mr H Thinnesen  
Mrs M Moore  
Gillian Troughton CBC & CCC

**Meeting Opened:**

The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.33pm.

**232.00 Apologises.**

Duly noted as above.

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

The minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr V.S and seconded by Cllr A.O  
The vote by show of hands was unanimous for approval.

**234.00 Public Participation/open Session (15 minutes allowed)**

No public present

**235.00 Co-option of new councillor.**

235.01 Following interview panel procedure the chairman and Cllrs welcomed Mrs Dee Butterworth as a co-opted member of Lowca PC.

**236.00 Police Matters.**

236.01 PCSO 5357 Hollie Dennis was not present, but the clerk read the report she had submitted.

236.02 Clerk advised that Cllr M.M had contacted the police on a matter and confirmed the police would investigate.

**237.00 Applications for Development.**

None

**238.00 County and District Councillors Reports**

238.01 Although CCC G.T had offered her apologies for non-attendance she had asked the clerk to advise that she had reported a faulty street light in East Road.

238.02 Cllr J.B advised that the Copeland Budget meeting which was open to the public was would be held on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb in the afternoon. He said that Parton PC had made a written request to him asking why Copeland was to stop the "con-current grant" from year 2017/18. He had submitted that letter to CBC and requested a written reply.

238.03 Cllr J.C asked about the mayoral financial package and that of the other CBC councillors. Although not strictly Lowca business the chair allowed Cllr J.B to read out the relevant figures and that a 1% increase was being proposed but nothing yet agreed.

238.04 Cllr J.C produced a page from the local paper and advised that it contained local A595 road junction alteration date changes. All now moved to 2017. As the A595 was to be discussed later in the meeting, the matter was not pursued in detail. At the conclusion of this section both District Councillors indicated that with the chairman's agreement they would sit in on the rest of the meeting.

**239.00 Lowca War Memorial**

239.01 Cllr J.C had arranged for a site meeting that afternoon at 1pm with the company who were going to create a metal fencing using their apprentices skills. He and the clerk had met them and discussed the need to build a wall along the front edge to provide a level footing for the fence.

239.02 All councillors agreed a wall to keep waste paper from blowing into the fenced site was a good idea. There was also discussion about grassed area the memorial currently stands on, it needs making wheelchair friendly. Various options were considered including creating a total concreted area inside the to be erected fence.

239.03 The clerk read out emails he had sent that very afternoon to Copeland planning department and also Cumbria Highways department. They covered the position for planning, if appropriate, and also whether highways would allow the building of a wall right on the roadside.

239.04 All councillors agreed with Cllr T.M's comment that until the relevant authorities had reported back, no action should be taken about contacting potential contractors for site work. There was also the matter of raising funds to carry out the project.

239.05 There fence could be ready for installation in 6 weeks, but must be fitted by 31st July, which is the end of the apprentices works experience schedule.

**240.00 A595 Drop In public meeting 7<sup>th</sup> April**

240.01 The clerk reported on a phone conversation he had had with Jonathan Reade of Highways England 3 weeks ago. All councillors and probably most Lowca residents will have been aware of the drilling rigs that had operated in the land by the A595 by Lowca and the fact the roadside wall had collapsed. The embankment the road is currently built on is now no longer fit for purpose and although not currently in danger of slipping down the field towards Lowca and the sea, it has to resolved sooner rather than later.

240.02 There are 4 potential options to carry out the repair, but HE consider there should be a long term solution undertaken and to that end they wish to hold a "drop in" session for Lowca residents to gauge their views. The meeting will take place on Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup> in Lowca Village hall between 2pm and 7pm.

240.03 Prior to the drop in meeting JR will attend the March parish council meeting. He will only provide background detail of the problems and some of the options, but as he will be on his own, no experts to advise on detail, he will not take part in a Q&A session that evening. The drop in will be promoted in the March Lowca Lowdown and put in the local press. The clerk understands there is an active Low Moresby Facebook page and he contact them to promote the drop in.

240.04 Councillors all voiced their concerns about whether HE and CCC will listen to the views of the residents, but considered it would be worth listening to JR's comments in March, prior to the public drop in.

**241.00 Lowca Lowdown content for March edition.**

241.01 It was agreed that the Lowdown should carry details of the proposed drop in, update on the bus shelter project and the war memorial. The prospect of the Royal Beacon on Lowca Brow, 21<sup>st</sup> April, should be fully sorted with Copeland and that promoted. The beacon lighting time would be controlled by the central beacon committee in London.

241.02 CBC J.B through the chair reminded all present that if the beacon was on Copeland land, Lowca must clear up the area after the event or face a potential large bill from Copeland.

241.03 It was agreed that the Lowdown would include an item asking residents who would be interested in supporting and helping with a Lowca village street party on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016 to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, to contact one of the local parish councillors so if there was enough interest a party could be organised.

241.04 Lowdown to include update on the coastal pathway project.

**242.00 Progress report, clerk**

242.01 Copeland had asked for confirmation of precept figure for 2016/17, which the clerk had provided.

242.02 Clerk updated on the site visit for the location of the bus shelter in East Road. Cumbria County Council had sent 2 representatives, Stagecoach 1, CCC Cllr G.T was there as were Lowca clerk and Cllr T.M. Parish council is currently waiting for CCC confirmation to proceed. There are no reasons why not an ongoing project, but certain avenues have to be explored, red tape.

242.03 North Copeland Community Coastline Team project document had been submitted on time by end of January. Only 72 of the 112 national teams invited to apply for funds for coastal pathway/line projects had met the deadline.

242.04 Still awaiting feedback from Copeland on traffic movement figures for the local nursery complex and signage as to appropriate route to the complex.

### **243.00 Councillors reports**

243.01 It was agreed that all Cllrs topics for report had been covered by earlier agenda items.

### **244.00 Correspondence**

244.01 Clerk had received a letter of resignation from Cllr Elizabeth Walker. He had acknowledged receipt of the letter, the regret that she mentioned at taking the decision and he had thanked her on behalf of the chairman and Cllrs for her service to the parish council and community of Lowca over the years she had served on the council.

244.02 Clerk had received two invoices from Copeland BC, the parks department, one covered their grass cutting and weed control service, which was for £700.05 which was accepted as per contract, but Cllrs did not approve the invoice for the repair of lighting in the Millennium Garden, which totalled £307.36p. They felt that on the face of it was somewhat excessive for replacing 3 bulbs and requested the clerk to write requesting a detailed breakdown of the works to justify the charge.

244.03 CALC is running a course for new councillors at Cleator Moor Civic Hall on Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup> between 2pm and 4.30pm and new Cllrs V.S and Cllr D.B are to attend. Clerk to contact Cllr H.T to enquire if he can attend.

244.04 Chairman Cllr M.O will also attend a Calc course for new Chairman being held in Cockermouth on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The cost of attending the courses is £29.50p per individual and that will be paid by Lowca PC.

244.05 The clerk has received details of a seminar to be held on March 15<sup>th</sup> in Cockermouth about War Memorials, being organised by Civic Voice. Bearing in mind the ongoing project with the war memorial it could be advisable for a representative from Lowca to attend. This is to be arranged after this meeting when diaries had been consulted.

### **245.00 Payments approved for payment via internet banking.**

Intpay 8, M Milner, clerk. £318.99, salary £275.00 and travel/office exp £43.99p.

Intpay9, HMRC clerks PAYE £49.00p

Intpay10, Copeland Parks Department annual maintenance £700.05

Meeting closed 9.05pm

### **246.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7.30pm Lowca Village Hall.**