

## **STAVELEY IN CARTMEL PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Parish AGM held on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016 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 Lealman-Howden nominated Cllr Lawler, seconded by Cllr Gorse. All in favour. Cllr Lawler accepted the role.

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

2. **Apologies**

None

3. **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

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

4. **Chairman's Annual Report**

Once again, as Chairman of the Parish Council, it is my pleasure to record the work done by the Council and its Clerk over the past year.

The Council has now prepared its first Community Plan for the Parish. This is based primarily on the very high response from the household survey conducted last year. Included within it are the measures that the Parish Council intends to take together with recommendations for actions by local authorities and other spending bodies. The Council will use its influence to maintain and to try to increase public resources in the Parish.

As demonstrated by local opinion, the quality of the environment in which we live remains very important. The Parish Lengthsman continues to be employed to tidy and to improve roadside verges and footpaths. Pressure is regularly exerted on both Highways England (for the A590) and the County Highways Department to maintain and repair roads and drains in the Parish. Less successfully, a planting scheme for the Newby Bridge roundabout is proving to be problematic because of the safety and visibility criteria of Highways England. The Council will continue to work with the Lakeside Hotel and its consultant Richard Lucas to try to get this implemented.

Planning applications submitted to the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) remain a large part of the Council's work each year. The Council has a duty to scrutinise and comment on all applications within the Parish and to try to strike a balance between the interests of the applicant and the wider community view. As in previous years, a couple of particularly contentious applications have appeared before the Council this year, one of the most notable being that concerning redevelopment of Fell Foot Park. Following extensive public consultation, and on

behalf of neighbouring residents most affected, the Council decided to object to the proposals. The LDNPA rejected the Council's opinion and granted the National Trust's application. The Council will be working as closely as it can with the Trust in order to mitigate the effect of the redevelopment on local people. Another proposal follows a Planning Inspector's refusal of Predator Experience's appeal in respect of enforcement action against its unauthorised cheetah enclosure in Ayside. The company has now put in an application for a live/work unit on site. The Council held a special public meeting to which the applicants and Parishioners were invited in order to inform the Council's view. As a result, the Council decided to object to the proposals, principally on their adverse effect on the landscape. The LDNPA is due to take its decision in the very near future.

In order to fund the costs of preparing and printing the Community Plan, the 2016/17 precept has had to be increased. There are also extra costs associated with the statutory requirement for the Council to set up and operate a website from April. The Council is very conscious of the need to spend public money responsibly and tries to keep its costs to a minimum. This then allows for small awards and donations, known as s.137 grants, to be made to local charities and other organisations.

The Council continues to send a representative to the Local Area Partnership meetings to put its case for the Parish and to receive reports of the work of neighbouring parish councils. The two local Church magazines receive regular reports of Council business. County and District Councillor Sue Sanderson and reports from the police inform Council meetings, for which I offer them my thanks.

The vicar, a local resident, two Councillors and the Clerk continue to 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. Three Christmas gifts and three grants to students have been made this year.

I thank my fellow Parish Councillors, Dot Crabtree, John Addison, Margaret Lealman-Howden and Arnold Gorse for their support and hard work. Finally, I offer a special thanks to Clerk Sarah Shires for her organised management of Council business and for her major role in producing the Community Plan.

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

### **County Councillor's Report**

**Connecting Cumbria** can give speeds over 50Mbps. More cabinets have been put in our villages and more people are accessing superfast broadband, however there are still areas where this is not the case. Tim Farron has had several meetings with Connecting Cumbria and locally Anna Jones has been working on residents' behalf. Several Parish Councils have been pushing to get an equal service across the Division.

#### **Cumbria Highways**

From discussions with Cumbria Highways I understand that there is a commitment for a 40mph limit and arrangements to prevent parking on verges at Fell Foot Park. Reported potholes on road to High Cark were filled in. Raised the issue of the need for a sign warning lorries about narrow lanes at Ayside. The advisory sign at Newby Bridge is at the design stage. All the member's funding for this financial year has

been committed for the Division including a grit bin up Canny Hill, which has been a request that Rod and I have dealt with individually for the past two years, complaints about drainage etc. at Canny Hill have also been reported to Highways. There is a working group established through the LAPs to improve communications with and from Cumbria Highways.

I have attended several meetings with the Environment Agency and the County Council about the floods: bridges are a key part of the resilience planning and Newby Bridge, Backbarrow Bridge and Low Wood Bridge will be part of this work. The catchment area is the Kent/Leven and the director is Celia McNally. I have also attended meetings of the Windermere Lake Levels group to discuss future flood resilience.

#### **Highways England**

I had contacted them about concerns by residents about the impact of closing A590 for four nights on the village. I also spoke to the County Council and Highways England about the appearance of cycle signs without prior communication with the village.

#### **Grants through Neighbourhood Forum:**

Grants were awarded by the County Council: Lower Holker Village Hall, Cartmel Fell Community Trust. Local Committee awarded a grant to the Cartmel Township Initiative.

#### **District Councillor's Report**

The first phase of the waste management route optimisation for the recycling rollout has been completed for the whole of the District. There are still one or two access issues but new smaller lorries come on stream in May. There were initial problems with missed bins but those have been largely resolved and monitoring continues. The western side of the District rollout of kerbside plastic and cardboard collections began on March 7<sup>th</sup> in Ulverston Town Centre. This was very successful increasing the amount of recycling generally. The rollout will continue with specific routes beginning with the slightly larger towns/villages and all the District should be receiving the new service by February 2017.

SLDC and CCC are working to develop area plans together to avoid duplication of roles and work. Both Councils are looking at schemes to develop extra care housing as part of looking at future needs. The South Lakeland Flood Recovery Group of which I am Chair which was meeting three times a week and is now meeting fortnightly has been a good example of the two Councils working together alongside the third sector. We have managed all the housing needs, furniture requirements, food, clothing, toys, advice and support by all working together. A mobile support unit visited Backbarrow on April 6<sup>th</sup> and a Flood Forum will be held at Outback Hall with CCC, SLDC and EA in June.

Ten projects have been identified as part of our community energy scheme and the scheme has been extended for a further two years some projects will receive further support, and new schemes are already coming on line.

Solar panels have been placed on South Lakeland House and are contributing to reducing energy costs, similar provision will be made on the new Enterprise Centre in Kendal.

SLDC is working with Ulverston Town Council who have set up a separate enterprise body in order to take over responsibility for the Coronation Hall and other assets in the Town in the future, all part of the localism agenda.

In Cartmel the Parish Council and other organisations are looking at solving some of the challenges it faces as a very popular tourist destination particularly traffic

management and they have received a £66,000 grant from South Lakeland to deliver an agreed scheme.

The Parish Council has dealt with two large planning applications: Fell Foot and the Predator Experience. I have attended consultations on Fell Foot Park development and kept in touch with local residents. I have liaised with the National Park planning authority, local residents and SLDC Licensing about the Predator Experience applications. Both of these are still ongoing.

Community drop in A590: 89 people visited, people also emailed and wrote. Advisory sign for bridge turning is being designed.

6. **Financial Annual Reports**

**Parish Council**

The Clerk reported that the Council's unaudited accounts for the Financial Year end (31<sup>st</sup> March 2016) showed available funds of £2,029.27, with £14,392.32 in reserve, totalling £16,421.32. 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 £5475 has been requested for the year 2016/2017, in accordance with the council's agreed budget.

**Staveley United Charities**

The clerk reported that the balance of the account was £99.91. During 2015, 3 education grants totalling £200 and 3 amounts of £100 each were paid out in Christmas Grants to appropriate beneficiaries.

The meeting then closed at 7.00pm

SIGNED:

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Chairman

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Clerk

DATE: