

## **LOWICK PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on Thursday 16 September 2021 held at Lowick Community Hall.

**Present** Cllr S Bailey, Cllr J Edmondson, Cllr L Ingham, Cllr G Sanderson and Cllr J Townsend

**050/21 Apologies**

There are no apologies to accept

**051/21 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15 July 2021 and 19 August 2021 signed by the chair as a true record.

**052/21 Declaration of Interests**

**Resolved** to accept there are no declarations of interests.

**053/21 Public Participation**

a) **County Cllr was in attendance and gave reported on the following:**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM**

Is definitely going to happen, Cumbria will be split into East and West. There will be fewer Cllrs and elections will be next May. The first year will be a transition year.

**HIGHWAYS**

Highways budgets have been confirmed.

Suggested that we ask the Lengthsman to cut around road signs.

Concern raised about speed and noise on main roads.

Road speed to be reduced at Grizebeck and Gawthwaite. Consultation will be with local residents soon.

Suggested Speed Indicator Devices and Double White Lines to help slow traffic down. Also suggested a Speed Action Group. The community may have to do some fund raising to help funding with potential road safety measures.

No update on the Fell Road but he will chase it up.

**B4RN with Cllr Bailey (as local coordinator)**

The following was noted:

That the imposed September deadline by the DCMS had been very unhelpful and together with restrictions associated with the pandemic had thwarted late attempts at generating interest in B4RN Broadband in this immediate vicinity.

That the Lowick Parish area now extends into Blawith & Subberthwaite as LCV

Despite the deadline we have 40 Voucher requests (Lowick Parish only) registered with many more EOIs unaware of the deadline.

Local businesses were particularly enthusiastic to apply.

County Cllr was optimistic that a further scheme would be announced to assist B4RN establishing new infrastructure in this area and there remains optimism that a B4RN service will become a viable reality in the next year.

## **BUSES**

X112 might get extended to Haverigg and Millom. Funding is always needed towards keeping the bus on the road.

## **VERGES**

Has concerns about the standard of verge cutting, junctions are hazardous sight lines are poor. Work is just not good enough and needs checking. Contractors are concerned about damaging their equipment. Please let County Cllr know of any problems,

### **b) District Cllrs Reports**

District Cllr Ian Wharton has sent the following update post meeting but was in attendance and gave a report which is included in his email update:

**LOCALITY GRANTS** District Councillors are allocated £1000 per annum to their ward to spend on projects that improve the local Communities within the ward. Previously, the minimum award we could give was £100. It is now £500, (we were not consulted on this decision). Typically my grant size was about £150. So we can only give out a maximum of 6 grants at £500. We are thinking that to maximise the benefits, we could allocate to a Parish Council £500 each and they could share it with two neighbouring Parishes (e.g. Torver and Coniston) so they could work on joint Community projects. E.g. Greening Campaign, Purchase of gardening tools, which could be shared. We would like your opinions on this.

**BUSINESS GRANTS** Grants are still available for local businesses to help them get back on the feet. If you want to see if your business is eligible, then please follow the below link for the SLDC web page

<https://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/business-and-trade/business-support-grants-coronavirus-covid-19/>

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM** After Consultation and considering submitted options, the Government has decided to split Cumbria into two Unitary Authorities diagonally, called Cumbria West and East, each with a Mayor. Broughton and Coniston ward is now in Cumbria East and incorporates, Barrow, South Lakeland and Eden District Councils, stretching from Barrow across to Alston. The role of the County Councillors and District Councillors will merge, with fewer Councillors. Instead of 3 District and 1 County Councillor per ward, the Government is proposing 1. The general consensus amongst SLDC Councillors is that this is unworkable and we are proposing 2 Councillors per ward. The time scale for this to happen will be April 2023 and these changes will have to be ratified by Parliament. Meanwhile, there will be a lot of work to define the roles of each area, who does what, what will be the priorities of the new Authority and how it will be administered. There will be elections in May 2022 to elect the new Council.

**CONSTITUENCY REFORM** The Boundary Commission has undergone a boundary change Consultation, for the Parliamentary Constituencies in Cumbria, which ended on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. The proposal is to reduce the number of MPs in Cumbria from 6 to 5. It is proposed that Broughton and Coniston ward will come under Copeland constituency. So, it is possible that we will end up with an MP based in Whitehaven over an hour drive away.

**GREEN COMMUNITIES** There are a number of Green Community issues starting up and we would love to get everyone involved, of all ages and groups. Duddon and Coniston are starting a local Greening Campaign. There are already initiatives by Get Coniston Buzzing and Rusland Horizons and there is a new group in the South of the ward starting up, called Green Spark. The first fun afternoon was on on September 18<sup>th</sup> at Spark Bridge, by the Village Hall.

About 70 turned up and we had events from River bug hunts to films of the River Crake ,to Swap shops to an ideas tree and artist creating a history map of Coniston. Please contact us if you are interested in developing similar groups.

**BIN COLLECTION** Unfortunately bin collections will be disrupted over the next few weeks, which may result in green bin collections not being collected. This is a combination of several factors, increased output per household and more internet purchasing and increased visitor numbers. This is combined with a shortage of HGV drivers, sickness and holiday leave. So please bear with the Collections staff. They have done a fantastic key worker role over the past 18 months.

**VISITOR MANAGEMENT** The National Park, working with various agencies, like the Police, SLDC, CCC and National Trust have formed a Tactical Visitor Management Group and developed specific area visitor management plans. These have included extra Ranger and Police patrols, signage, litter pickers and welcome hosts in Car Parks, and a Motorhome strategy. To cope with the extra demand caused by Covid and the National Staycation, we have helped to implement Pop up Campsites and Car Parks, with Portalooos, which have helped ease congestion, reduce Fly Camping and littering in the area. Parking capacity increased by 125%. Whilst not being perfect, it is a steep learning curve, but problems are been highlighted quickly and dealt with proactively. The general consensus seems that although very busy, things are a lot better than the last year and indeed few years. Most of the pop up Car Parks and Camp sites have used their 56 days and have put them back to their original condition. Have a few have abused this privilege and the National Park has issued Enforcement notices to the culprits.

In a similar vein, throughout the Lakes there are still issues with a small minority of people behaving badly and we are encouraging people not to confront them, but to call the Police.

Call 101 or [101emails@cumbria.police.uk](mailto:101emails@cumbria.police.uk) .

**SHUTTLE BUSES** Two Shuttle buses have started as a trial in the Northern Lakes this summer. The first from Cockermouth to Buttermere has been operating as a free service and has been operating near to capacity. The second, in Wasdale is a pay operation and started on 17<sup>th</sup> August. Both have been very warmly welcomed and have significantly reduced congestion in these areas. We had considered this last year, but was impossible under the, then Covid regulations. We are considering other operations next year.

### **SELF PUBLICITY**

Ian was awarded a National award for Councillor Achievement at the Lib. Dem Conference last week. It was for his involvement in the formation of the Safer Lakes group, the patrols and helping to structure what became the Tactical Visitor Management Group and the subsequent area Visitor Management Plans. What started with helping to put Covid posters up led to fantastic multi-agency cooperation and communication and whilst busy, reducing the amount of chaos and bad behaviours in the Park. “It is nice to see appreciation for what you do, but it was very much a team effort. I was driven to help because I realised how busy all the Rangers were working even though many had been furloughed or were isolating. One of the nicest compliments I received was “ We feel safe in our village” and that was what it is all about” We do it because we have to and because we care. As Parish Councillors I think you all know that only too well.

Contact me on 077784 30926, if you have any queries/concerns or would like any more information.

Or [ian.wharton@southlakeland.gov.uk](mailto:ian.wharton@southlakeland.gov.uk), [heather.troughton@southlakeland.gov.uk](mailto:heather.troughton@southlakeland.gov.uk)  
[tracy.coward@southlakeland.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.coward@southlakeland.gov.uk)

- c) No residents were in attendance.

**054/21 Lengthsman**

There was a discussion about the lengthsman agreement and insurance. The clerk will seek further clarification on the public liability insurance.

**Resolved** to update the agreement to increase the hourly rate.

**055/21 B4RN**

Covered in County Cllrs report

**056/21 Parish Plan**

Cllrs have all seen the responses to the Parish Plan Questionnaire.

A working group is needed with local people on it to progress the plan. Appeal for people to get involved will go on the website and in the next newsletter.

**057/21 Greening**

It was noted that we have some funding from the District Cllrs locality Budget for Greening Projects. Suggestions were bulbs for verges or planters with welcome/drive with care signs on them. Clerk will look into whether any permits are required and this item will be on the next agenda.

**058/21 Progress Updates**

**a) Lowick Community Hall**

The Hall is emerging from lockdown and restrictions placed on its use by the ongoing pandemic. However, while there is optimism there must also be an element of caution as we go forward. The science tells us that droplet infection is the main transmission route, so masks, enhanced ventilation and, socially distancing seem to me to be the way ahead for optimum safety.

A reminder as to work completed and ongoing. New opening windows installed, porch re rendered and painted, new window ledge internal, rear outside reveals rendered, porch barge boards replaced with plastic, radiators installed to replace the old fan heaters and both toilets repainted. New outside security lights to be fitted and a new outside store for plastic chairs installed. The lawn mower shed has been painted and some work needs to be done to the guttering on the kitchen. The heat pump has been checked and is now on!

The Lowick WI after many years has reluctantly decided due to much reduced membership to disband. As a token of gratitude, they have agreed to donate £50 towards the installation of a new outside porch light. It goes without saying we are pleased to be so honoured.

As far as bookings are concerned, we now have a replacement class for the Monday night Pilates which is discontinued. Yoga replaces that popular class and is already full. Parent and Toddlers are on Wednesday morning as usual and Tai chi on Friday mornings when the weather is too wet for The Green venue. The Parish Council is Thursday evenings, and a junior Herbalist class is due to start on Saturdays. The Farmers arms are also keen to use the Hall on Saturdays also so I will organise a timetable so both can be accommodated, using, alternate dates. I can say we are back to our normal quota of weekly bookings plus the addition of a regular Saturday class. The Young Farmers have met recently, and we have hosted to children's parties. The Keswick to Barrow charity walk is this Saturday and it will be good to see them back. We have received two covid grants from South Lakes and this has enabled us to weather the storm.

**b) Lowick Green Management Committee**

Are aware that the council has been given some funding for “greening” If the council agrees, The Group would be happy to spend it on daffodil bulbs and wildflower seed to be planted on The Green / verges.

The phone box was reconditioned 5 years ago and now requires repainting. Archie Workman has agreed to do this. He anticipates that it will take 8 hours to do. The cost will be somewhere between £128 and £256. I will provide the Paint FOC. Please let me know how the PC wish to proceed with this.

I have a letter from Ann Currie on behalf of the residents of Hopefield Cottages requesting cutting of a large sprawling willow tree on LGMG ground which is obstructing their view of the valley and hills. The council has agreed to this work being done in the past but I was waiting for a request in writing. We would hope to get this work done by volunteers over the winter when there is no possibility of nesting birds and the leaves have fallen.

**059/21 Consultations**

- a) National Resilience Strategy – Call for Evidence  
[National Resilience Strategy: Call for Evidence - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- b) South Lakeland Local Plans – Issues and Options  
[2021: Issues and Options and second Call for Sites \(southlakeland.gov.uk\)](http://southlakeland.gov.uk)
- c) Local Nature Recovery Strategies  
[Local Nature Recovery Strategies how to prepare and what to include consultation.pdf \(defra.gov.uk\)](http://defra.gov.uk)

**Resolved** not to respond as a Parish Council not to put the consultations on the website for individuals to respond should they wish to.

**060/21 Planning Applications Applications**

No planning applications at the time of agenda going out.

**Notice of Grant of Planning Application**

7/2021/0590 – Far Wood End, Lowick Green

**061/21 Correspondence – including**

- HMRC – Tax code notice
- HMRC – Frequency of PAYE due
- Letter from local resident
- SLDC – Nominate your Grot Spot
- CALC – Copy of letter to Tim Farron regarding B4RN
- CCC – Community Flood Training sessions

**062/21 Finance and Clerk’s report**

- a) To authorise the following payments:
  - Salary - £298.00 (2 months plus 4 extra hours for extra meetings)
  - Royal British Legion - amount TBC after looking at previous years
- b) To give consideration to Grants for the following
  - Lowick Community Hall - £200 p/a
  - Greening Committee - £360 p/a

- c) Precept and Budget to date report  
Not covered,

**063/21 Date of next meeting**

**Resolved** to note that the next council meeting will be on 18 November 2021 at 7.30pm.  
An Extra Ordinary meeting on 21 October 2021 as a planning application has been received since the agendas were sent out.

Meeting closed.