

LOWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on Thursday 20 January 2022 held at Lowick Community Hall.

Present Cllr L Ingham, Cllr G Sanderson and Cllr J Townsend

001/22 Apologies

Resolved to accept apologies from Cllr J Edmondson. Reasons noted with the clerk.

002/22 Councillor Vacancy

Resolved to co-opt Celia Roblin as a Parish Cllr filling the current vacancy.

003/22 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 November 2021 be signed by the chair as a true record.

004/22 Declaration of Interests

Resolved to accept there are no declarations of interests.

005/22 Public Participation

a) County Cllr was not in attendance but has sent his apologies with the following email update:

I completely accept there are compelling arguments for reducing the speed limits from national limits as they are now right the way down to 40mph, as opposed to 50mph. I do feel however that the engineers when considering a reduction will have had to factor several things into their proposals, not least the overall impact on journey times over the length of the route from Foxfield to Greenodd, and also the likely effect on compliance of extending the reduction over a considerable distance (effectively from the end of Wreaks Level to the Greenodd Roundabout). This will incentivise speeding if drivers do not consider the reduction to be "proportionate" and will almost certainly force even more drivers than usual to take the Spark Bridge-Tottlebank detour to get ahead of vehicles on the A5902.

The other issue is one of safe overtaking of slower moving vehicles going uphill on to Gawthwaite – at both Beanthwaite and Gawthwaite there are limited stretches where safe overtaking can be done, but I doubt whether this could be done under 40mph.

I stress that I am not showing a personal preference either way, just pointing out what the thinking behind the proposed new limits is likely to have been. Either way I completely agree with issues about visibility, junction safety, discouraging dangerous driving or overtaking before blind bends and summits, and in particular the visibility at the Ulverston turn-off. We should absolutely highlight these in turn to the Highways team, and again thanks for collating responses in this way.

I hope that a happy medium can be found and that the reduction in limits when they are finally introduced are to the mutual improvement and benefit of road safety and local residents' concerns.

There isn't much else to report to the meeting tonight other than to remind the council that Community Grant Fund applications to CCC should be received by the end of this month please. Also there have been concerns raised before Christmas that the Friends of X112/X70 group is really struggling to keep going in the face of Covid and reduced funding throughout the past 20 months or more... The County Council is not willing to reverse the decision to remove route subsidies in 2014/15 and the group is not allowed to use BGOS funds to directly sustain the community services it helps to run. Hopefully lifting of restrictions will see a return over the next few months to some kind of normality and at least allow fundraising events such as coffee mornings, social gatherings, fetes and galas etc to start up again. If the parish is in any way able to help either with funding or indeed promoting

the bus routes/and or opportunities to volunteer or raise funds with the Friends of Group, they would be most grateful.

Please update me on any highways, flooding or signing and lining issues arising or outstanding, and I will follow up with the relevant teams.

- b) District Cllr was not in attendance and had sent his apologies
- c) There were no residents in attendance

006/22 Parish Plan

Cllr Ingham advised that following the responses to the recent parish plan questionnaire he has authored a draft plan. He is happy for the draft plan to go on the website but would like it left as draft until the parishioners have had chance to read it and send us their feedback. There are two main projects which would need to be led by the parish council being road safety on the A5092 and A5084 and also the need for a resilience/emergency plan. Again, before work starts on these projects it would be useful to know if it is what the public expect and also if they would be prepared to get involved and help.

Resolved that Cllr Ingham will draft a note to go on the website with the draft plan to encourage parishioners to give us their feedback before starting work on either the road safety measures or the resilience plan.

007/22 Community Resilience plan

Covered in the Parish Plan update.

008/22 Greening

Cllr Sanderson has got measurements for the proposed planters. Cllr Sanderson will also check to see if there are any previous drawings available to work from and whether it is possible for someone to make them locally. The clerk will get a quote as per the measurements. There was also discussion about signs above the planters with a safety message on them. It was noted that we will need someone to look after the planters and perhaps the Lowick Allotment Society will help. Cllr Sanderson will attend the Blawith & Subberthwaite Parish Council meeting to look into the possibility of working with them on Greening and possibly Road safety.

009/22 Progress Updates

- a) Lowick Community Hall update as follows:

The only news from the hall is that we had a communication from Water Plus. It seems this company is an amalgamation of Trent water and United Utilities and they want us to set up an account to pay our water bill! Enquiries to the Church treasurer leads to the conclusion that the old Sunday school and now Community Hall have never paid anything as regards water supply. I have asked Water Plus to investigate as nobody has any records or correspondence regarding water. We are allowed 100% rebate on our rates so eventually maybe the same for water. If we have to pay we will ask for a water meter!

the hall's heat pump caught fire and cannot be mended! An engineer is coming Friday to measure up for a new one. Temporary heaters are in position but need 30mins before the room is bearable. Will update you after Friday. Good news rent only £5 until it's fixed!

b) Lowick Green Management Committee update as follows:

Storm Arwen caused considerable damage on The Green. A total of 7 trees were damaged – 6 of which were blown over. Of the six, two were re-erected using a fork lift truck and chains (hopefully they will stay up) and four were sawn up and disposed of.

The work was carried out by Myself & Chris Harrison with chainsaws and a pole pruner; assisted Rob & Judith Dove; Simon and Tracey Walker and the rest of the Harrison Family. The work took around six hours to complete.

The remaining willow tree in the centre of the wild area (which was in poor order before the storm) has been damaged beyond repair and will be cut up at a later date. Some of the wood will be used to make wildlife log piles. This will be a considerable job.

010/22 Consultations

A5092 & A595 Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Order

Resolved to respond to the above consultation as per the letter drafted by Cllr G Sanderson

011/22 Website

Consideration was given to the domain name and it was noted that at present it is in the name of a local resident.

Resolved to ask Cllr Roblin if it possible to have a .gov.uk domain name in the name of Lowick Parish Council

012/22 Governance

Resolved to accept and adopt the following:

- a) Standing orders;
- b) Financial Regulations
- c) Code of Conduct

013/22 Planning Applications

No planning applications were discussed.

014/22 Precept and Budget

The proposed budget was discussed and it was **resolved** that the precept for the financial year 2022/23 will be £4000.

015/22 Finance and Clerk's report

To authorise the following payments:

Clerk Salary - £203.00 (net)

HMRC £17.00 PAYE due

Medisol £148.00 Defib battery

UPS £42.35 VAT & Brokerage Charge on defib battery

016/22 Bank Mandate

There was a discussion about the bank mandate and the necessary changes following the resignation of Cllr S Bailey.

Resolved to remove S Bailey as he is no longer a parish Cllr.

Resolved to add Cllr Celia Roblin following her co-option on the parish council.

Resolved to add the clerk Christine Adams subject to confirmation from CALC that clerks can be on the mandate.

017/22 Date of next meeting

Resolved to note that the next council meeting will be on 17 March 2022.

17 February pencilled in if there are any planning applications for discussion requiring a response before 17 March 2022.

DRAFT