

Lowick Parish Council

Minutes of Virtual Meeting held Thursday 19 November 2020

32. Chairman opened meeting at 7.30pm.

33. Present and apologies

Councillors

Graham Sanderson (Chair)
Joanna Edmondson (Vice Chair)
Simon Bailey
Les Ingham
Bernard Mitchell

District Councillors

Ian Wharton
Tracy Coward (apologies sent)

Cumbria County Councillor

Matt Brereton

Also present

Mike Child (Parish Clerk)
Three members of the Public

34. Adoption of minutes from 17 September 2020 meeting to be signed by Chairman.

Resolved that the minutes from the last meeting held on 17 September 2020 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed by Cllr. Ingham / Seconded by Cllr. Edmondson.

35. Declarations of interest.

Cllr. Edmondson declared interest in Lowick Community Hall.

No other member declared any interests on items on the agenda.

36. Public participation / report from County and District Councillors.

Report from a member of the Public.

A petition raised by a local resident regarding the noise levels on the A5092 in Lowick Green due to the poor quality of the road surface. The road was last resurfaced 3 years ago.

This situation had been reported to Cumbria County Council, an engineer had visited the site 4 / 5 weeks ago. The survey report has not yet been published or sent to the resident.

Cllr. Brereton advised the resident to send an email chasing this report, directly to Phil Greenup with a copy to him and also Peter Hoskins.

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36. Public participation / report from County and District Councillors (continued)

Cllr. Mitchell further reported that this situation is unsatisfactory and the Chairman suggested that Cllr. Mitchell liaised directly with Cllr. Brereton and report further at the next Parish Council meeting in January 2021.

A member of the public reported a further ongoing issue around the clarity of the road signage to Coniston on the A5092. There have been incidences of vehicles, who missed the signs, making dangerous manoeuvres on the A5092 and also vehicles using the road (in front of the Green and allotments) to rejoin the A5084. This has led to irresponsible and aggressive behaviour towards residents.

Report from Cllr. Brereton.

A5092 as reported above.

Farmers Arms

Grizedale Arts are looking to raise £750K which is needed to purchase the building and start improvements. A community investment structure where local residents can invest in shares, full details over what period of investment and returns are to be established.

Grizedale Arts are putting in £100K from their own funds and also considering raising a mortgage from the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF).

AHF have already inspected the site and provided funds for a survey report which will identify cost of repairs and renovations.

The Asset of Community Value deadline for viable bids is 18 December 2020.

There is also another unnamed interested party in purchasing The Farmers Arms.

Flooding issues Woodgate (A5092)

Since the previous meeting Cllr. Brereton has chased Seamus Giles, Flooding Engineer at CCC Highways and has received no response. He will continue to pursue this matter.

Chairman will contact the Lengthsman for him to send his report to Cllr. Brereton.

B4RN (referred to as Barn) Broadband for the Rural North

Cllr. Brereton is working with local Councillors and MP to assemble a network of community organisers between now and March 2021. This is to get B4RN signed up to work with as many parishes and towns across Furness as possible.

Cllr. Brereton will keep the Parish Council updated with further developments.

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Report from Cllr. Wharton.

Farmers Arms

Grizedale Arts held a meeting via Zoom on 13/11/2020 with a further meeting to be held on 20/11/2020.

The results of Cllr. Wharton survey earlier in the year to be circulated to Councillors.

East of the Lake

The road has been reopened and during the recent lockdown has been quiet. National Park together with the Police continue to patrol the area and will use enforcement measures if necessary.

X12 Bus Service

Plan sent to Transport Ombudsman.

SLDC Covid grants available

Grants of up to £500 are available to individuals, without furlough, who are experiencing hardship. Also, Business Grants of up to £3500 available especially those sectors i.e. hospitality that have been affected by lock down measures.

Local Government reforms – New Unitary Authority – Bay Proposal

Cumbria County Council proposes a single unitary authority (Morecambe Bay)

The proposed unitary authority will consist of Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council, Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council.

These three councils are doing the necessary work to present a full proposal to the government for a 'Bay Unitary Authority' by the deadline of 9 December 2020.

37. Progress Update;

- a) Lowick Community Hall – update

Cllr. Edmondson reported that the hall remains closed.

Also the annual Grant from the Parish Council is due (£225) see item 40 (b).

Renovation works have been carried out in the hall to make it Covid 19 safe. This includes replacement of fan heaters with radiators, replacement of the two front windows (which do not open) with windows that do open for better ventilation. Porch has been re plastered and work on electrics and emergency lighting.

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37. Progress Update (continued)

b) Lowick Green Management Committee

A written report was provided prior to the last meeting and at this time of year not too much has been happening.

The Young Farmers have agreed to dig new ditches for better drainage especially as the middle part of the green has become water logged.

Allotments which are part of the green have been promoting availability of sites to encourage new allotment holders.

d) X12 Bus Service –

Clerk reported that he had been in contact with 'Friends of the X112'.

The service is run by Blueworks who lost their bus operators licence, however they are continuing to run the Winter timetable using a 8 seater taxi.

Restrictions under Covid 19 means that the service can only operate using 2 separate vehicles.

e) Parish Plan.

Cllr. Ingham reported that the matter has become protracted in that 12 – 18 months have passed since it was last discussed. A questionnaire / survey is to be sent out to Parishioners to enable the Council to review these plans however in view of Covid 19 restrictions this may have to be deferred until at least Spring 2021.

Cllr. Edmondson suggested in the meantime to promote awareness through the website and the local newsletter.

f) Lengthsman – update on Bus Shelters / local parish maintenance

g) Flooding on A5092 at Woodgate – update (See 36.)

h) Farmers Arms, Lowick – update (See 36.)

i) Moss Wood, Blawith – Cllr. Bailey reported that he has had a response from Planning and that enforcement issues were being further investigated.

j) Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr. Bailey reported that no further progress had been made however will keep the Council advised of any further developments.

38. Planning Applications, as circulated prior to meeting

PN/2020/0049

Hawkswell Farm, Broughton Beck, Ulverston, LA12 7PP

Roof and walls to midden.

Has been approved under permitted development.

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38. Planning Applications (continued)

7/2020/5597

Bracken Barn, Lowick LA12 8EB

Erect study / sunroom extension to north west elevation.

PC asked for comments and had no objections.

7/2020/5692

School House, Lowick Green, Ulverston, LA12 8EB

Provision of ancillary buildings, engineering works, access track and hardstanding for business use.

PC asked for comments and had no objections.

39. Correspondence

a) Concerns raised by member of the public on motorbikes churning up paths and fellside, reported to be at Lowick Beacon however this problem is from an area Beacon Tarn to Great Burney.

Clerk reported that he had contacted Cumbria Wildlife Trust, who own the land at Lowick Beacon and suggested that they implement signage for their area which they have acknowledged. Cllr. Bailey also commented that there had been activity to follow up on this coordinated with the affected Parishes (Blawith) with responses from senior Police Officers and Simon Fell MP.

Chairman requested that we keep an eye on this ongoing situation.

b) Parishioner asked for trees to be cut back on A5092, opposite Green Garth, Lowick.

Clerk reported that he would visit the site and arrange the necessary work.

40. Finance and Clerk's report

a) Barclays Bank.

Chairman provided Council with an update

Barclays have admitted full responsibility for the errors and inconvenience caused and have offered compensation of £225 which has been accepted and credited to the Parish Council's bank account on 5/11/2020.

Mandate forms for the Clerk to be able to view Bank Statements are ready for signature by the Council and will be forwarded on to Barclays.

For the future it was suggested that it would be more practical for payments to be made by online banking rather than by cheque.

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b) Outstanding invoices to be paid;

1) CALC Clerk's Training Course	£40.00
2) Archie Workman, Bus Stops & Drains	£197.42
3) Zoom Subscription (2 months)	£28.78
4) Black Printer Cartridge	£24.20
5) Poppy Appeal	£17.00

In addition to the above, grants were approved for the following;

Lowick Community Hall - £225 (Broadband)

Lowick Green Management Committee - £360 (Grass cutting)

c) Financial Statement

Balance as at 9/9/2020 = £6,812.72

d) Cheques issued / pending	Debit	Credit
05/11/2020 Compensation (Barclays Bank)		£225.00
28/10/2020 Lengthsman	£64.00	
(CALC Councillor Course Not yet presented)	£40.00	
20/10/2020 Clerk Salary (13:07:2020 – 13:10:2020)	£856.80	
22/09/2020 Clerk annual allowance	£200.00	

Balance as at 19/11/2020 £5,912.92

f) Gedye & Sons Solicitors bequest to Parish Council

The Parish Council agreed that they will consult with Parishioners, perhaps through the Newsletter and invite suggestions for projects and / or groups to receive funds.

Group applications are to be made in writing to the Parish Council via the Clerk and approval can only be given by full Council.

Council agreed that they will be opening a savings account for the bequest. A separate meeting to discuss the legacy detail should be arranged.

41. Chairman closed meeting at 9.55pm

Date of next meeting: Thursday 21 January 2021 at 7.30pm

Venue and format to be advised