

Matterdale Parish Council

Draft minutes of the meeting which took place at 7.00pm on **Monday 1st March 2021** by “Zoom”.

“Present”: Cllrs Lloyd (in the chair), McAlpine, Shaw, Crofts, Mrs Beaumont, Firth, Holder, Mrs Gore, Harrison and Mrs Bray. County Councillor Neil Hughes joined the meeting for item 7. Mrs Wilson and Mr Dobinson were unable to take part.

In attendance: the Clerk.

1. The **Minutes** of the meeting on **4th January 2021** were approved in the amended form circulated.

2. Exclusion of Press and requests for public participation/open forum

2.1 No members of the press or public had sought to participate in the meeting by Zoom or otherwise.

2.2 There were no notified public questions and there was no public forum.

3. Declarations of interest by Councillors/ requests for dispensation.

3.1 No Councillors needed to update their declaration.

3.2 None declared any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

3.3 None declared any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

3.4 The Clerk reported that no dispensation had been sought or granted.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes:-

4.1 Mr Trelease’s estimate for renewal of the **posts and fencing around Dockray Village Green** having been accepted, the Clerk will remind him to attend to the work. “Danger” signs will then be required on the open boundary with the stream on the north east side of the green.

4.2 The **planning application for the proposed Community/Education building** on the Recreation Field has been put on the LDNPA website under ref no 7/2020/3163; it is expected to go to the LDNPA Development Committee at its meeting on Wednesday 7th April or Wednesday 6th May.

4.3 The Clerk had reported on the **A592 Safety Programme** briefing for Council Clerks; the design and consultation phases are to follow shortly. It was agreed that the Cumbria County Council could have a link on the Parish Council website for purposes of public information.

5. Finance

5.1 The Clerk reported that the **balance** at HSBC Bank plc was £2,941.05cr; at Skipton Building Society £66,362.86.

5.2 **Expenditure** was approved, namely £40.00 to the Information Commissioner for the Data Protection Registration, £10.29 to Water Plus for water charges, £90 plus VAT to PFK for valuation advice re the Troutbeck Land, £1,220.88 to D L Brown (half year net salary £1031.40, £156 for use of home as office for 2020/21 and £33.48 for travel in 2020/21 at 45p a mile and HMRC £216 for Paye on the above salary and £207.17 to 2030 Architects as a contribution to their fees (invoice 1942) of £6,215 plus VAT (the balance to be paid by MSF from grant or other capital). The insurance renewal premium would fall due before 31st March 2021 and should be paid assuming it is within budget.

5.3 The Clerk had **reviewed expenditure in the year to date** against the current year's budget. Nothing additional had been paid since his report to the meeting on 2nd November 2020.

5.4 The draft update of the **Clerk's employment contract** was agreed as circulated. The Chairman, Cllr Lloyd, was authorised to sign it for the Parish Council. The Clerk will note a copy of it for reference upon the appointment of his successor.

6. Planning.

6.1 The Clerk reported on various **Planning Applications received for consultation** (all 7/2020) namely :-

3163 re proposed **Education/ Community Building on the Recreation Field**: the Clerk had confirmed that the Parish Council were strongly in favour of the proposal.

3146 re **Greaves Farm, Dacre**: Matterdale Planning Group had reviewed the application and the Clerk had reported its view to LDNPA, namely that the development proposed should be permitted provided the site is used for one dwellinghouse only.

3017 re **Grove Farm, Thackthwaite**: Watermillock Planning group had considered this and had no objection (as the Clerk has reported to LDNPA).

6.2 **Decision notices** received the Clerk reported included:-

3131 **Hope Springs (former Residential Centre) Matterdale**: granted.

3020 **Knotts Hill Caravan Park, Watermillock**: granted.

3151 **Limes, Watermillock**: granted.

7. Highways

County Councillor Neil Hughes reported that **road closures** planned for early March on **A5091** had been staggered; email contact had been made with and by the Clerk. Flooding in the vicinity of Tongue Farmhouse, Watermillock, appeared to have resulted from a blocked watercourse.

8. Sustainable Transport Group

8.1 The views of the working group (Cllrs Firth, Bray, Gore and Holder), which had been formed in response to an **Ambleside initiative** and is led by Cllr Firth, had been circulated to Councillors; the Council confirmed that it backed the aims of the group and that the views expressed had the Council's full support.

8.2 A survey of local residents and businesses is intended; how and when is not yet clear but the Council agreed that the working group should accede to a survey if it thinks fit and that (if a contribution from the Parish Council to the expense of a survey is necessary) up to £100 would not be a problem.

8.3 Suzi Hankin of LDNPA had drafted a **Visitor Action Plan for summer 2021**, which the Clerk had circulated. It was agreed to delegate the Council's response to this same working party.

8.4 Keswick Town Council had asked for support from the Parish Council for its call for a **feasibility study by Cumbria County Council on charging visitors** for access to the Lake District National Park; its proposal had been received and circulated very shortly before this meeting; it was agreed to hold a special Parish Council meeting (if possible at Watermillock Village Hall as well as by Zoom) at 7.00pm on Monday 12th April to discuss the Keswick Town Council paper and, if there is support in principle, what questions should be addressed by such a study.

9. The Council, having agreed to accept the informal notice given by Mr R Wilson to end his farm business tenancy of the Council's **Troutbeck holding** with effect on and from 1st January 2021, the Clerk had received advice from PFK on the appropriate sum to charge for a grazing licence and that very little more was to be gained in the short term from an agricultural business tenancy. It was agreed that the Clerk should limit any advert to "Matterdale Nextdoor" and seek a fee as near as possible to that advised by PFK. Any newspaper (eg Herald") advert was ruled out, the cost of an advert there being excessive when compared to the fee likely to be achieved.

If any prospective licensee wished to take the Rushmire land under a similar grazing licence, the Clerk was at liberty to offer it also.

10. For **training opportunities**, Councillors had been referred to the CALC website. Cllr Harrison suggested that he might attend the planning course(s) offered; he was encouraged to do so.

11. Correspondence

11.1 The Council acknowledged a letter received from Mrs Abrahams about **poor broadband** at her home.

11.2 The Clerk had been approached to allow a **website link** to information on Universal Credit; that link was considered unnecessary.

12 Other Business

Cllr Harrison suggested that the conservators of **Matterdale Common** be asked to reinstate the posts said to be marking the recreational area there. The recreation area should be shown on their map. The Clerk agreed to investigate.

13. Future **meeting dates** as follows:-

Special meeting 12/4, 17/5 (AGM), 5/7, 6/9, and 1/11, all 7.00pm, if possible at Watermillock Village Hall, at least until Matterdale Church Room can resume hosting alternate meetings. (Zoom facilities will continue until the relevant legislation requiring Zoom facilities to be made available is repealed).

D. L. Brown

