

LOWCA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 19th July 2017

Meeting Opened: - The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Miss M Oliver(chair), T Milligan, J Crawford, Mrs D Butterworth, P Todd and Mrs A Oliver.

Copeland Borough and Cumbria County Councillors: M Barbour CCC. Mrs G Troughton CBC.

Clerk Mike Milner

Members of the public, none.

452.00 Apologies for absence. Cllr H Thinnesen LPC, Cllr J Bowman CBC and Mrs J Bowman CBC

453.00 Declaration of Interest. None

454.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 21st June 2017, as a true record.

454.01 The minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr P.T and seconded by Cllr J.C approved unanimously.

455.00 Public Participation

No public present

456.00 Police Report

456.01 no police present but PCSO Hollie Dennis had provided clerk with a report. No items of note other than yellow lines outside the school. The manager of the department responsible for the lining has promised Hollie the task is a priority and should be done imminently.

457.00 Applications for Development.

457.01 Application CH/4/17/2233/0F1 Conversion of barn at Croft Head Farm, Lowca. The council discussed the plans and clerk confirmed appropriate Bat and Barn Owl checks had been carried out and were in place if the development was approved. No objections were raised and the development application was unanimously approved.

458.00 County and District Councillors Reports

458.01 Cllr G.T CBC explained to the council the current work being done to assess Local Authority possible boundary changes and the numbers of councillors required. She advised the parish council to study the proposals once the current stage of consultation finishes.

458.02 Cllr M.B CCC reported on his meeting with Kevin Cosgrove at Highways Department. The large school sign was to be reinstated in place of the current small one. He was shown the invoice covering the signs to be placed at the bottom of Stamford Hill, the unadopted road, advising users seeking access to Bromfield Nurseries to go via East Road. As far as the arrester lane at Low Moresby is concerned discussions are ongoing, but it is considered that modern HGV and bus braking systems are superior to when it was installed. Not therefore considered a major problem.

458.03 Could the clerk make contact with Kevin about the adoption of Stamford Hill and also the traffic survey and what were the planning observations on increased HGV traffic to and from the nursery when the 2013 planning application was made.

At conclusion of this item chair thanked both for their contribution and invited both to stay for the rest of the meeting. Cllrs M.B and G.T remained.

459.00 Receive 1st Quarter Parish Council Accounts

459.01 Prior to the meeting the clerk and distributed the accounts for the period 1st April to 30th June 2017. He ran through the payments, income and the bank reconciliation. Then invited questions.

459.02 No questions were raised, Cllr T.M congratulated clerk on his accounts recording and presentation and proposed acceptance of the accounts. Cllr M.O 2nd the proposal and it was agreed unanimously. Cllr T.M signed the bank statement No 303 confirming that the bank reconciliation figure on the statement agreed with the clerk bank reconciliation.

460.00 Consider and approve funding for Lowca School.

460.01 The clerk provided a précised explanation of the letter that had been left by Joanne Crawford at the last parish council meeting.

460.02 The council discussed the request for £1000 for an enlarged wet play area, one for £300 for a lawn mower, plus additional road markings. The consensus was that perhaps the clerk should write, explain its budget constraints and the school consider more detailed explanations.

460.03. Cllr M.O advised the meeting that she, as an individual not a councillor, had advised the head to contact Whitehaven News as they have a £500 one off public fund for local projects.

460.03 Cllr P.T advised the council that he was going to arrange a meeting with the head within the week as he has been invited to become a school governor. He suggested that perhaps dialogue would be better than a letter. It was agreed that he would have his meeting with the head and include at that meeting the council's views, reporting back at the August PC meeting.

461.00 A595 Lowca by pass report.

461.01 The clerk reported that there had been a Howgate Partnership meeting earlier in the month and he had already circulated the emails provided by Johnathan Read of Highways England. Clerk and Cllr P.T had attended the meeting along with Cllr M.B and clerk invited Cllr M.B to make the report to the council as his local knowledge was superior to the clerk's.

461.02 His report was very detailed, he explained where he thought the approved route could follow as a replacement for the current road which is subsiding. The meeting heard from the clerk that the A66 from Jt 40 to Keswick had a daily traffic volume of 11,000 vehicles, a single carriage-way road was therefore suitable. However, along the A595 in the local area, Workington down to Sellafield, that traffic flow was 23000 vehicles a day, a dual carriage-way volume. Cllr M.B was of the opinion the replacement road was now accepted as being dual carriage-way standard, that the Whitehaven Eastern by pass was now becoming a reality and listening to Johnathan Read he felt he had an "enthusiasm" for the project now. Moorside is no longer the driver for route improvements, other future commercial developments plus tourism are now acknowledged as reasons for upgrading the existing road system.

461.03 Next public drop in for the project booked for 26th October at Lowca village hall.

462.00 Progress Report, Clerk.

462.01 Clerk was still waiting for costs for cutting the grass at the rear of the war memorial, the left-hand end of Solway Road.

462.02 Still no documentation from CISWO about the Village hall, the Miners Welfare building.

462.03 Clerk has contacted Copeland solicitor Clinton Boyce about ownership of BMX track.

462.04 Still awaiting funding confirmation before Lowca and Parton can organise the footbridge repairs.

462.05 Lowca Lowdown with printers should be available on Friday.

463.00 Councillors Reports

463.01 Cllr A.O enquired about the miners memorial in the Millennium Garden and clerk referred her to minute 446.00 which dealt with the matter at the last meeting and that Cllr P.T would be handling the project.

463.02 Cllr T.M complained about the cars continuing to park below the school, that their actions made the road, especially on the bend very difficult and he had seen problems with a lorry and cars being unable to pass each other. Clerk would write to PCSO Hollie Dennis and Cllr T.M would take up the problem with the traffic enforcement office in Whitehaven.

463.03 Enforcement of the traffic regulations was to be put on the August agenda.

464.00 Correspondence.

464.01 Further correspondence from Pensions Regulator, dealt with by clerk.

464.02 Email about Copelands Boundary Review, meeting that very night at Copeland Centre, obviously parish council meeting took preference.

464.03 Email about the number of empty Home Group properties on West Croft Terrace. Copeland's Empty Homes Officer was involved and meetings were to take place with Home Group.

464.04 Clerk had received complaints about pot holes and a block gully behind West Croft Terrace. He had reported it to Highways department and job ref W171441204 referred.

465.00 Payments for approval

IntPay 66 M Milner, clerk, £304.98, salary £239.95p and expenses £59.20p + u/p £5.83

IntPay 67 HMRC clerks PAYE £40.40p

All approved.

Meeting closed 9.02pm

**466.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 16th August 2017 at 7.30pm
Lowca Village Hall.**

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