

LOWCA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Lowca Parish Council Meeting

held on Wednesday 20th Nov' 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), Mrs A Oliver, T Milligan, Mrs D Butterworth

Copeland Borough and Cumbria County Councillors: Cllr David Banks CBC,

Clerk: Mike Milner

Members of the public, One

843.00 Apologises for Absence. H Thinnesen (LPC), Cllr Jackie Bowman CBC, Cllr Martin Barbour (CCC)

844.00 Declaration of Interest. None

Cllr D.B joined the meeting at 19.32.

845.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 16th October 2019, as a true record.

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

846.00 Public Participation.

846.01 No reports from last meeting and no public report at this meeting.

847.00 Police Report

847.01 Clerk confirmed that he had checked the "Your Area" section of the Cumbria Police website. He read out the 4 recorded reports from September 2019. They were in East Road, Ghyll Bank, Solway Road and Ghyll Grove. The first three were no further action and last one was still under investigation.

847.02 He advised Cllrs that he did the same exercise at 4 other parish councils and all generated the same result, crimes were put on a general peg with a general status report.

847.03 Cllr T.M commented that at least the police were there when needed in an emergency.

848.00 County and District Councillors Reports

848.01 Cllr D.B reported that Copeland B.C were in the process of drawing up a new Local Plan, more details could be found on the Copeland website. He did remark that Copeland had drawn up a new asset register of land and he noted that Lowca had 7 parcels of grazing land within its parish boundary. Nothing else to report concerning Lowca.

Chair thanked him for his input and asked if he wished to stay, an invitation he accepted.

849.00 Applications for Development.

849.01 No development applications

850.00 Lowca Village Hall Management Committee Report

850.01 The chair had a report from Cllr H.T the acting chair of the village hall management committee, which she read out. It detailed problems in getting bank signatures changed on the committee bank account as it required assistance from previous account signatories.

Once the bank issues are resolved the utility bills can be put on direct payment system.

850.02 the note explained that use and reopening of the bar area had been under discussion with a new Lowca community group, following an advertisement asking interested parties wishing to use the area for various ventures. The new community group were the only interested parties.

850.03 The acting secretary for the village hall management committee was present and the chair invited his comments. He confirmed that a new Occupational licence had been signed, 18th November, based on the same rent and contribution to the utility bills. It was hoped that the bar area for the new club would open early December. The incoming group were fully aware that all the bills covering occupational licence rent and electric/gas must be paid monthly by standing order and that if they were not paid a notice to vacate the property would be issued giving 14 days' notice. The chair thanked the secretary for the information.

851.00 Lowca Christmas Tree display.

851.01 Clerk told council that the chair had advised that a village Christmas tree had been obtained and that it was to go on the grassed area by East Road bus stop. Clerk had pointed out that permission would be needed and contacted Copeland's solicitor. Solicitor had no problems with the display but had delegated the decision to Estates and Projects Officer.

851.02 Clerk read out information that was requested, plan showing location, details of fencing, dates tree on display, copy of the parish third party insurance and finally a risk assessment form. Clerk circulated the risk assessment form he had prepared for comments and information.

851.03 A discussion followed. Cllr T.M had three remaining sections of fencing similar to the war memorial fencing which if the tree was placed by the wall would be sufficient. Signage could be created to advise public to not climb over the fence or touch the 8ft tree or its planter box.

851.04 It was agreed that the project should be pursued, chair to advise clerk of final details of planter etc, who would then submit all documentation to Copeland for final approval.

852.00 Budget update 19/20 financial year and proposed 20/21 budget.

852.01 Clerk circulated his current budget spending and final forecast for the current year. It indicated that for the current year there would be a surplus of £1600, following a VAT refund and savings on expenditure. He then explained the proposed budget for 20/21 in that figure he had included a £400 allowance for the Centenary War Memorial celebration to cover a reception after the parade for dignitaries and participants. He was forecasting a deficit for next year of £147 but would recommend no increase in the precept of the local residents.

852.02 He justified that by pointing out the strength of the bank balance, the budget would be official approved at December meeting.

852.03 Clerk did suggest that the Cllrs might consider that they could perhaps assist the village hall management committee with matched funding to help decorate and refurbish the village hall, especially now the hall was correctly run by the committee and that tenants were covered legally by an enforceable Occupational Licence. December agenda item.

853.00 Receive and accept revised Financial Code

853.01 Clerk handed out to all councillors a 10 sheet A4 document, 2 pages per sheet which was the revised Financial Code. He advised that it was identical to the last approved Financial Code, no changes to figures or financial practice that the council currently follow. At the end of the financial year when Cllrs are approving the audit statements before signing off the accounts, they are confirming that Financial Code has been considered so this action was confirmation the Financial Code had been considered and approved.

853.02 Cllr M.O proposed acceptance Cllr D.B seconded and it was resolved to accept the new Financial Code.

854.00 Lowca War Memorial Centenary Celebrations 25th April 2020.

854.01 As agreed this agenda item would appear monthly until after the celebration. Clerk had advised that he and councillors had attended the recent Remembrance Day service, again splendidly organised by former veterans of Lowca. Bright sunshine and although cold 40 residents in attendance. Chair had laid a wreath on behalf of Lowca Community. Clerk had taken numerous pictures and provided the lady doing the Centenary Booklet with a record of the day's events.

854.02 Cllr T.M pointed out that the head teacher and 2 children had attended the memorial on 11th at 11am with Hubert Donnan in atrocious weather, which stopped other children attending. Cllr T.M recommended three well done rosettes be handed out.

855.00 Scarecrow competition.

855.01 It was agreed that the scarecrow competition was not promoted earlier enough. It would be promoted from March/April 2020 Lowdown and school involved much earlier.

856.00 Progress reports, clerk

856.01 Clerk reported that finally after repeated requests to Highways, he had received notification and a plan indicating that Highways proposed to extend the double yellow lines that currently terminate at the end of the bus stop lay-by at the rugby club entrance, up to the chicane.

856.02 Clerk read out a letter he had written to John Crawford who had last attended as a Lowca councillor in June 2018. John had suffered from mobility problems that meant an operation in July this year. Clerk had had to point out that although he could grant medical leave as John had had his op, could John consider reattendance from Nov 2019 meeting.

856.03 Clerk read a message from John advising that he was now due another hip operation and that he felt it appropriate to resign. Clerk read out his response to John acknowledging his service to the Lowca community and hoped he would soon have his next op and eventually get pain free mobility.

857.00 Lowca Councillors Reports

857.01 Cllr T.M requested that the continued printing and distribution of the Lowca Lowdown be suspended as according to social media reports not everyone was receiving a copy. December agenda item

857.02 Cllr T.M concerned about Japanese Knotweed past Micklam Farm on the other side of the old rail line. Clerk to report to Copeland.

857.03 Chair has been in Contact with Home Group about problems in Ghyll Grove at their housing stock, a problem with cat fouling, 4 street lights not working and also salt bins for the pathways, they are properties for elderly, so safety is paramount.

857.04 Chair also been in touch with West Cumbria Mining about availability of an old mine cart for Lowca. No success so far. Cllr D.B (CBC) offered comment that if the chair obtained one from Florence, that was an iron ore mine and not a coal mine so tubs different, some folk might point out the difference if used in a memorial to Lowca coal mines.

858.00 Correspondence.

858.01 Clerk had received a letter from Great North Air Ambulance charity thanking Lowca for its £100 donation.

858.02 Invoice received from Simone Morgan for the end of year internal audit 18/19 £30 and also for the recent half yearly internal audit 19/20 again £30. Total value £60.

858.03 Notice of Calc AGM, which had taken place on 9th November.

858.04 Further notice from Calc, that a local representative Stephen Rickett was being proposed for a seat on NALC's Smaller Councils Committee.

858.05 Email received complete with photographic evidence of the remains of a large firework party that had occurred on Saturday 2nd November in the area close to the old Micklam Farm. The writers of the email had collected up all the debris, in their wheelie bin and disposed of it. Total lack of thought by the party goes for the sheep and horses in the immediate area. Cllrs agreed although not satisfactory behaviour by those responsible for fireworks and subsequent rubbish, no further action could be taken by Lowca parish council.

859.00 Payments for approval

IntPay 150 M Milner, clerk, £203.56, salary £166.95p and expenses £36.61p.

IntPay 151 HMRC clerk's PAYE £22.00p.

IntPay 152 Simone Morgan, internal audit fees, £60.00p

All approved

860.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 18th December 2019 at 7.30pm Lowca Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.38pm.

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