

LAKES PARISH

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

AND ANNUAL REPORT

2016/17



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF LAKES 2016.

Held in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 21, Part 3, in the Library, Kelsick Road, Ambleside, on Wednesday 10th May 2017 at 6pm.

Chairman of the Meeting - Cllr. Mrs Louise Waterhouse

AGENDA.

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Lakes held in the Parish Centre Ambleside, on Wednesday 11th May 2016 (see below).
3. Matters arising from the Minutes (if any).
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Electors representations

Questions and answers will be permitted.

6. Any other relevant Business.
7. Chairman's concluding remarks.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Library, Kelsick Road, Ambleside on Wednesday 11th May 2016 at 6pm

PRESENT: Cllrs. L Waterhouse (Chairman), Mrs F.M. Sparrow, P. Thompson, L. Johnson, Mrs J Birkett, B. Hewitt, N. Martin, Mrs A Sowerbutts, K. McCarten, Mrs E Footit, Mrs Vivienne Rees, P. Truelove, M. Bosson, Mrs Dot Wood, R Moody and 3 members of the public/ local organisations.

IN ATTENDANCE: None

ALSO: Michael Johnson, Jane Renouf, Clive Hutchby and 3 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Cllr P Simpson

1. MINUTES
The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held at the Library, Kelsick Road, Ambleside on Wednesday 1st April 2015 were accepted as a correct record.
2. MATTERS ARISING
There were none.
3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
The Chairman welcomed those attending and said:-
Another year comes round I find myself writing this report in Spring sunshine the dark days of December seemingly a long time ago. But as we all know the ramifications of Storm Desmond still reverberate in whole of Lakes parish particularly the devastation on the A591.
Hopefully future planning in all types of building roads, bridges, and particularly housing will take flooding issues seriously as we now know these type of one off weather events seem far more common. Miller

bridge in Ambleside was certainly fast tracked with the help of the Kendal Ramblers Association and the invaluable help of David Clare from Cumbria County Council.

Our two enterprises we inherited from SLDC, White Platts and the public toilets in Ambleside, Grasmere and Chapel Stile go from strength to strength with excellent revenues from both.

We continue to use the profits from White Platts in the community and have recently given a large grant to Ambleside AFC after their pitch was left unplayable by the winter storms. We also support a large number of organisations locally and have just supported an initiative to hold a musical event in Rothay park in July more details to follow.

The Ambleside Christmas lights were again a triumph bringing much needed investment into the village at a quiet time of year, we do support this worthy village event.

Our parish handyman Robin Lees continues his never ending task of keeping the whole of the Parish spick and span - our thanks to him. With a grant from Lakes Parish, Troutbeck ward has employed a village lengthsman and his work was invaluable in the wet winter weather.

I would just like to personally thank Cllr Phillip Thompson for his continuing work on overseeing the behind the scenes running of White Platts and our portfolio of public lavatories. His work is much appreciated and totally beyond his remit as a parish Councillor.

Last but not least to Julie, our Finance Officer and also my right hand man, Michael Johnson, our hard working Clerk, thank you for all your efforts in the past year.

Michael works at our Parish Office, attached to Ambleside Police Station on Rydal Road and the office is open most week-days (opening times are posted on the door). Alternatively, you can follow our activities on the Parish page of Ambleside Online.

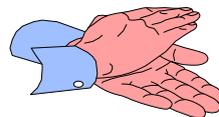
4. ISSUES RAISED BY OTHERS ATTENDING

a. One person spoke on issues dealt with by the Greenbank and Castlefield Residents Association welcoming the promise of a residents only access to the estates. She felt that the University were now taking the issue of parking by students seriously and thanked the Parish Council for the letter they had written in support of the residents. She also spoke on Armit Museum issues and said that the property was now fully refurbished after the flooding and an official reopening will take place on 20th May to which Councillors will be invited.

b. One person spoke on Ambleside Together and their plans for a series of events in Ambleside to support the local economy and attract visitors to the area. They are making a grant application to the Parish Council for £3k to establish two websites to facilitate the publicity and feature the events planned. SLDC are funding the Festival of the Fells in September.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and their hard work during the year

The Meeting closed at 6.15pm



The Annual Parish Meeting is not a meeting of the Parish Council. The Local Government Act 1972 dictates that a parish meeting must assemble annually on some day between March 1st and June 1st and that local residents may speak on any matter of local interest.

The Parish Council is charged with the task of organising such a meeting, which may not begin prior to 6 p.m. Not less than seven clear days public notice is to be given of the meeting. The 1972 Act says that the Chairman of the Parish Council must preside over the meeting if he is present. If he is absent then the Vice Chairman must preside. If neither is in attendance, the meeting elects a Chairman from those local government electors for the parish present.

Though a parish meeting may discuss parish affairs, its resolutions (if any) differ considerably in their legal consequences. In the majority of cases a resolution is persuasive only; the Parish Council may legally disregard it and leave the electors to their remedy at the next election. Unlike a Parish Council meeting, a Parish meeting is not required to vote in any particular way, and so the Chairman may ascertain the effect of the voting from any evidence which may in the circumstances lead to an accurate result; thus a voice vote may in the case of an overwhelming majority be sufficient, but when opposing opinions are represented with approximate equality, a count must be taken. Only those registered

as electors in the parish may vote although any member of the public may attend the meeting. The Chairman's declaration of the result is final.

The right of the parish meeting to discuss parish affairs extends to any public matter of a parochial nature and is not confined to the exercise of the statutory nature of the Parish Council. The parish meeting may accordingly pass resolutions on the public activities or policies in the parish of any other local authority, public body, government department or public service provided that they affect the parish specially and are not such as are calculated to affect the whole country or all parishes equally.

Taken from *Local Council Administration* (Ninth Edition) by Charles Arnold-Baker OBE, of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law, published by Lexis Nexis 2009.

Public participation at Parish Council meetings.

Individual members of the public wishing to address the Council may do so prior to the commencement of a meeting subject to notice, in writing, being delivered to the Council's offices at least 14 days prior to the meeting in question. No more than 15 minutes, in total, will be set-aside for such statements and no person may speak for more than five minutes without the prior consent of the Chairman.

As an alternative, members of the public may address members of the council at 7.30 pm on meeting nights (or prior to the close of business should the meeting finish before that time) without having to give notice.

Representatives of local groups/charities/organisations wishing to address the Council may do so and sufficient time will be allocated for their needs.

Please contact the Clerk for further information.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

Last year's report focused on Storm Desmond and the aftermath of the flooding, but we seemed in 2016 to bounce back with an influx of visitors and favourable weather.

White Platts exceeded our expectations. This in turn helped to fund and maintain our extensive public toilet estate, although repeated vandalism and theft is eventually driving us to install a state of the art CCTV system to monitor the entry/exit areas to help deter or identify those who carry out this criminal damage.

This mindless vandalism is not only pointless but creates toilet closures and work for our Clerk and Councillor Phillip Thompson.

We saw the usual annual events around Lakes Parish, also the grand reopening of the A591 in May 2016.

A new event in September 2016 was Festival of the Fells which successfully brought an extra £300.000 into the business community.

The Ambleside Christmas lights switch on is now such a huge success but has now grown to such an extent the volunteer committee decided it needed professional help for the 2017 event and subsequent years. The Committee of volunteers will continue but now the form filling and other formal requirements will be done by a paid Officer.

All these events of course make our area extremely busy, but repeated requests from Lakes Parish Council for updating of the road system never seems to happen. We all know how any slight hold up on the A591 road into Ambleside causes major headaches for everyone! Unplanned or emergency traffic lights seem to cause the main problems, as contractors do not adhere to the agreed protocol between Lakes PC and the County Council, leaving these lights unmanned (or unpersoned!!) causing huge queues and subsequent frustration to our visitors and locals alike.

At the time of writing this report, the new play area in Rothay Park is ready for opening and already looks to be popular with our visitors and locals. Unlike the recent filming in Compston Road, your Parish Council was kept fully informed and involved by South Lakeland District Council. We were invited to comment at an early stage on the design and implementation of the works.

I would just like to thank all Councillors for their work over the year on various committees etc. But special thanks to Councillor Phillip Thompson and our conscientious Clerk Michael Johnson.

Michael works at our Parish Office, attached to Ambleside Police Station on Rydal Road and the office is open most week-days (opening times are posted on the door). Alternatively, you can follow our activities on the Parish page of Ambleside Online.

Cllr Louise Waterhouse, Chairman of Lakes Parish Council May 2017

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

Parish Council income is largely raised from White Platts, the public toilets and the parish precept, raised via the Council Tax. Residents sometimes query the "Parish Expenses" referred to on the annual council tax demand. This is made up of the following components:-

- (i) The Parish Council Precept.
- (ii) South Lakeland District Council expenses incurred in the Parish mainly to fund maintenance of the pre-1974 street lighting system.

Total Parish Expenses in recent years have been as follows:-

2014/2015	£93,186
2015/2016	£93,186
2016/2017	£93,186

With no rise in the Precept for the past 4 years, for 2017/18 the Parish Council has decided to increase this by just 1% just to try to keep pace with inflation.

Annual council tax charges in recent years on a Band D property have been:-

In 2013/14 to 2015/16, the annual charge for parish expenses on a Band D Property was £39.00.

Members of the public who look at these figures should remember that the total **Council Tax** levied on a Band D property in 2016/17 is £1,613.69. Of this, over **£1,574 goes to the County Council, the District Council and the Police**. The rest (**£39 in the last financial year**) is for **your Parish Council** to deliver its programme for its residents.

During the next financial year the Parish Council intend to continue to deliver a programme of modernised public toilets and a much improved visitor experience at White Platts Recreation Ground.

BEST VALUE.

The Council is aware that it must observe the principles of Best Value when planning its programme for the year. Expenditure is kept to the bare minimum by the direct involvement of elected members who give many hours of their time in the service of local residents. **Parish Councillors receive no payment for their work within the Parish**. They do, however, receive travelling expenses when they represent the Lakes Parish Council on work outside of the Parish. This is presently set at 45p per mile.

The budget sets aside money for items such as the grants programme including a substantial donation towards the Ambleside Community Christmas Lights Festival, the need to continue to operate all public toilets formerly the responsibility of SLDC, environmental projects, maintenance - including the bus shelters, public seats, street lighting, bike racks, the Parish Handyman, Ambleside Horticultural Society in partnership with Lakes Parish in Bloom, Cumbria in Bloom, churchyard maintenance, Citizens Advice Bureau, encouragement of tourism, public transport support etc.

PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS FOR 2016/17

Receipts	2015/16	2016/17	Payments	2015/16	2016/17
			Parish Clerk	21,224	29,352
Parish Precept	93,186	93,186	Finance Officer	5,500	5,600
Council Tax Grant	4,648	4,716	Parish Handyman	4,943	4,872
Grants	0	2,200	PAYE/Employers NI	7,767	12,000
VAT Refund (net)	29,509	10,426	Office Expenses	7,120	7,307
Bank Interest	1,345	1,228	Expenses & Allowances	1,392	202
White Platts	116,139	106,617	Bus Shelter Cleaning	780	825
Public Toilets	50,815	49,020	Winter Gritting	0	0
Insurance Refunds	856	0	Chairman's Allowance	751	0
Donations (inc seats)	0	3,707	Postage	250	393
Misc Receipts	186	130	Grants	12,640	11,250
			Public Toilets Expenditure	66,901	61,473
			White Platts Expenditure	67,118	49,986
			Capital - Waterhead	25,294	0
Total	296,684	271,230	Subscriptions	562	612
			Footway Lighting	1,216	1,172
			New bus shelters/seats	0	3,975
			Insurance & Audit Fee	3,456	2,896
			Projects (Reserves)	330	28,614
			Playground Inspections	128	130
			VAT payable White Platts	22,458	0
			Cumbria/Lakes in Bloom	1,562	1,701
			Repairs & Maintenance	349	562
			Election Expenses	600	1,362
			Parish Newsletter	2,514	2,519
			Bank Charges	45	30
			Projects (new)		26,811
			VAT	26,811	21,207
			Total	315,981	253,644

Year End Balances

Balance B/Fwd 1April 2016	231,856
Add: Receipts 2016/17	271,230
Less: Payments 2016/17	253,644
Balance C/Fwd at 31 March 2017	249,442
Bank Balances at 31 March 2017	
Current Account	23,766
Savings Account	225,676
Total cash in bank	249,442

GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

The Parish Council awarded the following grants to local organisations in 2016/17:

Organisation	£
Ambleside Community Christmas Lights Committee	2,000.00
Langdale Under 5s group	300.00
Great North Air Ambulance	600.00
Grasmere Players	400.00
Ambleside Football Club	2,000.00
The Armit Museum	1,000.00
Skelwith Defibrillator	200.00
Holy Trinity Langdale PCC	250.00
Ambleside Together	3,000.00
Rydal Village Society	500.00
Friends of Guiding	1,000.00
Total	11,250.00

LIST OF LOCAL COUNCILLORS

AMBLESIDE WARD COUNCILLORS

Mr. L. Johnson
8 Loughrigg Park, Ambleside. LA22 0DY
Tel. 015394 32904

Mr Matthew Bosson
1 Compston Road, Ambleside. LA22 9DJ
Tel. 07475 909109

Mrs Anne Sowerbutts
2 Swiss Villas, Vicarage Road, Ambleside.
LA22 9AE
Tel. 015394 32691

Mr Brian Hewitt
Freshfield House, Wansfell Road,
Ambleside Tel 015394 32463

Mr P.A. Thompson
Stoneleigh, Gale Rigg
Ambleside. LA22 0AZ
Tel. 015394 33410

Mr. N.C. Martin
The Hill, Birch Road, Ambleside. LA22 0EQ
Tel. 015394 31124

GRASMERE WARD COUNCILLORS

Mr P. Truelove
Dale End, Grasmere. LA22 9PY
Tel. 015394 35200

Mrs E. Footit
17 Benfield, Grasmere. LA22 9RD
Tel. 015394 35918

Mrs. V. Rees
Greenheys, Lakeview Drive, Grasmere.
LA22 9TD
Tel. 015394 35401

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

M. A. Johnson Esq.
The Police Station, Rydal Road, Ambleside.
LA22 9AY
Tel/fax: 015394 31656
E-mail: lakesparishclerk@yahoo.co.uk
www.amblesideonline.co.uk/parish

LANGDALES WARD COUNCILLORS

Mr Richard Moody
Skyfall
Great Langdale
LA22 9JS
Tel 015394 32431

Mrs J Birkett,
2 The Glebe
Chapel Stile, Ambleside. LA22 9JE
Tel. 015394 37237

Mrs Dot Wood
3 Walthwaite
Chapel Stile
Ambleside LA22 9JQ
015394 37105

RYDAL & LOUGHRIGG WARD COUNCILLORS

Mr. Kevin McCarten
Tel. 015394 33552

Mrs F.M. Sparrow (VICE CHAIRMAN)
The Haven, The Green, Ambleside
LA22 9AU
Tel. 015394 32441

TROUTBECK WARD COUNCILLORS

Mr. Pip Simpson
Poole Bank Farm, Troutbeck, Windermere
LA23 1PN
Tel. 015394 31014

Mrs Louise Waterhouse (CHAIRMAN)
Rose Cottage, Robin Lane., Troutbeck,
Windermere. LA23
Tel. 015394 31182

SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

*Ambleside, Grasmere, Langdale, Rydal &
Loughrigg*
Mrs. V. Rees 015394 35401
Mrs Heidi Halliday 015394 31472 – To May 4
2017

CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCILLOR (Lakes)

Mrs Heidi Halliday 015394 31472 – To May 4
2017

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.

It is interesting to list some of the things the Council has been involved in:-

- Ongoing dialogue with the Police on matters of local concern, including vandalism, on-street car parking, drugs and criminal activities.
- A continuing partnership with the Police. The Parish Council Office is part of Ambleside Police Station.
- Continuing the appointment of a Parish Handyman working 10 hours per week to address basic issues including litter, sign cleaning, hedge trimming, seat and bus shelter cleaning and general small maintenance matters within the Parish.
- Supported the efforts of a volunteer local resident in rebuilding broken down walls throughout the Parish by continuing to pay his Public Liability insurance.
- Continuing liaison with the Cumbria County Council for Highway matters, minor road repairs, hedge and vegetation trimming.
- Parish Councillors serve on many Committees, Charities and Organisations within and on the periphery of the Lakes Parish Council area.
- The Council made recommendations on over 173 planning applications and was represented at four Lake District National Park Authority site visits
- The Council responded to consultation documents from South Lakeland District Council, The Lake District National Park Authority, Cumbria County Council, Central Government, Cumbria Association of Local Councils, the Police and others.
- As a result of Parish Council initiatives White Platts at Ambleside is under Parish Council control and is open weekdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays from Easter to the first week of November. We continue to invest in White Platts with new surfacing adjacent to the childrens play area and removal of saplings growing into the iron railings between the recreation area and the churchyard. There are new seats at Waterhead. The Parish contributed £25000 towards the Waterhead Improvement Scheme in partnership with SLDC and also paid for 8 Grafton seats within the scheme. It has now taken responsibility for the planting of three flower beds at Waterhead and is watching with interest how the planting develops in the new stone built flower beds on the waterfront.
- The Council continues to run and operate seven toilets in Lakes Parish and has re-furbished and re-opened Low Fold toilets, as well as refurbishing Mechanics gents and Rydal Road gents with new urinals. It has replaced and refurbished the exterior tiles outside of this convenience. High definition CCTV has now been installed at the entrance to Moss Parrock Grasmere to deter anti- social behaviour. We intend to install the same high quality CCTV at Rydal Road and Mechanics. This continues our programme of continuous investment bringing improvements to the public toilet estate.
- The Council, in partnership with Langdale Leisure and the Langdale Valley Association continue to keep open Chapel Stile toilets, one of the first public conveniences threatened with closure when under the control of South Lakeland District Council.
- The Council continues to support local residents at Greenbank and Castle Field in their efforts to combat unrestricted and sometimes illegal parking in their locality and other issues as they arise.
- Continued with the quarterly Newsletter (the pink sheet) informing the Parish of the work of the Council and also including items of general information and interest. **This list contains only a few examples of the Council's busy schedule in support of local people.**