

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.

1. **Apologies accepted** Cllrs. Crofts, Mrs Bray (both unwell(and Harrison (clash of dates). **In attendance:** Mr Nick Ratcliffe, Ms Jane Newport, Cllr Mrs Derbyshire, the Clerk and County Cllr Hughes.

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 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 Grazing licence for Rushmire and the Recreation field have been issued to Scott Wilson and he has paid the £100 fee; the Clerk awaits response from Mr P Harrison to the draft 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 affecting 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. Planning matters

6. **Applications approved by LDNPA** included 3192 (extension to Brackenhill, Watermillock), 3216 (building for Kids’ club at Another Place, Watermillock), 3232 (agricultural building and hardstanding at Croft Head, Thackthwaite), 3211 (five new pitches, an amenity block and storage shed at Troutbeck Caravan Park) and 3014 (agricultural building at Racy Ghyll).

6.2 3030 (**erection of garden machinery store at Horrockwood, Watermillock**) was referred to the Watermillock Planning Committee.

6.3 It was agreed that the Parish Council (sic) as freeholder should execute the proposed **s106 Agreement** in relation to the housing site by the Knotts, Matterdale if Matterdale School Foundation required it to be executed and completed.

7. Finance

7.1 The Clerk reported that the **balance** at HSBC Bank plc was £3,551.34cr at 7th March 2022 and at Skipton Building Society £66,396.04cr.

7.2 **Expenditure** was approved, namely £16 to Watermillock Village Hall for the meeting fee, £370 to Mr. D Trelease for grass cutting at Dockray, £28.66 to Cllr Bray to reimburse her for a website hosting fee and £200 to Jili Allen for development of the SITU website (both out of SITU funds), £40.00 to the Information Commissioner for the Data Protection Registration, c£12.00 to Water Plus for water charges at the Recreation Field, £206.86 to Matterdale School Foundation from the Recreation Fund as a contribution to its expenses re proposed Matterdale Education /Community Centre and on or after 1st April £1,211.40 to D L Brown (half year net salary- £343.80 of which falls on the Recreation Fund), £156 for use of home as office for 2021/22 (£52 of which falls on the Recreation Fund) and £49.95 for travel in 2021/22 at 45p a mile (£16.65 of which falls on the Recreation Fund) and HMRC £216 for Paye on the above salary (£72 of which falls on the Recreation Fund).

Mr Trelease had submitted a bill for £989.08 for replacing the post and wire fence around Dockray village green. This was felt to be excessive; the Clerk will take the matter up with him.

There were no unbudgeted expenses to report, save that the work to the fence at Dockray Village Green had not been budgeted.

Also, the Clerk had objected to HSBC's recently introduced monthly charges but to no avail. Other banks' are believed to make similar charges, so the Council reluctantly decided to accept them.

Highways

8.1 There is to be an informal consultation affecting A592 and A5091 to which Councillors have been invited to contribute as individuals.

8.2 The A5091 between Dockray and Matterdale Church is giving way; it is to be reported to the Highway Authority, which should also be asked to clear surface water drains (though Cllr Hughes said that, to his regret, the regular twice yearly clearing of such drains had been reduced to once a year, to save money).

8.3 Cllr Wilson also drew attention to the serious damage to the road from High Row, which Cllr Gore offered to report to the highways authority.

9. For **training opportunities**, Councillors were referred to the CALC website.

10. SITU

Conversations are on-going. Tim Clarke is addressing the lack of electric vehicle charging points in the Ullswater valley: a hopper bus is planned, hopefully to start operating in summer 2023, if not sooner: Cllr Bray is looking into a car share scheme for the Matterdale valley: hire of e-bikes from Glenridding is planned, possibly from summer 2022: an intern has been appointed to work on an Ullswater Valley transport carbon audit: a Safe Cycling Sunday on 25th September 2022 (10am to 4.30pm) is taking shape, involving closure of A592 to motor vehicles between Knotts and Aira Force- Eden District Council are helping with a grant and a professional organiser has been engaged: an Eamont Bridge to Pooley Bridge footpath is being planned, though an off-road cycling track has been dropped, landowners not giving permission for it: Cllr Firth is taking part in a Cumbria Net Zero Transport Group: the SITU website will go live very soon.

11. Grazing land

The Clerk will enquire whether graziers of Rushmire, Troutbeck and the Recreation Field wish to renew. The Recreation Field is expected to be used in August 2022 for a sports day to be organised by MCA.

12. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

12.1 The Council approved in principle the purchase by MCA of one or two further bench seats for Dockray Village Green, if grants can be obtained (eg from the "Welcome Back" fund).

12.2 The planned celebration in Dockray on 3rd June will take place on Royal Hotel land, not the village green.

13. Correspondence

13.1 Jane Newport has suggested an alternative mowing pattern at Dockray Village Green, aimed at encouraging wild flower growth. Her proposal was agreed for 2022 and can then be reviewed for 2023 and following growing seasons; the Clerk is to ask her to tell him when the area for paths has been marked up, so Mr Trelease can be advised and asked to quote for a reduced expense (also, if he has equipment to enable long grass to be cut at the end of the growing season).

13.2 Arising from the above, the Clerk is to look into the possibility of an "honesty box" (aimed at those parking by the Green or using it), in the hope of collecting contributions to the expense of maintaining the village green.

14. Other business

Cllr Lloyd intends to stand down as Parish Chairman at the AGM in May 2022.

15. Next meeting (AGM)-7.00pm on **23rd May 2022** at **Matterdale Church Room** was agreed.

D. L. Brown

