

LPC

LAZONBY PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes

held on Wednesday 4th May 2022, starting at 7 p.m, in Lazonby Village Hall.

Present: Chair Councillor Chris West.

Councillors Angie Miller, Tim Wright, John Judson, Peter Foley, Gordon Nicolson, Steve Craig and Andrew Miller.

Also in attendance: the Clerk to the Council Rebecca Wyatt, Treasurer to the Council Chris Hoy and County Councillor Hilary Carrick.

ITEM / MINUTE No.	ITEM	BUSINESS
1.	Apologies for absence.	RESOLVED that it be noted that there were no apologies for absence.
2.	Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 5th May 2021.	The Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 5 th May 2022 were considered. RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 5 th May 2021 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 5th May 2021.	RESOLVED that there were no reports from the Minutes of the last Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 5 th May 2021.
4.	The Chair's Annual Report for the period May 2021 to May 2022. Welcome to the Lazonby Parish Council's Annual Open Meeting. Thank you for your attendance and I look forward to your comments in the open session following my report. 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 participated when we, as the Council have promoted events. It has been a delight to get back to face to face meetings after using the facility of Zoom to promote safe meetings throughout the Covid years. It presented us with challenges which were unexpected but thanks to everyone involved, it has allowed us to conduct our business in a safe way. 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. Although we have moved away from the Covid restriction, some Parishioners have still been sheltering, and support to those people has been continued. Thank you to all those who continue to care in our community.	

For the smooth running, and financial security and effectiveness of the Parish Council I would like to thank particularly the Clerk Beccy Wyatt and the Treasurer Chris Hoy who have worked with dedication which has made my job easier. I thank them for their professional and tireless efforts. Thanks to Councillor Tim Wright for being 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 who have worked exceedingly hard for us and deserve a thank you are: Shaun Bunting for his work on the LPC website, Geoff and Jenifer Wilson for their continuing work on the upkeep of the recycling centre, and for the work they do with Rob Simm on keeping the Village Green looking so good, the grass-cutting volunteers who keep the village looking tidy and the school staff and parents who deliver the newsletter.

Since my last report, Gill Sharples resigned from the Council to pursue her other interests and I would like to thank her for the contribution she made while Vice-Chair of the Council. She was a passionate and enthusiastic member. We now have a vacancy, as we only have 9 Councillors. Councillor Phil Whitehead has taken a sabbatical for family reasons and we look forward to having him back in September.

Every month there are issues which recur as they are general 'housekeeping' matters. 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 were hoping to organise a number of litter-picking events but as a result of Covid, we did not manage to hold one event. I would like to thank all the Parishioners who have, on their daily exercise, collected litter and managed to keep our village looking tidy.

Traffic problems continue to be a big issue and although we have had consultations with the Highways Department and listened to villagers' concerns, there is a limited amount to what can be done.

The Council with the help of County Councillor Hilary Carrick and District Councillor Gordon Nicholson secured funding for the footpath, which is much needed between the swimming pool and the Bridge, for the safety and enjoyment of our community. A plan has now been drawn and estimates for the work calculated. As a Parish Council we had to match fund the project and thanks to the very generous contribution of the Parishioners, who either through donating directly to the fund, buying plaques, attending the Race Night, the Wine Tasting or placing a bid in the sealed auction have managed to raise the money necessary. I would like to thank a number of Parishioners and businesses who put themselves out to help with managing the appeal and contributing to the fund particularly, Bells, Dales and Lakes, Eden Graphic, Croglin Toys, and Kirk Neuk Gallery have all supported the project.

Councillor John Judson has continued to take responsibility for issues with the Highways and has succeeded to have repairs carried out in the village and surrounding roads when necessary. He has built up a good relationship with the Highways Department.

The Egg Packing Factory site is still presenting the Council with a lot of work to see this project through. Councillors Gordon Nicholson and Peter Foley have been tireless in their efforts to find ways to drive this forward. This is still an ongoing project. The big success is that we now have planning permission for which has taken nearly a year to come through.

The Footway lighting adoption has, at last, come to a conclusion. We have now adopted the lights we highlighted as necessary and have agreed a contract for their maintenance. The old light heads have been replaced with heads that only need a third of the electricity the old ones used.

Councillor Phillip Whitehead is still keen to promote conservation in the Parish and hopes in September to be planting some trees and hedges.

As a Council, we have continued to support organisations in the Parish through the grants we award. The following amounts over the accounting Years 22/23 were distributed as follows:-

Great Air Ambulance	£250.00
Fell runner	£316.00
Lazonby Village Hall	£4,000.00

Playgroup £500.00

The Parish Council will also be looking to renew the funding agreement with Lazonby and District Swimming Pool to help with the costs of repairs to the Community Playground.

We derive some of our revenue from the recycling site and our fishing licences. Both of these have reduced over the last few years, but we are hoping the fishing licence revenue may increase with the facility to pay via your mobile phone which is something we are looking into.

Broadband is another issue, which is still being discussed by the Council and there are a number of Councillors who are championing B4RN in the Parish. B4RN has been adopted by other Parish like Kirkoswald but from much of the work Councillor Steve Craig has done on our behalf, it would appear that most of the residents in Lazonby are receiving a speed that is acceptable to them. I would like to thank Councillor Steve Craig for his work on this project and his continuing persistence.

This year is a very special year for our Monarch and with the 70th year celebrations in mind, Eden District Council has awarded each Parish council £500 to provide grants for any community celebrations that are happening in the Parish. So far Grants have been awarded to;

The Women's Institute £125.00
Eden Valley Players £150.00
Church Flagpole £100.00

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 and when vacancies become available. 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 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Councillor Chris West
Chair, Lazonby Parish Council

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would like to thank the Chair Councillor Chris West and the Vice-Chair Tim Wright for the work they have carried out on behalf of the Parish Council over the past year.

5. **Treasurer's Financial Report and Accounts.**

The Treasurer presented the financial report and accounts for 2021 - 2022 (please see attached), which were issued to all those present after which questions were invited. The following report was given.

Total Reserves held at yearend 2021/22 were £74090.16.

The External Auditors strongly recommend that the maximum reserves should not exceed twice the Precept amount. The Precept for the year stood at £13350. Therefore the maximum Reserve balance would equate to £26700. Reserves were substantially above this threshold by £47390.16. The explanation for such an increase is attributed to the Parish Council instigating an affordable housing project on the site of the old Egg Packing Station and a fundraising project to raise funds to create a footway linking the Swimming Pool and Lazonby Bridge. Two grants totalling £61000 from Eden DC for the housing project and £23557.95 donated for the footway. The Eden DC grant was paid in two phases, firstly £27000 and secondly £34000, the first phase has been spent and the second only partially.

Therefore Parish Reserves less the remaining unspent grant and Footway donations were £21325 inside the recommended reserve threshold.

It is important to note that £3000 has been ring-fenced from Parish Reserves to add to the Footway donations which will be paid in the 2022/23 financial year. This will have the effect of decreasing reserves and increasing the donation. Also, some expenses have been incurred during the Footway fundraising project along with a community grant from Eden DC that has not been paid yet.

In December the Council agreed that the Precept should be increased by £1000 to £14350.

This was in recognition of a substantial increase in local grant applications, the final tranche of the Footlight grant from Eden DC which reduced each year, the cost of the adoption of six more lights in the village to replace the light heads and a large donation towards the Footway Fund.

Reviewing the total Income between the accounts of 2020/21 and 2021/22 there is a difference of £8155 less.

The main examples of this decrease in income derive from the following despite some increases in other aspects of revenue.

Fishing Permits were UP £756 as Covid restrictions were removed.

Recycling Credits were DOWN £460 as no payment was made by Eden DC as of yet, the assumption being the restructuring process to a Unitary Authority.

Vat Recovery was UP £3706 predominately due to the Vat claimed from the use of the Egg Packing Station grants that will eventually be paid back to Eden DC.

Rents were UP £504 partly the increase in the insurance costs for Croglin Ltd use of the Old School which is apportioned as a rent, an increase in ground rent for Croglin Ltd and Foundry 34 Chip Van at the Recycling Centre Car Park as a full calendar year rent.

Grants Received were DOWN £34000 as no new grants were received all that remains are attributed to the Egg Packing Station Project.

Miscellaneous Income is Down £1411 the previous year a parishioner donated £639 for a seat to be installed by the railway bridge near Lazonby Hall, £25 was donated by a parishioner for use of wood from felled trees on Parish land and £747 was recovered in overcharged costs an error by the printer company. No income was gained in the current year.

Footway Light Grant was DOWN £816 being the final tranche from Eden DC towards the full adoption of the Footway Lights.

Footway Donations were UP £23558 the total amount at present for the fundraising project for the footway to the bridge.

Reviewing the total expenditure between the accounts of 2020/21 and 2021/22 there is a difference of £21885 less.

The main examples of this decrease in expenditure derive from the following despite some increases in other aspects of expenditure.

Staff Salaries were UP £134 as a pay rise in 2019/20 was first paid in May 2020 in arrears meaning the April pay was smaller.

Staff expenses were UP £321 as Covid restrictions were removed and the Clerk's mileage claim increased coupled with an increase in the Clerk's electricity and broadband allowance that had never been increased since her employment began.

Local grants were DOWN £1883 with less applicants requiring funding for local projects.

Operating Costs were DOWN £394 mostly due to no extra fees from the printer company as the previous year a facilitation fee was incurred under a new printer lease agreement.

Capital/Project expenditure was DOWN £19342 as all Phase 1 of the Egg packing Station Grant was utilized and only a smaller portion of Phase 2 so far.

		<p>Miscellaneous Expenses were DOWN £625 due to the purchase in 2020/21 and installation of a park bench being fully funded by a parishioner and overpaid fees by the printer company in error for print use having now been refunded.</p> <p>Finally, the Budget for 2022/23 has projected a net deficit of £7206 projecting Reserves as at 31/03/2023 of £14668.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Chris Hoy Treasurer to the Council</p>
		<p>RESOLVED that the financial report and accounts submitted by the Treasurer be noted and approved and that the Treasurer be thanked for his report.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Open Forum – Parishioners’ Questions & Suggestions.</p>	<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>		