

## LOWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on Thursday 18 November 2021 held at Lowick Community Hall.

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

**072/21 Apologies**

**Resolved** to accept apologies from Cllr S Bailey and Cllr J Townsend.  
Cllr S Bailey had also sent in his letter of resignation

**073/21 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7 October 2021 be signed by the chair as a true record.

**074/21 Declaration of Interests**

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

**075/21 Public Participation**

**a) County Cllr has sent his apologies and sent the following email update as follows:**

***Flooding issues at Woodgate** - I emailed the highways team and they had scheduled to do some resurfacing from Woodgate to Gawthwaite, so I have flagged the issue of flooding/water running on to the road as it would seem perverse to resurface without addressing this. As I remember the Council was having great problems enforcing the water as it was flowing from fields to the house next to the road and from their garden onto the highway. I am not sure where they had got to pre-Covid on this issue but have asked for an update.*

***Moving the do not follow satnav** - This has been asked for by me to be added to a work order and funded if needs be from my local member's highways funding. It has been allocated so will keep pushing for them to get on with actually moving the thing! Seems like an ideal winter job.*

The Council's first **Bus Service Improvement Plan** was approved by Cabinet on 21/10/21. The Plan was subsequently submitted to the Department for Transport on 29/10/21 for assessment, achieving their deadline of 31/10/21. For your information, the Plan can be accessed via the link below which includes 2 downloadable PDF versions plus the text in an accessible format. Highlights of interest include a commitment to improve "almost non-existent" rural services and also to look at how community transport/new services could support transport to work options. Overarching is the Council's drive to net zero, but I would forgive anyone in our part of the county to be sceptical about how much can/will be achieved. I do wish the County would just consider new and better ways to provide direct funding/subsidies to make our rural services viable, but they seem resolute in not doing that: [www.cumbria.gov.uk/buses/nbs/bsip](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/buses/nbs/bsip)

**Local Government Reform:** We now have a draft Strategic Change Order (SCO) but the details are not to be made public just yet. It is in the public domain that the new council areas are planned to be Cumberland in the West/North and Westmorland and Furness in the South/East. It seems we will have multi-member wards in the W&F Council though the exact detail and geographies are not yet known. More detail hopefully will emerge in due course. It does look as though existing larger wards/divisions may be broken up in the W&F authority, to allow councillors to manage the workload better.

**B4RN for High Furness:** The roll-out of Broadband 4 the Rural North (B4RN) in High Furness was looking good but now those who signed up via the Gigabit voucher scheme or direct with B4RN may have received an email from them, restating the position that all areas west of Windermere are not exempted from the next phase (supply side) of the Gigabit roll-out, which in turn means we will have to wait and see which provider comes forward and what areas they aim to cover. This is intensely frustrating especially for those in the most rural and hard-to-reach places that have so far been overlooked by the big broadband providers. We hope this will only be a pause and that our patience and persistence will pay off... in the meantime, we will meet later this week to work out possible strategies to keep building support and planning possible networks and get back at the next meeting with an update. If we can find a way to build momentum again for roll-out in at least the more rural places then we will.

On the **highways** side obviously we have had a lot of wet weather lately so please report via HIMs and also let me know if there are any concerns or issues arising, especially re blocked gullies, drains, places where water is prone to standing and any new or ongoing flooding issues. I haven't yet had confirmation of a site visit to review all the lining requests but am still on the case and very recently they have agreed to a catch-up with Hawkshead Parish so I will use this as leverage for the same with other parishes.

Also please be reminded that both the **Community Grant Funds** and the **local members' highways funding** are open to applications so do share in the community or put forward any proposals or applications you may have as a parish, in particular any new lining or signing that could be covered out of the highways fund.

As always, do please let me know if there are other matters under discussion tonight that I should be aware of or can help with. I certainly hope to be able to make the next meeting in person.

Best regards, and an early Happy Christmas and New Year 2022 for all the council as I won't see (most of) them until then!

Matt

b) District Cllr Report was in attendance and his report is as follows:

**LOCALITY GRANTS**

I have donated £500 from my Locality Budget to be shared with Duddon, Subberthwhaite and Lowick on Community improvement projects. Due to the complexity of bureaucracy, I have donated it to Duddon and Christine will share the allocated money out, a third each.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM**

The division of Cumbria is going ahead. It is undergoing a judicial review, but things are progressing. Cumberland seems favorite in the North, and we will become Westmoreland and Furness, comprising Barrow, SLDC and Eden. A Structural Change Order has been submitted to the Government highlighting the various preferences and ideas. The Government is proposed 1 Councillor instead of 4 per ward, but Officers here have managed to negotiate 65 instead of 38 Councillors. Some wards like Broughton and Coniston ward may be split up into more manageable chunks with one Councillor per part. Nothing is definite as yet though.

**CONSTITUENCY REFORM**

No further news since the Consultation ended on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. It seems that this is on hold until the Local Government Reform has progressed further.

## **COVID BOOSTERS**

There is an Autumn campaign for Booster jabs. There has also been a certain amount of negative publicity about the vaccination program. The District Councillors are being trained as Community Vaccine Champions. So, if you know of anyone hesitant to get either the vaccine or booster, we can provide support and assurance and dismiss some of the urban myths that have arisen.

## **BIN COLLECTION**

Unfortunately, bin collections have been disrupted over the past few weeks, which may result in some green bin collections not being collected. This is a combination of several factors, increased output per household, more internet purchasing and increased visitor numbers plus a shortage of HGV drivers, sickness and holiday leave. The Collections staff have done a fantastic key worker role over the past 18 months, so please bear with them.

## **GREEN COMMUNITIES**

A number of Green Community campaigns are starting up and we would love to get everyone involved, of all ages and groups. Duddon has started a Greening Campaign and ENMO and Colton have started a modified version of their own called Green Spark. Please contact us if you are interested in developing similar groups. The Green Spark event was well attended

**VISITOR MANAGEMENT** The Tactical Visitor Management Group has scaled down somewhat as we move into Autumn. The pop up Car Parks and Campsites have gone, in the most cases back to their original states. A review is currently going on to discuss the learning experience and efficacy of the operation. We are currently lobbying local MPs to see if they can persuade the Government to extend the 28 day planning exemption rule to 56 days for next year.

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 month. 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 which developed 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)

Stay Safe, Keep Healthy

Ian, Heather and Tracy

**c) Residents**

A local resident was in attendance who used to be a parish Cllr. He reminded the parish council that several years ago the speed limit through Lowick was reduced from 60mph down to 40mph. At the time the parish council wanted it to be reduced to 30mph but were advised it could no go from 60mph to 30mph in one go and the reduction would need to be done in stages. He raised concern about dangerous junctions and signs being in the wrong locations. He requested that the parish council use the Proposed speed limit consultation to remind the County Council Local Committee for South Lakeland of their promise to consider these proposals when traffic speed restrictions were next reviewed.

**076/21**

**B4RN**

Covered in County Cllr's Report.

**077/21**

**Lengthsman**

The lengths man will be asked to sort the drains on the fell road.

**078/21**

**Parish Plan**

Requests for volunteers had been placed in the newsletter and on the website but no one has come forward.

Cllr Les Ingham will draft a plan from the responses.

**079/21**

**Greening**

**Resolved** that Cllr Sanderson will get some sizes for planters and then the clerk will get a quote.

**080/21**

**Defibrillator Batteries**

**Resolved** to replace the batteries in the defibrillator at a cost of approximately £177 inclusive of VAT.

**081/21**

**Progress Updates**

a) Lowick Community Hall – No update for this month

b) Lowick Green Management Committee – No update for this month

**082/21**

**Consultations**

a) Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans Follow-up Public Consultation (LCWIP) – Carlisle, Barrow-in-Furness and Kendal.

**Resolved** not to respond to this consultation

b) Proposed Speed Restrictions A5092 & A595

**Resolved** to respond to the above consultation and to include concerns raised in public consultation.

**083/21**

**Correspondence**

- CALC- Sam stepping down as CEO
- Brownfield Land Register
- Grit Bins
- Lowick Path to Farmers Arms
- Local resident letter
- Flood Warning Service for River Crake
- Resignation letter from Cllr S Bailey

**084/21 Planning Applications**

SL/2021/1029 – The Cottage, Woodgate Hall, Lowick Green, Ulverston  
Variation of conditions 4 (Parking and turning), 8 (Outbuilding use), 9 (Outbuilding use), 10 (Outbuilding use), 11 (Outbuilding letting period) & 12 (Bound register of occupants) attached to planning permission SL/2007/0769 (Conversion and alterations to existing outbuildings to form holiday accommodation, change of use of part of field to form domestic curtilage and installation of package treatment plant.)

**Resolved** that the parish council have no comments or objections regarding above application.

**Withdrawn**

7/2021/5153 – Rose Cottage, Lowick Green LA12 8DY

**Notice of Grant of Planning Application**

7/2021/5628 Lane End Farmhouse, Lowick Green, Ulverston, LA12 8E

**085/21 Precept and Budget**

There was a discussion regarding next years precept based on last years figures. It was noted that the precept will need to increase due to increasing the clerks hours and also to allow more hours for the parish lengthsman. A Grant for the X12 bus will also be included for £100

**Resolved** that the clerk will draft a budget report ready for approval at the January meeting.

**086/21 Finance and Clerk's report**

To authorise the following payments:

Clerk Salary - £251.20 (net)

S J Wood £17.99 (Poppy Wreath)

£165.00 has been received from Cllr I Wharton (Locality budget)

**087/21 Date of next meeting**

**Resolved** to note that the next council meeting will be on 20 January 2022.