

LOWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on Thursday 15 July 2021 held at Lowick Community Hall.

Present Cllr J Edmondson, Cllr L Ingham, Cllr G Sanderson,

029/21 Apologies

Resolved to accept apologies from Cllr S Bailey and Cllr J Townsend

030/21 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 June 2021 to be signed by the chair as a true record.

031/21 Declaration of Interests

Resolved to accept there are no declarations of interests.

032/21 Councillors recognition of service provided by Mike Child

The Councillors were all pleased when Mike accepted the post of clerk to the Council on 13 July 2020 He was faced with a daunting task of replacing Irene who was clerk for over 40 years. He worked tirelessly at archiving a large backlog of paperwork whilst getting to grips with understanding the role of clerk and helping us overhaul the working processes of the Council.

In probably the height of the pandemic when physical meetings were impossible and changes to regulations were routine, this inevitably lead to some frustration at times on all sides. We would have struggled to manage without Mike's dedication and attention to detail during this period.

Unfortunately, Mike decided to resign on 28 January this year, having virtually completed the tasks we had initially set. He will be sadly missed by our parishioner's and Councillors.

033/21 Public Participation

a) Local Police report

Unlike last year the start of the Tourist season has been fairly smooth and we haven't had many complaints so far.

Off roading has subsided, as it tends to with the better weather, and we have mainly been dealing with RTCs and shouting at sheep.

Over the next month due to the re-scheduled Appleby event the majority of Ulverston's Community team will be off area.

b) County Councillor was not in attendance but had sent apologies together with the following the following report by email:

B4RN for High Furness: The roll-out of Broadband 4 the Rural North in High Furness continues apace, with work in Duddon, Kirkby Ireleth, Hawkshead, Claife and Skelwith Parishes well advanced. We really just need people to sign up with a no-commitment expression of interest from each parish at this stage, via the B4RN.org.uk website. As discussed previously and covered in the local press this week, there is now an added incentive to get the required number of sign-ups as DCMS has given us a nominal three months to get projects registered and vouchers allocated. I know Lowick is working with Kirkby Ireleth and this makes sense; perhaps a leaflet, to find some local volunteers to help deliver these, and to start driving towards the number of sign-ups required, would be in order? B4RN is confident we will get the numbers needed but I think having a good handful of local activists in each parish is ideal really. Holiday lets, businesses, all qualify, and churches, schools and community halls all get

free connections. If you like I am happy to set up a meeting outside the parish meeting with interested volunteers and area co-ordinator Dan Robinson?

The **Friends of X112 group** are now running their extended service including a new route from Coniston to Broughton, and onwards to Kirkby, Askam, Dalton and Barrow via the extended X7 route, which began on Weds 23 and runs Weds and Fridays to begin with. As always the group is doing sterling work but needs volunteers and fundraising, as the County continues to persist with its policy of not allowing funds to directly subsidise the running of bus routes, even though the Friends of group is now a charity and they believe they are contracting community transport. Hopefully the new routes and days will be will supported and the council can be persuaded to divert at least some funding to maintain and establish all our rural routes, including the X112 from Coniston. We have a meeting coming up with County to try and press for reforms to how the community funding can be spent to better support the group, and how the government's buses strategy will be fulfilled in Cumbria.

I continue to support Grizedale Arts in their work to restore and reopen the Farmers Arms. Have so far assisted in getting them some significant grant funding, and myself and my wife have volunteered our time at several recent fundraisers and events. We have been invited to a night for benefactors and investors in the next fortnight to update on progress, and I believe the Stable Bar is soon to be reopened to paying customers. Very positive progress.

On the **highways** side dissatisfaction has been registered once again about the poor signage and short-notice diversions, namely at Water Yeat, with confusion, poor diversion routes, late-notice closures and reactivations all noted.

The **local members' highways funding** pots have been replenished for financial year 2021/22 and I can confirm lining, signing and road safety issues with the Coniston turn-off, and relocation of the no satnav sign, have all been included as part of what was agreed at local committee yesterday. I will press for them to get on with this as it has been outstanding several years now.

I have also spoken to Peter Hoskings about the thorny issue of maintaining unsealed roads across S Lakes, which is a work in progress he admits, and they are looking to clarify some legal and liability issues before coming up with a strategy to manage this type of road in future, that will not meet with some form of legal action from one campaign group or another. He is aware of parish concerns about Lowick High Common and other nearby locales so have asked them to look into it and get back to us, but I fear these roads are not top priority and also a difficult one until they have their legal strategy in place as to who/how will maintain them.

A reminder there is the new **South Lakes environment fund** that can be used on verges, roads, footpaths, biodiversity corridors, wildflower areas etc, so if you have any suggestions as to what and where these projects might be appropriate in your parish I am happy to champion these. If you wish to make any application for a grant fund for any local project – maybe towards the allotments – I will be pleased to support.

Do please let me know if there are other matters under discussion tonight that I should be aware of or can help with.

c) District Cllrs were not in attendance but had sent apologies and the following update by email

1: Covid 19 Update

As of 8th July, the number of Covid , there were 2016 new cases in Cumbria, a 68% increase in a week with approx. In South Lakeland there were 9 cases a month ago. Over the past week, there has been an increase in cases of 68%. The age group with the most cases is the 19 to 24 with 38% of the total, almost 4 times the County average.

With the rapid increase in cases, the easing of restrictions on the 19th and the forthcoming School holidays, we are expecting the number of infections to increase a lot faster, so we must concentrate on protecting the residents here.

Remember, just because you are vaccinated, there is a 6 to 2% chance you can still contract it. You can also spread it.

Please follow the Cumbria Public Health guidance.

Cumbrians are being advised to:

- Minimise travel into the Lancashire or Greater Manchester areas.
- If you travel take a rapid result covid test on your return, get a confirmatory PCR test if you test positive and self-isolate.
- Get vaccinated as soon as you are able. National data is showing that around 95% of people now being admitted to hospital have not been vaccinated.
- Stay vigilant and follow the basic public health guidance - washing hands, wearing masks, keeping your distance and meeting outdoors are effective at preventing spread.
- Continue to do regular rapid result covid tests at home as part of your weekly routine and get a confirmatory PCR test if you are positive.
- If you have symptoms - *new persistent cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell* - *book a PCR test through the national system* and self-isolate until you get your result. If you are positive, self-isolate for 10 days.

As cases begin to climb again, testing is important for the management of this situation and this push will commence shortly. You can get testing kits from your local chemist.

2. SLDC Update

The Government Boundary Commission is undergoing a boundary change Consultation, for the Parliamentary Constituencies in Cumbria. This could see large swathes of Broughton and Coniston ward coming under the Barrow and Whitehaven Constituencies. It is important that everyone has an input in this Consultation not just the Parish Council, so we get the representation that is right for the area. Spread the word please.

www.bcereviews.org.uk

We are also expecting an announcement on Local Government next week and will find out whether we will be progressing the Bay option, or a Unitary Cumbria

4. Tactical Visitor Management

The Tactical Visitor Management Group is regularly meeting and implementing the various Visitor Management Plans. Where we are finding problems, they are dealt with and change implemented.

Examples of the more proactive approach include repainted yellow lines at Coniston, Cones, No Overnight Camping signs. We also have extra Ranger and Police patrols
Pop up Campsites are opening up and seem to be well organised, with few complaints. Like the Pop up Car Parks, they are there to provide extra resource to cope with extra demand.
To stop fly camping, we have extra patrols, signage and are educating visitors
These problems are often reported by volunteers in the Safer Lakes Group and Rangers, Police, even litter Pickers can be quickly despatched where needed. These vary from locals, to welcome hosts in Car Parks, to Rangers.
The Safer Lakes Group won a National Award for Park Protectors of the Year. By the Campaign for National Parks
The theme was **“Innovation and agility in the face of a global pandemic”**
Below are some of the quotes from their WEBSITE

“Far from being a standard crisis management response, Safer Lakes is a transformational way of working, which puts the National Park in a much stronger position for the future,” said Campaign for National Parks Chief Executive Anita Konrad, who was joined on the judging panel by [BBC Countryfile Magazine](#) Editor Fergus Collins, [RSPB Cymru](#) Director Katie-Jo Luxton and Stephen Ross from Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust (RHCT), which sponsored the awards.

Anita added: “The Safer Lakes’ legacy will outlive the pandemic, with new ways of working established, new volunteers engaged and new innovative technology solutions adopted. It’s something other National Parks can and will learn with its impact extending far beyond the Lakes.”

Director of Communications and Resources at Lake District National Park Kerry Powell, who nominated Safer Lakes, said: “The scale of the multi-agency working is unprecedented for a rural landscape. On some of our nights of action, we’ve had in excess of 40 partner vehicles on one operation. Together we are stronger and our landscape is Safer – and that’s what Safer Lakes is all about. What started as a community response, will become a permanent way of working for the future.”

On learning that Safer Lakes had secured the main £1,000 Park Protector Award, Head of Visitor Services and Communications at Lake District National Park Tony Watson said: “We’re quite emotional about this news because the past year has been very challenging. Safer Lakes is something we’re really proud of. I’m confident that it is the future way of working as us, and it provides a template. If you make it about the people, you protect the place.”

We also won £1000. So, last week as a thank you we had two Pie and Peas evening open to all the volunteers and officers who had helped over the past 15 months. One was at Whinlatter and the other at Grizedale. The group grew from about 16 of us driving around in lockdown to over 200 contributors. We now have a budget a database and have formed the Visitor Tactical Management group and area Visitor Management Plans. It is ironic, but most of us never actually met.

Unfortunately, we are still seeing a small minority exhibiting loutish behaviours and I have concern that people have approached some of these groups and as a result have been threatened. The advice is not to confront, but to call the Police. Call 101 or 101emails@cumbria.police.uk if you see any of these issues occurring. Likewise if there is fly Camping or illegal offroading. There are regular patrols around the area, so help is not far away.

Remember, it is a small minority causing this problem, the vast majority are no problem at all.

d) There were no public in attendance.

034/21 Verges and Overgrown Vegetation

There was a discussion regarding a concern which had been raised from a member of the public. The Parish Council had taken this up with County Council and it was **Resolved** that the clerk will forward the response to the parishioner.

035/21 Fell Road

Concern had been raised about the amount of pot holes on the Fell Road which are causing damage to cars. Cllr Edmondson has reported these, members of the public have also reported these. The pot holes have been filled but this is only a short-term fix.

036/21 Progress Update –

a) Lowick Community Hall

The Hall is open for bookings given the current restrictions. The Parish Council has met inside and as I write this the long running parent and toddlers will be using the outside facilities for their wednesday event.

The local elections ran smoothly with the restrictions in place and

The Keswick to Barrow charity walk support team are booked in for September.

Tai chi classes use the Hall on Friday mornings if the weather is too bad for exercising on the Green.

Hopefully we will be fully open on the 19th of July and by September I am sure people will fill confident in using the Hall particularly as we can offer increased ventilation and a much improved heating system.

Finally we are in an excellent position to weather the current problems and I can only thank the Committee for their continual support through this difficult time and we hope to see you all back in the Hall when restrictions are lifted further.

b) Lowick Green Management Committee – No update

c) Parish Plan – Residents still have until the end of July to respond. Parish Plan will be on next agenda where responses can be considered

d) Lenghsman – Has not been able to do much work because of self isolation and health reasons. He will be strimming footpaths and still has the bus shelter to finish off
No new jobs for the lenghs man this month.

e) Moss Wood – No updates but noted Gazebo and barbeque appeared and several vehicles still there. The gazebo has gone now,

037/21 Planning Applications

No planning application at the time of agenda going out.

It was noted that application PN/2021/0052 was received since agenda had been sent out.

The Parish Council did not feel it necessary to have an extra meeting for this.

038/21 Correspondence

The following was noted

a) SLDC – comments on issues and Options

b) Great North Air Ambulance

c) Queens Jubilee

d) HIAMS

e) SLDC Newsletter

f) Code of Conduct

g) Confirmation of receipt of the AGAR from the auditors.

039/21 Finance

The following payments were authorised for payment:

CALC - £121.61

Salary - £357.60

040/21 Clerks Contract

Resolved that the clerks contract sent to Cllrs prior to the meeting is ok and will be signed in due course.

041/21 Date of next meeting

Resolved to note that the next council meeting will be on 16 September 2021 at 7.30pm at Lowick Community Hall.