

STAVELEY IN CARTMEL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish AGM held on Thursday, 9th April 2015 at the Church Hall, Staveley in Cartmel.

The Meeting opened at 6.30pm

Present: Cllrs S Lawler, J Addison, D Crabtree, M Lealman-Howden, A Gorse, D/Cllr S Sanderson and S A Shires (Clerk)

1. **Election of Chairman**

The Clerk asked for nominations for Chairman. Cllr Crabtree nominated Cllr Lawler, seconded by Cllr Lealman-Howden. All in favour. Cllr Lawler accepted the role.

The Chair asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. Cllr Addison nominated Cllr Crabtree, seconded by Cllr Gorse. All in favour. Cllr Crabtree accepted the role.

2. **Apologies**

None

3. **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 10th April 2014**

The minutes had been circulated and were approved and signed as a true record.

4. **Chairman's Annual Report**

As re-elected Chair of Staveley-in-Cartmel Parish Council, it is again my duty and privilege to record the work done by the Council over the past year.

An ongoing requirement of the Council is to scrutinise and comment on the large number of planning applications submitted to the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) each year. While the presumption in development control is usually to support proposals, the Council must also look at the wider community view and try to strike a balance between these occasionally competing interests. A few particularly contentious applications have appeared before the Council this year, perhaps the most notable being that concerning the cheetah enclosure in Ayside. The LDNPA endorsed the Council's opinion that the application should be refused. The outcome of an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate is now awaited. Other proposals included the replacement of existing small bungalows by large two-storey houses, both of which were opposed by the Council. One of these was given permission and the other rejected after an appeal. Sadly, the former stance of requiring specific local need to be identified before granting new housing permissions has been seriously weakened by a recent LDNPA policy statement. The Council believes this to be a serious mistake which could lead to unwelcome speculative housing development within the National Park.

The Council is part way through the process of preparing a Community Plan for the Parish. A questionnaire survey was delivered to every household during the year and a very gratifying response of nearly 50% returned forms has been achieved. The

replies are now being collated and will inform policy and recommendations that the Council puts forward in its published Plan. The fact that nearly half the households in the Parish have had a direct involvement in the Plan should help to give it the credibility often criticised as lacking in similar documents.

Environmental issues remain very important to the Council. The Parish Lengthsman works on improving and tidying roadside verges and footpaths. The County Highways Department is regularly pressed by the Council to maintain and repair roads and drains in the Parish. I am pleased to report that the flooding issue in the centre of Staveley has now been resolved. The bus shelters in Newby Bridge and the four Parish notice boards have been cleaned and re-varnished. A planting scheme for the Newby Bridge roundabout prepared by award-winning garden designer Richard Lucas has recently been submitted to the Highways Agency for its consideration. The Council remains grateful to the Lakeside Hotel owners and staff for their sponsorship of this scheme.

Extra costs associated with distributing, returning and processing the Community Plan questionnaires has necessitated an increase to the 2015/16 precept. The Council has otherwise kept this as low as possible and in line with other public bodies. Nevertheless, it is still possible to support local organisations and charities with small grants and awards.

Together with an independent local resident, two Councillors and the Clerk administer the business of the Staveley United Charities Trust. Set up originally for the provision of small grants to Parishioners in financial hardship and to support apprenticeships, Trustees recently widened the scope of awards to include educational requests. Two Christmas gifts and three grants to students have been made this year.

The Council continues to send a representative to Local Area Partnership meetings to both fight its corner and to report back on the work of neighbouring and surrounding councils. The two local Church magazines receive regular reports of Council business. Council meetings are informed by reports from County Councillor Rod Wilson, District Councillor Sue Sanderson and Police Community Support Officer Howard Firth and, on the Council's behalf, I offer them my thanks.

As in previous years, I conclude by thanking my fellow Parish Councillors, Dot Crabtree, John Addison, Margaret Lealman-Howden and Arnold Gorse for their support and hard work. Lastly, but by no means least, I also thank Clerk Sarah Shires for her efficient management and organisation of Council business

5. **County & District Councillors' Reports**

County Councillor's Report

County Council Budget

Austerity continues and the County faces another three years of cuts and budget reductions. These cuts will further reduce the services available to the public. The capacity to make back office and efficiency savings becomes harder each year. The

staff working for the County Council has been substantially reduced and there will be further cuts.

There has been controversy over the decision to press ahead and to build a new County council Office in Carlisle. There is a substantial business case for this to happen. The present office stock is unsuitable, expensive to run and there is a large backlog of repairs which will cost a great deal. The savings and capital receipts from property disposal underpin a sound business case.

Health Issues

I have served on the County Council Health Scrutiny committee for the last six years. For the last two years I have chaired the Committee. There are issues both in terms of quality and in terms of delivery that face the Health economy in Cumbria. Such are the problems that Cumbria is described officially in NHS England circles as a distressed economy. UMBHT is presently still in special measures. The recent report on Maternity Services at UMBHT provides graphic evidence on quality issue. Delivering services in a rural County such as ours is difficult and can cost more.

The Scrutiny Committee were in active discussion with NHS organizations on their plans for the future. Better Care Together provides the blue print for delivering all health services. More will be delivered locally with Hospital outreach. The plans do represent major changes in the way health and care work together in terms of organizational change and financially in overcoming the historical financial deficit in order to allow the new system to be introduced.

Local Issues

I was able to attend the majority of PC meetings last year. There were some interesting and informative discussions, particularly on planning issues.

There are two matters which are still ongoing which the Parish Council will wish to pursue.

The first is the National Trusts' plans to refresh Fell Foot Park. I met with the Trust and Highways some twelve months ago when the plans were first raised. I subsequently attended a meeting between the Trust and the PC and then a public meeting last autumn at Fell Foot. Councilors' will also recall that a petition asking for a reduction in traffic speeds was presented to Local Committee in Kendal last year.

I hope the plans which the Trust are bringing forwards will deliver residents aspirations for speed reduction and improved safety. I have spoken to Nick Raymond (Area manager for Highways and Transportation Barrow and South Lakes) and also to Andrew Moss (Assistant Director- Highways and Transportation) on this matter. Both are clear on my view that a speed reduction is necessary. I have also made it clear that the road engineering needs to have hard features in terms of refuge points at the bottom near the Gummers How junction, (where pedestrians coming down the hill will cross; and also further north). My view is hard features will encourage traffic slowing and push vehicles away from the road center in a way that painted lines alone will not.

The second matter relates to the "Across the A590 Initiative" that is taking place. One proposal supported by your Parish Council was that there should be no right turn onto the A590 from the Swan Hotel Bridge. Traffic would turn left and go to the roundabout. Some County Council funding has been allocated for a feasibility study and preliminary planning in the financial year 20014 -15. Further funding will be

needed to take the plans on and this will be dependent upon Local Committee budgeting for a Members Divisional Highway scheme for the present financial year. It will also be dependent upon gaining the support of my successor. Sue Sanderson may be able to provide an update on where we are with the Highways Agency in terms of the bigger picture.

I have enjoyed coming to your meetings and appreciated the friendliness and warm welcome. I am sorry to be standing down but it has become very clear over the past weeks that I will not be fit enough for some time to do the job properly so in the end the decision to go was really a given.

Good luck with your work and many thanks

District Councillor's Report

Waste resource management

A year ago the main focus for my cabinet post was the rollout of recycling. Work had commenced with Eunomia modelling various options upon which was based the decision to expand the recycling service across the district and also expand the range of recycling. A direction of travel was agreed by the Council. Additionally it was agreed to use a route optimisation system which means reviewing all routes. Training for staff had to be delivered alongside other initiatives.

Cycling

I was given this new area of responsibility and I spent some time meeting with other councillors and officers, both County and District, and other agencies to establish the range and number of initiatives involving leisure cycling and travel to work.

Members Development Strategy

A way of working was finally agreed which met the IT needs of Members and government requirements on security. The Induction program was evaluated and refined, a more detailed and objective led action plan was agreed. A mentor program was set up with members and officers was delivered and mentors allocated to those who requested them. Procedures for the allocation of additional training and their evaluation was agreed.

Litter

Recommendations from a Task and finish Group of Overview and Scrutiny were followed up. A survey on performance has been conducted recently.

Environmental

I have worked with different Council officers about environmental issues related to housing: both new build and existing housing stock. I supported the organisation and delivery of the Green Build conference.

A590

Rod, myself and Jon Woddy (chair of Haverthwaite Parish Council) worked with the Highways Agency, Cumbria County Council and the LDNPA to address issues of access and severance. This involved surveys, a professional paper being put together with the support of the LDNPA and a consultant commissioned by the Highways Agency producing a set of proposals for the section from Newby Bridge to the Rusland Pool, incorporating our suggestions. These included the junction at the Swan at the bridge. Liaison followed with the police including suggested speed

limits from Barrowbanks. Subsequently a bid for funding was submitted by the Highways Agency.

Backbarrow Ironworks

I have continued to liaise with LDNPA, representatives of Investec and the Receiver. I have attended Development Control meetings both for the housing development and the Holiday village, both currently not being supported for commercial reasons. The Parish Clerk, Sarah Shires, and I have dealt with breaches of security and safety issues at the site.

Councillor Funding

I have donated money to provide ghost footpaths in Backbarrow and Haverthwaite, improve the appearance of the Newby Bridge roundabout and to support development of a community micro energy scheme.

Current Matters

Rollout of recycling

Kerbside collections of cardboard and plastic have been extended in January 2015 to other parts of Kendal, Burneside, Natland and Oxenholme. This expansion was carried out straight after Christmas when amounts of recycling and waste were high. Refuse operatives are now reporting a settled expanded service which is appreciated by residents who now have it. This is only the beginning of a three year project and the next phase of the rollout is under discussion, round locations have to be determined that can accommodate the specialist vehicles that are required to undertake the collections. The changes will reduce the amount of residual waste we have to deal with and to improve progress on our recycling targets. Recent invalidated figures for recycling show we were achieving 44% by the end of December 2014 before the recent expansion was initiated, (2013/14 recycling was 43.42%). Our target is 50% by 2020.

Members Development Strategy

The Member Support Strategy was approved and the review of the induction process for new councillors has started. Work has also begun on liaising closely with other Member Support Teams in the other Districts and the County Council. An initial meeting was held which was well attended and it was agreed we would share practice and also plan and deliver some joint training.

Cycling

I have raised the issue of consulting with communities prior to directing cyclist through villages and narrow lanes

Fell Foot Park

I have liaised with County Councillor Rod Wilson and representatives of the National Trust about proposed developments to Fell Foot Park.

Windermere

As Chair of Lake Administration committee I work with LDNPA and Windermere Lake User Forum to resolve issues relating to the lake through the SLDC committee. Part of my brief is to ensure facilities are improved for all lake users and also to protect and enhance the lake environment.

Looking Forward

Development Management policies are the next major area of work and environmental issues will be an integral part of these documents.

I have met with officers and representatives of NPower who are hoping to offer cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and external wall insulation through a contract with the six District Councils under a government project. The outcomes of this project will contribute to our environmental agenda as it will supplement our draught buster/handyperson schemes.

A review of the continued reduction of carbon emissions and improved energy efficiency has been undertaken on council buildings. A previously completed audit has been revisited and refreshed with up to date information in order to inform us how to continue to reduce our carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency in our own buildings. A planning application for solar panels has been submitted for fitting them to the roof of South Lakeland House.

A growth bid was successful and will be used to work on ten community projects developing micro-energy through support from CAFs. This will be started within the next quarter.

Consultation with the licensed taxi trade regarding the introduction of a new taxi policy has now closed and a final draft of the policy has been agreed. The policy will be presented to Licensing Regulatory Committee for consideration.

I attended meetings with British Cycling and agreed to support their programme, alongside Active Cumbria, Morecambe Bay NHS, Carlisle City Council, LDNPA, Cumbria County Council, and Morecambe Bay Partnership. They will deliver this programme of leisure cycling over the next three years.

I attended a meeting with the Lancaster Canal Trust and invited councillors from Lancashire County Council also. It was agreed to investigate the possibility of developing a multi-use footway along the canal towpath as part of the regeneration project by all agencies, initially Lancaster to Kendal. The next meeting will be held in April. I am also working with County Councillors and staff on these initiatives.

The next phase of the recycling rollout is under discussion with further meetings of the project board and a review of lessons learned so far. Work has begun in exploring options for partnership working and agreeing options for the development of facilities to support delivery in the west of the District by 2017. A draft timetable for rollout in other areas is under discussion. In very general terms looking at extending from Kendal: by the end of 2015 out to Arnside and Kirkby Lonsdale areas; by March 2016 up to Staveley and linked areas up to Windermere; by the end of 2016/2017 out to Ulverston because of the need to access additional facilities.

Work continues enforcing the Dog Control orders, there has been a reduction in reported problems, and two people have been fined for dog fouling and two for not having their dogs on leads.

Work is being undertaken to embed the principles of the IIP Silver standard and retain a firm commitment to training for staff and members. We are maintaining our commitment to apprentices and want to develop their talents for their own career development and to benefit our own organisation. We will continue to develop a skilled and flexible workforce delivering across services.

Plans are being put in place for the work needed when the Boundary Commission Review begins which is now after the election and will report early autumn.

I have dealt with a range of casework: planning applications, highway matters, flooding, gritting, neighbourhood disputes, speed and safety on a range of roads, litter and waste.

6. **Financial Annual Reports**

Parish Council

The Clerk reported that the Council's unaudited accounts for the financial year end (31st March 2015) showed available funds of £1,105.14, with £14,386.70 in reserve, totalling £15,491.84. During the past year, no major expenditure has been undertaken, but £7,760 of the reserves has been earmarked for the Roundabout Project. A precept of £4825 has been requested for the year 2015/2016, in accordance with the Council's agreed budget.

Staveley United Charities

The Clerk reported that the balance of the account was £225.91. During 2014, 3 education grants totalling £200 and 2 amounts of £100 each were paid out in Christmas Grants to appropriate beneficiaries.

The meeting then closed at 6.40pm

SIGNED:

.....

Chairman

.....

Clerk

DATE: