

LPC

LAZONBY PARISH COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL OPEN PARISH MEETING **of the** **PARISH COUNCIL** **Minutes**

held on Wednesday 15th May 2019, starting at 7 p.m, in the Jubilee Rooms,
Lazonby Village Hall.

Present: Chair Councillor Chris West.

Councillors Gill Sharples, Tim Wright, John Judson, Peter Foley and Lynn Whiteley.

Also in attendance: the Clerk to the Council Rebecca Wyatt, Treasurer to the Council Chris Hoy, County Councillor Hilary Carrick, Brian Smyth, Mark Robson PCSO 5398 and 1 parishioner.

A minutes silence was held in the memory of Chris Hill, a long-standing Parish Councillor and active member of the community for many years, who sadly passed away on 9th May 2019.

ITEM / MINUTE No.	ITEM	BUSINESS
1.	Apologies for absence.	RESOLVED that it be noted that apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gordon Nicolson.
2.	Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 2nd May 2018.	The Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 2 nd May 2018 were considered. RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 2 nd May 2018 be approved and signed as a true record of those proceedings.
3.	Reports from the Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 2nd May 2018.	Any reports from the Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 2 nd May 2018 were considered. RESOLVED that it be noted that all matters were dealt with at the following meetings of the Parish Council after the May 2018 meeting of the Parish Council.
4.	Chair's Report for the period of May 2018 - May 2019	
	<p>Welcome to the Annual Lazonby Parish Council Meeting. Thank you for your attendance and I look forward to your comments in the open session following my report.</p> <p>It has been an interesting year which has had its challenges and successes. I would like to thank all those Parishioners who have contributed towards the running of the Parish Council and contributed both in discussion and in physical presence when we, as the Council have promoted events. Your comments have ensured that we have maintained a high standard of governance and accountability. I hope you will continue to support me and the other Councillors in the coming year.</p>	

The smooth running, the financial security and effectiveness of the Parish Council is carried out by the dedicated work of Beccy Wyatt and Chris Hoy who have worked with me to make my job easier. I thank them for their professional and tireless efforts. Beccy has had a particularly busy year, as she has had to do a lot of extra work as a result of the laws dealing with GDPR. I would also like to thank Gill for agreeing to be the deputy chair and my fellow Councillors for their willingness to give up their time to take part in various projects to benefit the parish.

District Councillor Gordon Nicolson and County Councillor Hilary Carrick deserve a big thank you for the time they spend on parish matters. Other people that have worked exceedingly hard for us and deserve a thank you are Shaun Bunting for his work on the LPC website; Geoff and Jennifer Wilson for their continuing work on the upkeep of the recycling centre; and for the work they did with Rob Simm on the Village Green project; Dick Nellis for the welding repairs he has done; the grass-cutting volunteers who keep the village looking tidy; and the school staff and children who deliver the newsletter.

Sadly this year Chris Hill resigned from the LPC due to ill-health and sadly passed away earlier this month. Chris will be missed for her enthusiasm, skills, willingness to take ownership and common sense.

We do have two new councillors Lynn Whitely and Peter Foley, who were originally co-opted onto the Council prior to the local elections bringing the number of Councillors to eight. I thank them for coming forward to take up these positions. This year has seen the Village Green adopted, which is the triangle in Scaur Close. Although Geoff Wilson and Rob Simm did the original horticultural work, Geoff and Jennifer Wilson have been managing the area and keeping it looking good. Thank you for the work you do in your own time.

Every month there are issues which reoccur as they are general 'housekeeping' matters. The Neighbourhood Plan has been on our agenda for over four years and is now nearing its closure, in that we will be organising the final referendum for the Parish, so we can have the document signed off, and provide the protection we need to prevent more development. Topics which continue to cause problems are traffic, dog fouling, dogs running freely in fields of sheep, general litter, weeds and people dumping inappropriate material at the recycling centre. To deal with the litter problem we have organised two litter picking days and are grateful to all those that turn out to help.

The traffic problem has been a big issue this year and a consultation evening was organised to listen to villages concerns. Although only a small percentage of the villagers attended, those that were present, provided evidence of the problems and a number of solutions were considered. Cumbria Highways are still considering the problems and trying to work out some solutions that will be advantageous to all. I would like to thank those volunteers who took part in the speed awareness project, recording the speed of motorist passing through the village. These volunteers provided excellent information at the consultation evening.

Also, as a Council, we are still persuading the footpath, which is much needed between the swimming pool and the Bridge, for the safety of our community.

As a Council, we have continued to support organisations in the Parish through the grants we award. This year we have awarded:

Great Northern Air Ambulance	£200
The Fellrunner	£358
Lazonby Parochial Church Council	£500

The Parish Council have also given a much-needed donation of £200 to Lazonby Village Hall towards their heating system.

We do get some of our revenue from the recycling site and our fishing licences. Both of these have reduced over the last few years. We are hoping the fishing licences revenue might increase this year as The Highland Drove and the Village Store at Kirkoswald have agreed to sell licences for us and I thank them for their offer.

	<p>The most pressing issue this year was the taking over of the Footway lighting. This caused much discussion with Eden District Council and CALC, with eventually a solution being reached. We agreed as a Council to take the responsibility for the Footway Lighting which Eden District Council had provided and were in good order. However, not all the lights in the village are the responsibility of EDC.</p> <p>The other issue which required much discussion and persistence in coming to a good conclusion was the train timetable for Lazonby, to increase the number of trains stopping at our station.</p> <p>LPC also promote a CPR training day, which 30 parishioners found beneficial and provided them with, more confidence if they ever needed to use it.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to welcome everyone who has moved into the Parish this year. We would welcome your input in helping the Parish Council to run a successful and happy parish and encourage you to join us on the Parish Council as we have currently a number of vacancies. Please continue to read the notices that are put up on the parish notice boards and keep up to date with the planning applications and other parish matters through our website (www.lazonbyparishcouncil.org), as we can only represent the people of the parish if we know your views. Meanwhile, everyone is very welcome to attend our meetings, which are held on the first Wednesday each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, except January and August.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Councillor Chris West Chair, Lazonby Parish Council</p>	
5.	<p>Treasurer's Financial Report.</p>	<p>The Treasurer presented the Financial Statement (please see attached), which was issued to all those present after which questions were invited. The following report was given.</p> <p>Total Reserves held at year-end were £20,163.73.</p> <p>The external auditors strongly recommend that the maximum reserves should not exceed twice the precept amount. The precept for the year being £10350. Therefore the maximum reserve balance would equate to £20700. Reserves were below this threshold by £536.</p> <p>In November 2017 the Finance and Budget Committee met to recommend the Budget, Precept and Grant allocation for 2018/19. The budget presented by the Treasurer reported strong reserves albeit with much uncertainty over the devolution of assets (Footway lights) from Eden District Council. It was agreed that the precept would be under some pressure with probable rising costs, however, the committee agreed to leave the precept unchanged at £10350 as any initial grants from Eden District Council and adequate reserves would be sufficient to absorb costs for the year. This would be reviewed at the next Finance and Budget Committee meeting in November 2019 with more information available to the committee.</p> <p>Reviewing the total income there is a difference of £2832 more between the accounts of 2017/18 and 2018/19. The main examples of this increase in income derived from the following, though the Treasurer pointed out a couple of revenue falls.</p> <p>Fishing Permits were down £858 predominantly due to the transfer of the stand-alone Post Office to the shop floor of the Lakes and Dales Co-op. The management withdrew the agency facilities for permits due to concerns over security issues dealing with the cash. This impacted with some reduction in permits issued and in tandem with a period of extensive drought as the Parish Council sought replacement agents. Subsequently, two new agents have agreed to provide a service, the Bridge Stores at Kirkoswald and the Highland Drove.</p> <p>Recycling Credits were down £102 a continual decline over the years as more parishioners succumb to kerbside collections and could place pressure on its economic viability if not fully utilized. VAT Reclaim was up £1442, at the end of 2017</p>

		<p>HMRC notified the Parish Council that all client reference numbers were changing, and new details would be forwarded in due course. With a short delay in implementation the Treasurer was unable to reclaim that particular year which led to two claims the following year. A Footway lights Grant of £3266 was finally paid from Eden District Council and the 1st years grant allocated to the Parish Council. In order to maintain cost controls, the Treasurer decided to post this item separately in the accounts until the final grant is paid and the funding of the lights are fully absorbed by the Parish.</p> <p>Reviewing the total expenditure there is a difference of £1906 less between the years 2017/18 and 2018/19. Most notably Staff Salaries were up £653 linked to a local government employee pay rise with the majority attributed to the implementation of the requirements by law for the General Data Protection Requirement. In order to comply with this lengthy process, the Parish Council granted overtime to the Clerk to perform the necessary duties that have now made the Council fully compliant. Maintenance was down £1706; in 2017/18 costs were higher with remedial work to the wall at the war memorial and the final payment to Eden District Council for the maintenance of the children's playground before being transferred to the Lazonby & District Swimming Pool Committee. Also, the lawnmowers were serviced but deemed unnecessary in 2018/19 due to the lack of use as a consequence of the long period of summer drought. Operating Costs were down £674, partly due to the reduction of costs from the Lazonby & Districts' Swimming Pool Annual Service Agreement being a saving of £303. The Pool Committee has resumed control of the Children's Playground and the Service Agreement provides them with 80% of funding up to a limit of £2500. Printer costs were down £112 and Hall hire down £86 both associated with a reduction in the Neighbourhood Plan meetings and printing costs.</p> <p>Footway lights expenses were £2592 partly the cost of the 1st year's maintenance and electricity supply for the devolution of assets from Eden District Council and the cost of insuring the lights. Set against a grant of £3266 mentioned earlier. The Treasurer has recorded this as a separate item in the accounts to monitor the costs impacted until the Parish Council assumes full funding control of the assets. Once completed then the costs will be recorded under Maintenance.</p> <p>Finally, the Budget for 2019/20 has projected a net deficit of £3696 which has projected Reserves as at 31/03/2020 of £16467.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Financial statement submitted by the Treasurer be noted and approved and that the Treasurer be thanked for his report.</p>
6.	Open Forum – Parishioners' Questions & Suggestions.	<p>The Chair opened the Meeting to the floor and invited those present for their contributions for debate.</p> <p>RESOLVED that there were no issues raised by anyone present or received by Email or any other form of contact.</p>
<p>There being no further items raised for discussion the Chair concluded the meeting by thanking all Parishioners for their attendance and closed the meeting at approximately 7.20 pm.</p>		