

Matterdale Parish Council

Draft minutes of the meeting which took place at 7.00pm on **Monday 4th July 2022** in Matterdale Church Room.

Present: Cllrs Mrs Gore (in the chair), Lloyd, McAlpine, Holder, Beaumont, Mrs Wilson, Dobinson and Firth. **In attendance:** Mr Nick Ratcliffe, Ms Jane Newport, Cllr Mrs Derbyshire, the Clerk and County Cllr Hughes.

1. **Apologies accepted** Cllrs. Crofts, Mrs Bray (both unwell) and Harrison (clash of dates).
2. The **Minutes** of the meeting on **23rd May 2022** were approved as circulated and signed as a true record.

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

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

3.2 There were no notified public questions relating to Parish Council business.

3.3 Mr Ratcliffe asked for the Parish Council's support for an application to NW Electricity under its "**Powering Our Communities**" scheme. His suggestion is that a consultant should be paid for by grant under the scheme, who would carry out a feasibility study, to establish whether there is scope for a renewable energy scheme in the Parish. That could be followed by establishing a community interest company to provide and manage the scheme.

There was enough support from Councillors for Mr Ratcliffe to take this forward in consultation with Cllr Holder (and Cllr Beaumont if her time allows). The draft application will be put to the Clerk for signing off and submission by 19th July.

The Clerk is to inform neighbouring parishes that an application is to be made, in case collaboration with either of them might be recommended.

3.4 Ms Newport explained her proposals for **Dockray Village Green**. She suggests pathways (which she will cut to the seating on the Green) but otherwise letting the natural growth of flora proceed until September when there should be a cut, the cut flora lying there for three weeks or so for seed to set before the loose material is raked and the whole area trimmed.

In later years it may be that similar principles will be applied to increase the bio-diversity of the area.

She was asked to arrange that information be displayed to explain why all the grass is not being mown short, as has been the custom.

Councillors were generally supportive of these proposals but asked the Clerk to arrange for the fence wire (severed to allow easier ungated access from the adjacent parking area to the Green and beyond) to be tightened. Also, the older bench seat on the Green might be repositioned so as to be more convenient.

4. **Declarations of interest by Councillors/ requests for dispensation.**

4.1 No Councillors needed to update their declaration.

4.2 None declared any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature, save Cllrs Lloyd and Beaumont re Gowbarrow Hall.

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

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

5. **Matters arising** from previous minutes.

5.1 The Council agreed to buy an “**Honesty Box**” inviting £2 donations from those using the car park by Dockray Green towards the maintenance of the Green. Cllr Gore will pursue this (and the emptying of its contents-to be passed to the Clerk meeting by meeting).

5.2 The Clerk raised the possibility that **speed warning signs** might be bought from the Recreation Fund to, hopefully, reduce traffic speeds **through Dockray village**. The Councillors were not persuaded that the considerable expense would be effective in the long term and it was resolved to take no action on this.

5.3 Rev Cathy Helm is hoping to revive “Together” as **Ullswater Together** for bi-monthly distribution in the Parish. The Clerk offered to take on responsibility for the Watermillock Correspondent’s role as part of his duties.

5.4 The Clerk reported that Mr Alan Mackenzie had prevailed in the election of a **parish representative to LDNPA**.

5.5 The **Recreation Field** will be used as a car park for **the Orienteering Event on 10th September 2022** if conditions allow.

5.6 A **Grazing licence** for Rushmire and the Recreation field has been issued to Scott Wilson and he has paid the £100 fee; the Clerk awaits response from Mr P Harrison to the draft grazing licence for the Troutbeck land sent to him (and the agreed fee).

5.7 The Clerk has arranged a **PSGA licence** for the Council with Ordnance Survey; it had been thought that it would serve for the habitat survey proposed by Cllr Bray but the licence seems not to cover such use.

5.8 **Pothole repairs** at A5091 to Hope Springs are reported as attended to but the road subsidence effecting A5091 (reported to CCC under ref EI/70732) c150 yards south of Matterdale Church still seems to be outstanding.

5.9 Growing vegetation over the **footpath Dockray to Matterdale Church** needs routine trimming; the Clerk will report this.

5.10 **Drainage work** at Brackenrigg Hotel to “Floshgate” on **A592** is ongoing and it is hoped will be followed by highway repairs.

6.1 The Clerk reported on **Planning matters**, including committee reports (7/2022 unless otherwise stated)

3066 Horrockwood Cottage, WM, extension and alteration-no objection (Wat PI Com)

3055 Windrush, Hutton John, annex to house-no objection but local needs condition suggested (Matt PI Com)

3063 Leeming Cottage, WM, house rebuild-no objection but local needs condition suggested (Wat PI Com)

3044 Gowbarrow Old Hall, WM, refurbishment, infill extension and water treatment plant-no objection (Wat PI Com)

3047 Gowbarrow Old Hall, WM, water treatment-no objection (Wat PI Com)

3074 Lyulph’s Tower, WM, new windows-no objection (Wat PI Com)

3023 Wreay Farmhouse, WM, alterations and extension-withdrawn

3080 the Greaves, Dockray, drainage detail-for Matt PI Com for information only.

6.2 It was agreed that three Councillors would be a **quorum for the two planning committees**.

Finance

6.1 The Clerk reported on the **state of the Council’s accounts** (HSBC £9,187.93: Skipton Building Society £66,396.04).

6.2 The Council approved expenditure, including £800 plus Vat to Dodd & Co for accounting and audit charges for 2021/22, £7.80 HSBC bank charges, £20.00 to Matterdale PCC for use of the meeting room, Water Plus £10.98 for water charges, CALC £15 for a course fee, £147 plus Vat for an advert in the Herald advert for a new Clerk (if required), and c£20 each for new mobile phones needed to comply with audit requirements and additional monthly payments on PAYG contracts.

6.3 Expenditure in the year to date in **comparison to the annual budget** for the year to 31st March 2023 included repairs of £150 (budget £200) and £989.08 paid from the Recreation Fund for grass cutting and fencing at Dockray Green..

7. Standing Orders etc

The Clerk has updated **Standing Orders** to take account of April 2022 amendments to the NALC recommended form. These have been circulated to Councillors on email with a view to adoption at the next Council meeting, if thought fit.

He will also revise the **Risk Assessment** for approval if thought fit at the next meeting.

The **Inventory of Assets** has been brought up to date and posted on the website. As to access to **title documents**, the Clerk will check that these are held by Arnison Heelis in Penrith; it was agreed that the Clerk could withdraw documents from their custody for good reason, if authorised by the chairman to do so, and that any Councillor had authority to examine any documents held there.

8. For **training opportunities**, Councillors were referred to the CALC website. Cllr Gore attended a course on the new Code of Conduct, which she found helpful.

9. SITU

Cllr Firth reported that the proposed closure of part A592 had been retimed to six hours on (he expected) 9th October 2022. Widespread communication is planned when the date and times of closure are confirmed; the diversion will be well sign posted.

The suggested "Hopper Bus" is thought more likely to be arranged for 2023.

Cycle crossings on A66 are to be improved but the hoped-for cycle route from Penrith to Pooley Bridge has been stifled by one of the landowners whose approval was crucial.

10. Correspondence.

The Clerk had circulated the LDNPA invitation to highlight **buildings, sites and features which make the Lake District "special"**. He asked Councillors to respond as individuals if thought fit.

11. Other business

The Clerk has had no contact from anyone willing to take over as Clerk from 1st October 2022. He has arranged for the vacancy to be included in the next CALC newsletter and will advertise in the Herald if necessary. Cllr Derbyshire has a contact who may be interested; she will invite her to contact the Clerk.

12. **Next meeting-7.00pm on 5th September 2022 at Matteredale Church Room** was agreed.

D. L. Brown