

Lamplugh Parish Council

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

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting (No 322) of Lamplugh Parish Council held on Wednesday 21st March 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; Roger Braithwaite (vice chair), Richard Wilson, David Lawrence, Michael Watts, Richard Hodgson, John Dirom (Borough Councillor), Arthur Lamb (County Councillor), John Sloan (Clerk).

Parish Council Meeting Minutes (322) 21st March 2018

1. Sandy Roberts apologised for absence. A new prospective councillor, Robert Daglish, attended the meeting and was coopted onto the parish council by unanimous vote. There were no declarations of conflict of interest.
2. Minutes of the last parish council meeting (321) held on 17th January 2018 were reviewed and accepted as true and signed by the Vice Chair.
3. Tasks arising from the Council meeting (321) held on 17th January 2018 were reviewed at this meeting.
4. The main items of correspondence to 21st March 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 21/03/2018;

	17 th January 2018	21 st March 2018
Nat West Bank	£4,904.03	£1,475.73
Cumberland BS	£10,001.00	£10,001.00
Total	£14,905.03	£11,476.73

Values were confirmed with a copy of the online statement. It was suggested that the movement of £10,000 from the Nat West account to start up the new Cumberland account was not recorded as expenditure but rather as a transfer, the clerk agreed to modify the accounts accordingly. The account figures were formally accepted and agreed by the councillors.

Income and expenditure details (on spreadsheets) covering the period up to the 21st March were reviewed and data agreed by the councillors.

The clerk noted that that the parish council would end the financial year with around £11.2k in the bank. There was £12.2k in the bank at the beginning of the financial year. Unbudgeted costs of £1,920 for legal fees relating to the Millfields development had reduced the funds but £320 VAT were able to be reclaimed in the future.

Lamplugh Parish Council

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- b. A cheque totalling £171 (clerks petrol for 9 months) was presented for approval and signature. Cheques had been approved between meetings for; two ink cartridges (£63.84 paid by Clerk) and invoice from Burnetts solicitors (£1920). The summary table for the schedule of payments and receipts was reviewed and duly signed by the Vice Chair.
- c. The third quarter audit had been arranged by the Clerk and the summary report was duly reviewed and signed by the Vice Chair. The end of year internal and external reviews will be arranged by the clerk/RFO. The clerk noted that the new external audit system allowed small parish councils (under £25k turnover) could avoid any audit fees (£200) if they complied with certain rules. The main rule applying to Lamplugh PC was that the financial summaries for the end of year were to be posted on a web site for public inspection. At present the parish council is in limbo between closing down the old web site and starting up a new one. The clerk will see if CALC can help by posting the information on their web site whilst the parish council arranges to have a new one installed.
- d. Current status of banking; the Cumberland BS account was now active with paper statements being received by the clerk. New signatories will be added to the account in the new financial year.
 - e. Review financial risk management tables; tables were updated and reviewed then duly signed off by the Vice Chair.
 - f. Review/update the Asset list; the asset list was reviewed and a litter bin on Kirkland corner was added. The clerk will confirm the location of the two digital recorders.
6. Public Participation Slot; Members of the public were present with an interest in the Millfiled planning application and its current status so that item was brought forward on the agenda.

The clerk highlighted a couple of items that affect Cogra Moss (other than the United Utilities work beginning shortly). The first was notification from the Forestry commission that logging work would be starting in April and running to October. Access and egress to the forest would be from the Leaps access point but the logging wagons would be travelling to and from the site via Fitz Bridge/Fell Dyke. In July a 24hr event is planned for runners based in the Ennerdale show field to run around Cogra via the fell tops. The clerk will contact the organisers regarding litter and the possibility of Mountain rescue being called out if not aware of the event taking place in darkness.

Ian Parker alerted members to the fact that Lamplugh church was undergoing restorative work involving external scaffolding and the church would not be in use for a period of 8 to 10 weeks. Churchyard access would remain open as much as possible.

Arthur Lamb reported on issues that he had been involved with; one was the future of Lamplugh/Kirkland school for which a letter of concern had been issued by the County Council and the school were due to respond by the 27th March. It was not thought that the school was likely to close and meetings with school governors, councillors and the action team had been positive about its future. There had been positive meetings with the highways group regarding flooding on the road between Lamplugh Cross and Fitz Bridge.

Lamplugh Parish Council

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Eskett quarry had been taken over by local quarry group Tendley who were intending to start extraction in a couple of years time. Richard Wilson was still on the quarry consultative group for the parish council.

John Dirom summarised his experiences as a planning panel member during the very controversial Millfields application. He had become very disillusioned with how the application was handled by Copeland BC and the planning panel in particular. As a result he had resigned from the planning panel and other committees that he had been a member of for Copeland BC.

The clerk noted that he had received a communication from the local police force providing an update to crimes taking place in the area. This is the first communication from the police for over 18 months. The clerk has written back to the PCSO asking for confirmation that this is not just a 'one off' and that there will be regular communications with the rural parish councils.

A member of the public highlighted that there was a sink hole in the bridleway close to the Winnah end. The clerk will report this to Cumbria Highways and Roger Braithwaite will look into it.

7. Lengthman scheme; clerk to request a litter pick on the A5086 and around the Kart track area. Local volunteers had been out picking litter in the Winder region. The clerk will ask Copeland if they can provide equipment for volunteers to use to pick litter safely in their local area. Additionally the clerk will ask the Mayor of Copeland, Mike Starkie, if he can attend the annual parish meeting in May to speak about the Pride in Copeland initiative.
8. Update on 217 bus service; David Lawrence attended the most recent meeting. He reported that the service will continue for the next financial year but that unless additional grant funding can be sourced then the parish councils will not be able to continue with the service. The 217 group agreed an increase in the fares and that a new owner had taken over from Pickthalls and new contracts will be agreed with them in due course.
9. Planning matters; parish councillors attended the most recent planning meeting for the Millfields housing development (for 27 houses on land close to Fitz Bridge) in February 7th. Many members of the local community were present once more to voice their opposition to the scheme. The make up of planning panel members was different to the original meeting where the application was rejected by 4 votes to three. The borough councillor for Lamplugh, John Dirom, was unable to attend this meeting but the parish councillors wished that it be noted that they were very grateful for his role in the previous meeting where he fairly questioned the applicant and tried to engage the planning panel members in a debate on the issue (without much success). The parish council had engaged a legal representative to voice their case at this meeting. After the presentations the councillors reversed the original decision by voting 3 to 2 for the application to be passed (one abstention). The government planning office also refused to intervene in the decision. The application is conditional on the S106 agreement to build a village hall as part of the development; the details of this have not yet been agreed. The parish council has taken further legal advice to challenge the decision and whilst many of the actions of Copeland BC and the planning panel may be called into question there is not sufficient evidence of wrongdoing for such a challenge to be successful. The costs to mount such a challenge would be of the order of £10k which is beyond the resources of a small parish council.
It was agreed that the parish council should compose a letter of complaint against Copeland BC as to how this application has been handled.

Lamplugh Parish Council

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Councillor Lawrence proposed that the parish council should endeavour to have a meeting with the local MP, mayor and CBC representatives. Roger Braithwaite had travelled to Keswick to the local MPs surgery to ask her opinion of the application and how it had been handled. He agreed that a joint meeting should be held to voice the concerns of the parish council. Roger Braithwaite also noted that there was also a planning application for house building in Ennerdale but this was part of a local plan.

David Lawrence asked that the council vote on a proposal to have a meeting with the local MP, Trudy Harrison, regarding the future of the S106 attached to the application. Proposed by David Lawrence, seconded by Richard Hodgson and unanimously agreed by the councillors.

VC Roger Braithwaite also raised the issue that as a result of this application the parish council should clarify with CBC what its role should be in the future i.e. if Copeland do not or will not listen to local opinion then what is the point in the parish council wasting time and money in assessing such applications?

The members of the public present asked that borough councillor Dirom be thanked for his input at the first planning meeting and all of the Lamplugh parish councillors be thanked for the time and hard work put into fighting this application on the parishioners behalf.

10. Cross gates allotment drains; the clerk and Richard Hodgson will try to track the route before the next PC meeting. Arthur Lamb had attended meetings with the Highways group and they were looking at ways to reduce the flow of flood water from the adjacent farmers fields. Arthur will keep the parish council informed of any progress. The land management group (primarily focussed on the land at Cross Gates owned by the parish council) had ceased to function due to lack of members. Councillors Richard Hodgson and Michael Watts had attended the meeting on behalf of the parish council where the group was disbanded. There was around £700 which will be returned to the parish council which will allow them to tend to the area. A vote of thanks was proposed to the members of the Land Management group who has worked hard to improve the amenity at Cross gates and had been successful in acquiring grant funding. Work is required on a general tidy up after winter and cutting back of some of the hedges. John Davis was asked to submit a list of work required at present and a quote to carry out the work. The clerk will give permission to go ahead once an acceptable quote is received.
11. Review of standing orders; David Lawrence agreed to review the Standing orders and pass any changes back to the Clerk to update the document. Changes were likely to include the parish plan and the operation of the planning sub committee.
12. Highways; the Highways department will look once more at speeds on the A5086 in the new financial year. County councillor Arthur lamb agreed to keep an eye on this issue.
13. Parish website; the clerk will communicate with the developers from CALC as a matter of urgency and include Roger Braithwaite in any meetings. The clerk has reviewed the new Data Protection regulations and has received a 'summary document' of 63 pages which is under review. The clerk has also reviewed a 60 page presentation on the new external auditor system which comes into place in April. The need of a web site to show the parish councils financial summary is a requirement to prevent a charge of £200 for review of the accounts by the external auditor. The clerk will progress the audit requirements and seek a suitable web sit to permit viewing of the summary data.

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14. Neighbourhood plan; a neighbourhood plan is primarily concerned with proposals for future planning and development in tune with the parish needs. Following on from the experience with the plans for the Millfields development the councillors called into question the point of spending considerable time and money developing such a plan if Copeland BC simply override it and do as they wish. The clerk will supply David Lawrence with a copy of the existing plan (from 2003?) for review and comment. It was noted that Ennerdale PC have developed a Community led plan but this is a different type of plan to a Neighbourhood plan.
15. Newsletter; items for the March newsletter need to be with Michael Watts by the 23rd. The clerk will supply Michael with the information about the forestry work and events taking place at Cogra.
16. Speaker for the May annual parish meeting; clerk will ask the Copeland Mayor and Richard Hodgson will ask someone from the school if they wished to give a presentation.
17. Upcoming Meetings/Meetings attended; RNEC , planning panels (RB,SR,DL,RH,clerk), Eskett quarry, 217 bus service.
18. Items for next agenda; agree any changes to standing orders, Lamplugh plans, consider improvement of footpath between Lamplugh Cross and the village hall (ask Tendley to supply top covering and scrape off grass).

The next meeting will be the **Annual Parish Meeting** held on the **2nd May 2018 in the Kirkland mission.**

Closure of Council Meeting at 9:25pm.

Dates for Wednesday night Council meetings in 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