

LPC

LAZONBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

For an Extra-ordinary Meeting of Lazonby Parish Council which was held via a Zoom Virtual Meeting due to the Coronavirus Covid 19 pandemic, on Wednesday 13th January 2021 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Chair Councillor Chris West

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

Also in attendance: The Clerk to the Council Rebecca Wyatt and Treasurer to the Council Chris Hoy.

ITEM / MINUTE No.	ITEM	BUSINESS
21/01	Apologies for absence.	RESOLVED that it be noted that apologies were received from Councillor Phillip Whitehead.
21/02	Requests for Dispensations.	RESOLVED that it be noted that no requests were received by the Clerk since the previous meeting for dispensations to speak and/or vote on any matter where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.
21/03	Declaration of Interest.	<p>The Chair asked if there were any declarations by Council Members of any Personal or Prejudicial Interests relating to any items on the agenda for this meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED that it be noted that Councillor Gordon Nicolson declared a personal interest in matters concerning Eden District Council.</p> <p>ALSO RESOLVED that it be noted that Councillor Steve Craig has a prejudicial interest in Planning Application No. 20/0961 - Outline application for 8 self-build plots, with approval sought for access and layout, on Land off Scaur Lane, Lazonby, Penrith</p>
21/04	Public Participation.	<p>The Chair asked the parishioners present if they wished to make any contributions relating to any items on the agenda. The Parish Council also discussed the concerns that parishioners had been in contact about.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Parishioner expressed their concerns regarding planning application 20/0961 asking that their concerns be taken into account when considering its response to the application: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The applicant for 20/0961 is the same applicant as for the concurrent application 20/0904; so why have two separate applications been made for what in essence is a single development. b) The application appears to be a ploy by developers to obtain consent for even more properties adjacent and additional to properties for which planning consent is currently being sought under undecided application 20/0904 which already seeks consent for a greater housing density on the site than was approved on previous application 17/0006.

		<p>c) The application appears to be a ploy by developers to limit the number of social housing properties that are required across the whole of the site covered by the applications 20/0904 and 20/0961 together.</p> <p>2. A Parishioner also wrote to say that they had noticed that the new Planning Applications for Cumbria Homes and Genesis Homes for the field off Scaur Lane has an increased number of dwellings. Especially after Cumbria Homes had originally proposed some 50 units whereas the combined Applications now total 67, an increase of 33%. The density per hectare would now be almost 50 dwellings per hectare (dph) rather than the preferred 33 dph the Neighbourhood Plan was based on. It also means that the target increase in dwellings to 2032 will be exceeded by 2022. The Parishioner wanted to know if this was compliant with Lazonby's Neighbourhood Plan. The Parishioner also expressed their concerns about the increase of traffic in Scaur Lane and the junction onto Main Street.</p> <p>3. A parishioner has also given their concerns about the Cumbria Homes and Genesis Homes planning applications on the field off Scaur Lane regarding the number of houses and increased traffic.</p> <p>The Parish Council noted the parishioner's comments but explained that even though they know that there are concerns regarding the planning applications for the land off Scaur Lane, made by two developers, they had to be treated as separate planning applications; and the planning application being considered at this meeting was Planning Application No. 20/0961 - Outline application for 8 self-build plots, with approval sought for access and layout, on Land off Scaur Lane, Lazonby, Penrith made by Cumbrian Homes. Cumbrian Homes originally applied for the planning for 50 houses back in 2017 but they sold this development to Genesis Homes. However, Cumbrian Homes have retained the self-build plots and are seeking permission for these.</p>
		<p>RESOLVED that the Parish Council note the comments made by parishioners regarding the development site off Scaur Lane and any comments regarding planning application 20/0961.</p>
<p>21/05</p>	<p>Planning Applications (New).</p>	<p>The Council considered the new applications which have been issued for consultation by Eden District Council.</p> <p>1. Planning Application No. 20/0961 - Outline application for 8 self-build plots, with approval sought for access and layout, on Land off Scaur Lane, Lazonby, Penrith</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Council agreed to support Planning Application No. 20/0961 - Outline application for 8 self-build plots, with approval sought for access and layout, on Land off Scaur Lane, Lazonby Penrith. However, the Council made the following comments to Eden District Council Planning Services:</p> <p>1. The Parish Council would like to reiterate that the Neighbourhood plan encourages building companies proposing housing estates, or in this case, self-build plots, in the parish to make a substantial financial contribution to parish projects. The Parish Council have a current project which needs funding which is the installation of a much-needed footpath between Eden Bridge and Lazonby swimming pool which would hugely benefit from a financial contribution.</p> <p>2. The Parish Council expect that this site will be for self builds only.</p>

		<p>3. The Parish Council ask that the local connections clause is put in the conditions of sale of these self-build plots and that the buyers have to demonstrate they have a local connection.</p>
21/06	Deferral of the Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 2nd December 2020.	RESOLVED that the Council agreed that the approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 2 nd December 2020 be deferred to the next full meeting of the Parish Council on 3 rd February 2021 due to this meeting being an extra-ordinary meeting to deal with issues of finance and budget only and any urgent matters that may arise.
21/07	Minutes of the Finance & Budget Committee Meeting of the 20th November 2019.	It was recommended that the Minutes of the Finance & Budget Committee meeting on the 20 th November 2019 be approved and signed as a true record of those proceedings.
		RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance & Budget Committee meeting on the 20 th November 2019 be approved and signed as a true record of those proceedings.
21/08	Annual Lazonby Parish Council Grant Applications for 2021 – 2022.	<p>The Council considered the grant applications for 2021 – 2022.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Great North Air Ambulance for financial assistance of £200 towards the general running costs of the service. The Fellrunner for financial assistance of £315.70 towards providing a scheduled bus service to the residents in the Parish of Lazonby. Lazonby & District Swimming Pool for financial assistance of £500 towards the purchase of an automatic chlorinator to maintain the optimum water quality for safe bathing. Lazonby Parochial Church Council for financial assistance of £500 towards the Churchyard upkeep and maintenance.
		<p>The Council agreed on the following regarding the Parish Council grant awards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> RESOLVED that the Great North Air Ambulance be awarded financial assistance of £200 towards the service, however, they will be asked to give details on a specific capital project that they wish to spend their grant award on. RESOLVED that the Fellrunner be awarded financial assistance of £315.70 towards providing a scheduled bus service to the residents in the Parish of Lazonby. RESOLVED that Lazonby & District Swimming Pool be awarded financial assistance of £500 towards the purchase of an automatic chlorinator to maintain the optimum water quality for safe bathing. <p>ALSO RESOLVED that the Lazonby & District Swimming Pool Committee be asked to give a written report on what their last grant award was spent on before their new grant award is given.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ALSO RESOLVED that Lazonby Parochial Church Council would not be receiving financial assistance of £500 towards the Churchyard upkeep and maintenance due to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) referencing section 8 of the Local Government Act 1894 which prohibits grants for works on property relating to the affairs of the church or an ecclesiastical charity.

21/09	Budget and Precept for 2021 – 2022.	<p>The Council considered the Parish Council Budget and Precept for 2021 – 2022.</p> <p>The Treasurer provided the Council with the following figures. The Treasurer has calculated the yearend reserves for 31/03/21 based on the agreed balances to bank on 31/12/20, including any further income less the expected deficit from business transactions between 01/01/21 and 31/3/21.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Current Account Reserves (Agreed with Bank 31/12/20)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£7640</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deposit Account Reserves (Agreed with Bank and Excluding The Egg Packing Station Grant 31/12/20)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£15280</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;"><u>Total Bank Reserves - £22920</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Bank Reserves</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 22920</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expected Income (01/01/21 – 31/03/21)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 3100</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£26020</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Expected Expenditure</u> (01/01/21 – 31/03/21)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Budget for Unapproved Lights</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fence at Sports Field</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1560</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tree Surgery (Croglin and Will Pool)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Approved lights Annual Charge</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2830</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Expected Yearend Reserves 31/03/21</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>£15430</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">The Preliminary Budget 2021/22</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Main Considerations</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Income:</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">PRECEPT - assumption at present unchanged.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">RENTS - now includes Chip Van £800 approx per annum.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">FOOTWAY LIGHTS GRANT - reducing amount from EDC, final tranche.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Expenditure:</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">SALARIES - present agreed National Levels+ Contingency for Pay Rises.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">LOCAL GRANTS - the assumption of 100% allocation.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">OPERATING COSTS - usual expenses plus the Lazonby Pool Service Agreement, Max £2500.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">CAPITAL/PROJECTS EXP - at present the Egg Packing Project has been excluded as the funding is matched against expense.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">FOOTWAY LIGHTS - to cover Approved/Unapproved, 33 in total with costings from EDC for maintenance, electricity and additional insurance premiums.</td> </tr> </table>	Current Account Reserves (Agreed with Bank 31/12/20)	£7640	Deposit Account Reserves (Agreed with Bank and Excluding The Egg Packing Station Grant 31/12/20)	£15280	<u>Total Bank Reserves - £22920</u>		Total Bank Reserves	£ 22920	Expected Income (01/01/21 – 31/03/21)	£ 3100		£26020	 		<u>Expected Expenditure</u> (01/01/21 – 31/03/21)		Budget for Unapproved Lights	£3000	Fence at Sports Field	£1560	Tree Surgery (Croglin and Will Pool)	£1200	Approved lights Annual Charge	£2000	Other Expenses	£2830			Expected Yearend Reserves 31/03/21	<u>£15430</u>	 		The Preliminary Budget 2021/22		Main Considerations		Income:		PRECEPT - assumption at present unchanged.		RENTS - now includes Chip Van £800 approx per annum.		FOOTWAY LIGHTS GRANT - reducing amount from EDC, final tranche.		 		Expenditure:		SALARIES - present agreed National Levels+ Contingency for Pay Rises.		LOCAL GRANTS - the assumption of 100% allocation.		OPERATING COSTS - usual expenses plus the Lazonby Pool Service Agreement, Max £2500.		CAPITAL/PROJECTS EXP - at present the Egg Packing Project has been excluded as the funding is matched against expense.		FOOTWAY LIGHTS - to cover Approved/Unapproved, 33 in total with costings from EDC for maintenance, electricity and additional insurance premiums.	
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Income

Precept ^	£13350
Fishing Permits	£300
Recycling Credits	£350
Vat Recovery	£1000
Rents ^^	£2700
Wayleave	£25
Footway L Grant*	£817

^ Precept remaining unchanged

^^ Rents include usual plus Chip Van
*Footway Lights Grant from EDC,
Final TrancheTotal: £18542**Expenditure**

Salaries ^^	£8300
Staff Expenses	£800
Local Grants ***	£1516
Subscriptions	£250
Training	£200
Maintenance	£750
Operating Costs ^	£5000
Capital/Projects *	0
Footway L Exp **	£2700
Misc Exp	£200

^^ Salaries:- agreed levels plus any
pay rise*** Local Grants assumption 100%
allocation^ Operating Costs:- £2500(Projected)
and Lazonby Pool Service
Agreement £2500 = £5000.*Projects costs matched against
funding** Footway Lights:- Approved and
Unapproved 33, all costs incurred
annually.Total: £19716

Total Income 2021/22	£18542
Total Expenditure 2021/22	<u>£19716</u>
Total Deficit 2021/22	(£1174)

Expected Yearend Reserves 31/3/21	£15430
Preliminary Budget Deficit 2021/22	<u>(£1174)</u>
Total Reserves Expected 31/3/22	<u>£14256</u>

Final Analysis – 2021/22

Reserves are projected at **£14256** as at business close 31st March 2022.

The Parish Council are entering the final tranche of funding for the footway lights after 3 years of grants and annual costs will eventually inflate from a base of £2700 (includes Vat which is compensated as a reclaim in Budget). Since the first years grant the Parish Council took the decision to increase the Precept by £1500 each financial year to cover the costs, preceded by a full review. Estimates project a total £6000 increase in Precept to support reserves over the 4 year grant cycle, just halfway through and reserves are in line with projection.

The cost of implementing the unapproved lights of £3000 has been a major factor in increasing the Precept; it is just possible that the prospect of a grant could aid the Parish Council in a Precept reassessment that would significantly bolster reserves without further intervention in the short term.

The Lazonby Pool Service Agreement that allocates funding up to £2500 per annum has never yet breached £1800 so some capacity is available in the Budget. All other expenditure I would expect to be in line with the Budgeted proposals.

Conversely, rental income could be affected, it is not certain that the Chip

		<p>Van and even Croglin Ltd could continue as future contributors, income from Fishing has dwindled significantly as well as Recycling Credits and are downgraded as derived income accordingly.</p> <p>The Council has operated since the Treasurer's tenure with reserves between £17k and £20k, with low inflation, low interest rate environment the surplus reserves are eroded in true value without any projects. This is why a clause was written into our Financial Regulations to have a candid approach to setting the Precept with all the present day facts available, which has been adhered too with a continuous prudent response.</p> <p><i>A reminder of the Parish Council's Financial Regulations 3.4:- offers the full committee the benefit either to leave the Precept unchanged, decrease or increase depending on the projected reserves being greater or less than the contingency reserve (£10k). A buffer between £10k and £12k would act as a safety margin before any implementation.</i></p> <p>RESOLVED that the Treasurer be thanked for his report on the Budget and Precept for 2021 – 2022, the contents of which were approved, accepted and noted.</p> <p>ALSO RESOLVED that the Council agreed to the Precept for 2021 – 2022 remaining the same amount at £13350 and for it not to increase this year after a financially difficult year for many due to the pandemic.</p>
21/10	Date of Next Meeting.	<p>RESOLVED that it be noted that the date of the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council be Wednesday 3rd February 2021, which will be held virtually via Zoom.</p>

The meeting finished at 8.47 pm