

LOWCA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Lowca Parish Council Meeting

held on Wednesday 18th Sept' 2019 at 6.30pm in Lowca Village Hall.

Meeting Opened: - The chairman declared the meeting open at 6.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Miss M Oliver(chair), Mrs A Oliver, T Milligan, H Thinnesen,

Copeland Borough and Cumbria County Councillors: Cllr Jackie Bowman CBC,

Clerk: Mike Milner

Members of the public, Three

810.00 Apologises for Absence. J Crawford (LPC). David Banks CBC, Mrs D Butterworth (LPC), Martin Barbour (CCC)

811.00 Declaration of Interest.

811.01 None

812.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 17th July 2019, as a true record.

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

813.00 Public Participation.

813.01 Clerk advised the council no outstanding matters from July meeting. Advised the chair that members of the public present were interested in agenda item 8, and that with her discretion their input would be permissible then.

814.00 Police Report

814.01 Clerk read out the short report from PCSO Simon Kane about a vehicle crime in Ghyll Grove. He also displayed the notice he had received about the police website being redesigned. He then confirmed still displaying last up dated July 2019.

815.00 County and District Councillors Reports

815.01 None present for this agenda item, but Cllr J.B (CBC) joined the meeting later at 7pm.

816.00 Applications for Development. Clerk advised no one wanted to develop in Lowca.

817.00 Lowca Village Hall Management Committee Report on Occupational Licensee position, supply of gas/electricity to building and AGM report.

817.01 Cllr H.T who is chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee confirmed that the Occupational Licensee had failed to make payments to the gas/electricity supplier and bailiffs with locksmith had attended the building and cut off the supply on 4th September.

817.02 Following a public statement on 5th September the Management committee under the terms of the Occupational License signed by the Lowca Social Club, had no alternative but to issue a notice of termination of the area within the building allocated for use by the social club. This notice requested they vacate the building Monday 16th September.

817.03 Cllr H.T advised that keys although promised had not been handed over and the management committee had no access to that part of the building. One of the criteria demanded by the gas/electricity supplier to the building is that the existing bill payer must have left the premises and have no access. Another was they demanded a £1000 bond, refundable, before they reconnected the supply. Cllr T.M asked who was responsible for the reported £5k+ outstanding bills, he was advised the previous bill payer not the management committee. New account has also to be in an individual's name not a club or committee.

817.04 After a discussion it was agreed that clerk would write a general notice to be put on doors advising future potential debt collectors to contact Stuart Pickering the management committee secretary about contents of building not being seized in lieu of any debt. Stuart to print and laminate the notice and put up on Thursday. Stuart Pickering and Cllr H.T to call after the meeting to obtain all keys.

817.05 Discussion followed about long term outlook for the hall, but Cllr T.M pointed out that was for the management committee to consider, not the parish council.

818.00 Lowca War Memorial Centenary Celebrations 25th April 2020.

818.01 Clerk read out some of the content of an email he had received about the WW2 fallen named on the memorial.

818.02 Cllr T.M then confirmed that Hubert Donnan and David Gorman had the dignitaries and forces side of the ceremony organised, clerk confirmed he had in writing Rev Paul Kerry's attendance at 3pm on the afternoon.

818.03 Cllr T.M said he would be breaking up the large boulder that has been moved from the grassed area behind the memorial and broken a fence. He would mend the fence and also trim back the trees. He also had three slabs to go under the seat in the fenced area, he would repaint the memorial fencing, Cllr M.O offered to help with that.

818.04 Chair Cllr M.O would contact David Gorman about the proposed flag pole, she also brought up the matter of a solar light to illuminate the memorial at night. Cllr T.M to investigate the latter issue.

818.05 There was discussion about a band, but although the chance to perhaps engage the Egremont Children's Band was discussed it was left that Hubert would with David organise music via a smart phone and speaker, plus a bugler.

819.00 Scarecrow competition.

819.01 Cllr T.M detailed his plan to make the competition for those aged up to 11 years. However if older children and adults wish to enter then fine. Chair Cllr M.O will go and see the school, to promote the competition. Cllr T.M to place his trailer at the War Memorial on Saturday 5th October, entrants to put their scarecrows in the trailer. He will then take it up to the church on Sunday for the harvest festival service and the winners will be announced.

819.02 Cllr T.M to organise a first prize of a meal for 4 at a local venue, but every entrant to receive a Rosette.

820.00 Millennium Garden play area funding update.

820.01 Chair Cllr M.O is seeking funding sources and will be calling into the school next week to discuss the project with the children, hoping to ensure the right equipment is chosen.

821.00 Progress reports, clerk

821.01 further to minute 799.03 and minute 818.02 Rev P Kerry and family to attend.

821.02 Clerk had received a threatening letter from Copeland BC advising that if the £80 election poll fee was not paid, they would start court action and invite bailiffs to collect the monies plus charges. Clerk had advised the chair that as it was an approved budget fee and due, and it had fallen in a month when Lowca don't meet he had made the payment Interpay 142 refers, paid 10th September.

821.03 Over the summer the clerk had made a VAT claim for the period Jan 2017 up to and including April 2019, totalling £590.21 and that had been paid by electronic transfer by HMRC on 13th August.

822.00 Lowca Councillors Reports

822.01 Chair Cllr M.O had been talking to the former chair of Parton PC and he had advised where a Town Cryer could be found if required for the war memorial celebration in 2020.

822.02 Cllr H.T asked clerk if Copeland cut the village grass, which was confirmed. Cllr H.T asked if they could cut the grass verge in front of the club. Clerk pointed out it was an unadopted road, not parish or Copeland's responsibility so village hall ought to seek a friendly owner of a petrol strimmer.

823.00 Correspondence.

823.01 Email from owner of Rydale House by the speed humps thanking the parish council for highlighting, in the July Lowdown, the dangerous practise of vehicles driving around the humps using the pavement as part of the evasion route.

823.02 Received 2 bank statements

823.03 Email about "get safe on line" seminar held on 12th September

823.04 Invoice from Copeland for £735.37p which referred to a new basket swing supplied to Parton, but billed to Lowca. The error had been brought to Copelands Finance department. No further request for payment.

823.05 Invoice from Printpoint for July Lowdown, 400 copies £128.00

823.06 Clerk had received a copy of Copeland BC Open Spaces Assessment document. He had printed off the 4 pages that referred to Lowca and distributed them for councillors' information.

824.00 Payments for approval

IntPay 142 Copeland BC £80, election poll fee for Lowca parish (already paid)

IntPay 143 M Milner, clerk, £290.38, salary £212.83p and expenses £77.55p.

IntPay 144 HMRC clerk's PAYE £33.40p.

IntPay 145 Printpoint £128.00, July Lowca Lowdown 400 copies

All approved

825.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 16th September 2019 at 7.30pm Lowca Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 7.17pm, in the gloom but candles not required.

Page 182 (3 of 3) Chairman's signature.....16th October 2019.