

Lamplugh Parish Council

Parish Clerk; John Sloan, High Mill Cottage, High Lorton, Cockermouth. CA13 9UB (0190085833)

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting (No 321) of Lamplugh Parish Council held on

Wednesday 17th January 2018 at 7:00 pm in Lamplugh Village Hall

Parish Councillors required to attend ;

Sandy Roberts (Chair), Roger Braithwaite (vice chair), Richard Wilson, David Lawrence, Michael Watts, Richard Hodgson, John Sloan (Clerk).

Also Invited: John Dirom (Borough Councillor), Arthur Lamb (County Councillor).

Present; Sandy Roberts (Chair), Roger Braithwaite (vice chair), Richard Wilson, David Lawrence, Michael Watts, Richard Hodgson, Arthur Lamb (County Councillor), John Sloan (Clerk).

Parish Council Meeting Minutes (321) 17th January 2018

1. No apologies for absence had been received. There was no declaration of conflict of interest.
2. Minutes of the last parish council meeting (320) held on 15th November 2017 were reviewed and accepted as true and signed by the Chair.
3. Tasks arising from the Council meeting (320) held on 15th November 2017 were reviewed at this meeting.
4. The main items of correspondence to 17th January 2018 were reviewed and any of significance had been added to this agenda.
5. Finance Matters:
 - a. The balance held in the bank/building society as of 17/01/2018;

	15 th November 2017	17 th January 2018	
Nat West Current	£17,095.12	£5,095.12	
Cumberland BS		£10,001.00	
			Total;£15,458.98

Values were confirmed with a copy of the online statement. The account figures were formally accepted and agreed by the councillors.

Income and expenditure details (on spreadsheets) covering the period up to the 17th January were reviewed and data agreed by the councillors.

The clerk projected that the parish council would end the financial year with around £12.5k in the bank. There was £12.2k in the bank at the beginning of the financial year.

- b. Cheques (4) totalling £2,191 were presented for approval and signature. The cheques were for; Copeland BC landscaping to the end of March, clerks salary to end of March, village hall rental July to end of December, printing costs for items inserted into 2 issues of the Contact magazine. The summary table for the schedule of payments and receipts was reviewed and duly signed by the Chair.

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- c. The third quarter audit will be arranged by the Clerk.
- d. Current status of banking; the Cumberland BS account was now in place. Cheques from this meeting will be paid out of the existing Nat West account to run it down until it is closed. The clerk will wait until after the receipt of the precept funding from Copeland BC and the wayleave payment from North West electricity.
- e. Budget review for 2018-19; the clerk/RFO presented a draft budget plan based on previous years expenditure and projected end of year funds which would lead to an overspend of £700. Councillors suggested that additional funding may be required in coming years to assist with funding for the new village hall and the development of a new neighbourhood plan. It was noted that the precept had not been increased for over 6 years. With this in mind the councillors proposed, and agreed, that the parish council ask for an increase of 5% in the precept for 2018-19. For properties that currently pay around £30 for the parish precept portion of their council tax this would mean an increase of £1.50 in 2018.
 - f. Review financial risk management tables; tables were reviewed and clerk will update for presentation at the next PC meeting in March.
 - g. Review/update the Asset list; the asset list was reviewed and a litter bin on Kirkland corner will be added. The clerk will confirm the location of the two digital recorders.
6. Public Participation Slot; the Chair was proposed and unanimously agreed to be put forward as a Cumbria possible parish representative for the Queens garden party. Based on previous experiences Rev Ian parker suggested that the parish council may wish to keep their Nat West account open until after the parish precept had been successfully received. Bob Marshall was present, representing the Village hall committee, and thanked the councillors for their time and support with the Millfields campaign. It was noted that there were increasing amounts of rubbish being deposited on the A5086, particularly between the Low leys turnoff and the Kart track road. Mention was also made of flytipping taking place on the lane joining the A5086 and the Rowrah/Kirkland school road. Anyone seeing such waste should report it to Copeland BC. Councillor Arthur lamb was present at the meeting and mentioned some signs of progress regarding the floodwater running off the field at Cross Gates as part of a county council initiative called ‘‘Making Space for Water’’. There had also been some progress made in stabilising the school and Sandy Roberts was joining as a new school governor.
7. Lengthman scheme; clerk to request a litter pick on the A5086 before the grass gets too long.
8. Update on 217 bus service; nothing to report recently, council budgeted for support of the bus service in the next financial year.
9. Planning matters; parish councillors attended the planning meeting for the Millfields housing development (for 27 houses on land close to Fitz Bridge) in December (13th). Many members of the local community were present to voice their opposition to the scheme. One member of the planning panel excused himself from the discussion due to his connection to Lamplugh parish council via the joint running of the local 217 bus service---considered a conflict of interest (by the councillor in question). Roger Braithwaite spoke on behalf of the parish

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council clearly stating the many reasons to reject the application. Other members of the community also spoke up to object to the application. The only persons present speaking for the application were the applicants solicitor and his environmental consultant. The meeting ran for over two hours and at the end the panel members voted 4 to 3 to reject the application. As the panel members voted against the advice of their planning officer the decision was then deferred to a date in January (17th). This was most confusing to the parishioners and the parish councillors and as a result of very little information on the process being forthcoming from Copeland the councillors decided to engage the services of legal representation for the next meeting. Additionally the parish council and parishioners had lobbied the planning panel and other council employees about this application but the Chair of the planning panel took a very dim view of this and suggested that any such lobbying was in fact illegal. This was another reason to engage a solicitor to act on behalf of the parishioners. At the meeting in January the parish council and parishioners were well represented with even more folk attending. Strangely, parishioners were met at the front of Copeland offices by a group of around 15 Swift Homes (the applicant) employees dressed in fluorescent tabards. The local borough councillor, John Dirom, who had questioned the application at the previous meeting, and voted against the plans, was absent on this occasion. The chairman of the meeting opened the meeting and immediately announced that a legal issue had arisen the previous day and that as a result the panel would not be able to discuss the application. Another panel member who had voted against the application in December excused himself from further discussion on the basis that he was now part of a working party to help the local school. The meeting was deferred to a date in February (7th). The clerk contacted the ministry of housing and community regarding the 'calling in' of the application and they are awaiting the result of the planning meeting in February before taking any possible action.

10. Cross gates allotment drains; following the quote of £150+vat to jet and camera the drain the clerk had asked the company to carry out the work but nothing had been done to date. Further flooding had occurred since the last PC meeting and the owner of the end house was taking remedial steps to alleviate flooding of his property---and adjacent properties. The clerk had been in discussion with the owner of the end house and he was adamant that the white plastic drain between his gable end and the phone box was not the drain from the allotments. Bob Marshall was present and provided some information about the route of the allotment drain and this has been an ongoing problem for a number of years. Bob stated that the drain ran out into the beck close to the bridge and it was a long way from there to the allotments. There was some debate about the exact route and the clerk and Richard Hodgson will try to track the route before the next PC meeting.
11. Highways; Michael Watts sent a follow up letter to the Highways department regarding Traffic calming on A5086 in the region of the Village hall and the Beck. He had received a response that they would keep the issue on their books and look at it again when the new budget was received in April 2018. County councillor Arthur Lamb agreed to keep an eye on this issue.
12. Parish website; The clerk will rearrange a meeting in February with the developers from CALC and include Roger Braithwaite after the major planning issue is settled.
13. Review of standing orders; postponed until next meeting due to time constraints.
14. Newsletter; items for the February newsletter need to be with Michael Watts by the 23rd.

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15. Village hall update; Bob Marshall was present to provide an update on the progress of the Lottery grant for the new village hall. The village hall committee would have to raise some funds to satisfy the terms of the lottery funding. They would be looking for contributions to the many groups that used the village hall on a regular basis. The lottery had guaranteed a fund of £403k and they were looking to raise a further £150 to £180k. The land had very kindly been donated by the martin family but the village hall committee would have to fund the legal fees to transfer the ownership. The next stage was to transfer the land and submit a planning application. The parish council would be involved in the legal ownership as they had a role as 'custodian trustee' for the current village hall and would most likely act in the same role for the new village hall. They were open to suggestions for help in fund raising from all sources. The clerk said that he would forward any information received about local grant funding. To assist in the fund raising the parish council decided unanimously to provide the village hall with a grant of £2,000 for the coming financial year as they provided a wonderful service to the local community. This was proposed by David Lawrence and seconded by all present. The clerk noted that the village hall usually received an annual grant for £500 so the additional £1,500 would be drawn from the reserves.
16. Community led planning/Pride in Copeland. The parish council would look once more at drawing up a neighbourhood/community plan. David Lawrence agreed to investigate the potential for carrying out this work. The lack of parish councillors/resource may prevent this being completed in the near future.
17. Upcoming Meetings/Meetings attended; RNEC (SR), planning panels (RB,SR,DL,RH,clerk).
18. Items for next agenda; speaker for the Annual parsh meeting in May, review standing orders/general update, development of local neighbourhood plans.

The next **Parish Council meeting** will be held on the **21st March 2018 in the Lamplugh Village Hall.**

Closure of Council Meeting at 9:50pm.

Dates for Wednesday night Council meetings in 2018;

Parish Council Meeting (Annual parish meeting---Kirkland mission)	2nd May 2018
Parish Council Meeting (AGM)	16th May 2018
Parish Council Meeting	18th July 2018
Parish Council Meeting	19th Sept 2018
Parish Council Meeting	21st Nov 2018