

LAKES PARISH

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

AND ANNUAL REPORT

2017/18



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF LAKES 2018.

Held in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 21, Part 3, in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Ambleside Library, Kelsick Road, Ambleside, on Wednesday 9th May 2018 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 10th May 2017 (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 10th May 2017 at 6pm

PRESENT: Cllrs. L Waterhouse (Chairman), Mrs F.M. Sparrow, P. Thompson, Mrs J Birkett, B. Hewitt, N. Martin, P Simpson, Mrs A Sowerbutts, K. McCarten, Mrs E Footit, P. Truelove, Mrs Dot Wood, and 2 members of the public.

IN ATTENDANCE: None

ALSO: Michael Johnson, Jane Renouf, PCSO Laura Jackson and 2 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Cllr L. Johnson

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held at the Library, Kelsick Road, Ambleside on Wednesday 11th May 2016 were accepted as a correct record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

3. CHAIRMANS REPORT

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 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.

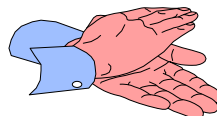
At the time of writing this report, the new play area in Rothay Park is ready for opening and already looks to be popular with our visitors and locals. Unlike the recent filming in Compston Road, your Parish Council was kept fully informed and involved by South Lakeland District Council. We were invited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

4. MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MEETING BY ELECTORS OF THE PARISH

There were no issues or matters brought to the attention of the Meeting.



Meeting closed at 6.07pm

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 7pm 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 2017/18

Since last year's report Lakes Parish Council has moved into its very smart and bespoke Council chamber and office space. The Council is extremely pleased to have this opportunity to work in partnership with Cumbria County Council. The lease of the upper floor of the building ensures the survival of Ambleside library, an important and vital part of the community. The Council continue financially in a healthy position and are able to award grants and complete projects that benefit the whole of Lakes Parish.

We have just emerged from a very cold and long winter, the Troutbeck snow plough and gritter ventured as far as Ambleside. The residents of Troutbeck thank Lakes Parish for this vital benefit to the community.

Throughout the year we have all the usual local events, culminating in the now hugely successful Ambleside Christmas lights.

Spring has arrived and the Parish Council is in discussions with SLDC to hopefully improve the appearance of Waterhead in partnership with local hotels but as usual, local bureaucracy moves at a slower pace than Lakes Parish Council!

We are very keen at Lakes Parish to try and tidy and spruce up the whole of the Parish but, of course, Ambleside is at the heart of the Parish, so we hope businesses, residents and community groups will help in our drive to be proud of our area and do their bit!!

Our public toilets still cause us problems from time to time but the installation of CCTV appears to have stopped vandalism in its tracks. We still rely on White Platts to subsidise this facility and hope the summer weather will be kind and help the upkeep of this vital service.

Thanks to the Rollitt family in Grasmere who sometimes go beyond their remit on having to cope with unmentionable problems!

Finally my thanks to Cllr Fiona Sparrow for her support as my Deputy. Cllr Phillip Thompson for his invaluable work in Ambleside and to all the other Councillors who we would remind the Parish that they are all volunteers.

Special thanks to Michael Johnson my right hand man, and our Financial officer Julie Wright.

Cllr Louise Waterhouse, Chairman of Lakes Parish Council May 2018

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
2017/2018	£95,000

With no perceptible rise in the Precept for the past 4 years, for 2018/19 the Parish Council has decided to increase this by just 1% just to try to keep pace with inflation.

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 was £1,613.69. Of this, over **£1,574 goes to the County Council, the District Council and the Police**. The rest (**£40 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 2017/18

Receipts	2017/18	2016/17	Payments	2017/18	2016/17
			Parish Clerk	29,642	29,352
Parish Precept	94,100	93,186	Finance Officer	4,800	5,600
Council Tax Grant	4,445	4,716	Parish Handyman	4,936	4,872
Grants	2,180	2,200	PAYE/Employers NI	12,800	12,000
VAT Refund (net)	7,063	10,426	Office Expenses	8,559	7,359
Bank Interest	1,086	1,228	Expenses & Allowances	180	202
White Platts	93,709	106,617	Bus Shelter Cleaning	882	825
Public Toilets	49,739	49,020	Winter Gritting	896	0
Room Hire	248	0	Chairman's Allowance	0	0
Donations (inc seats)	1,591	3,707	Postage	482	393
Misc Receipts	140	130	Grants	15,725	11,250
			Public Toilets Expenditure	64,142	61,473
			White Platts Expenditure	38,877	49,986
Total	254,301	271,230	Subscriptions	647	612
			Footway Lighting	1,643	1,172
			New bus shelters/seats	1,407	3,975
			Insurance & Audit Fee	2,595	2,896
			Projects (Reserves)	31,797	28,614
			Playground Inspections	180	130
			Cumbria/Lakes in Bloom	3,507	1,701
			Repairs & Maintenance	272	562
			Election Expenses	0	1,362
			Parish Newsletter	1,886	2,519
			Bank Charges	0	30
			VAT	22,083	26,811
			Total	247,938	253,644

Year End Balances

Balance B/Fwd 1April 2017	249,442
Add: Receipts 2017/18	254,301
Less: Payments 2017/1	247,938
Balance C/Fwd at 31 March 2018	255,805
Bank Balances at 31 March 2018	
Current Account	29,070
Savings Account	226,735
Total cash in bank	255,805

GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

The Parish Council awarded the following grants to local organisations in 2017/18:

Organisation	£
Ambleside Community Christmas Lights Committee	5,000
Our Place Youth Club	1,500
Ambleside Together	3,000
South Lakes CAB	2,000
Ambleside Parish Centre (older person's coordinator)	3,000
British Legion poppy wreaths	125
Great North Air Ambulance	600
St Mary's Churchyard Upkeep	250
Holy Trinity Langdale PCC	250
Total	15725

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.
First Floor, Ambleside Library LA22 0BZ
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 Vicky Hughes Vickyhughes622@gmail.com

CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCILLOR (Lakes)

Mr Will Clark Will-Clark@hotmail.com

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 new partnership with Cumbria County Council. The Parish Council Office is now part of Ambleside Library, having taken a lease on the first floor of the building securing the Library and its important services for the Community.
- 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 165 planning applications and was represented at two 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 continues to go from strength to strength 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 of the tennis courts, a new veranda by the ticket office and new railings in the same location. There are new seats at Waterhead and on Elterwater Common. The Parish continues to work with SLDC to improve the planting at Waterhead and Councillors are now looking at how they can improve planting and perhaps hanging baskets in Ambleside and the wider Parish. Last year the Parish took responsibility for the planting of three flower beds at Waterhead and is now in active discussion with local companies on sponsorship of the new stone built flower beds on the waterfront.
- The Council continues to successfully run and operate seven toilets in Lakes Parish, refurbishing Mechanics gents and Rydal Road gents with new urinals. New tiling has been done at Rydal Road toilets. High definition CCTV has now been installed at the entrance to Moss Parrock Grasmere, Rydal Road and Mechanics to deter anti-social behaviour. This is part of 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 supported local residents at Greenbank and Castle Field in their efforts to combat unrestricted and sometimes illegal parking in their locality and the new Traffic Order to deal with this is now in operation. The Council also supported the single yellow line at Under Loughrigg that restricts parking in that location from 8pm to 6am to deal with overnight parking by camper vans.
- The Council continue to be represented on the University of Cumbria Liaison Group and have made strong representations in support of local residents to help deal with some anti social behaviour at the Rydal Road Halls of Residence.
- 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. Unfortunately the Council was badly let down at Christmas by Royal Mail who distribute the newsletter. This has resulted in the termination of their contract. We are now looking for an alternative distributor. **This list contains only a few examples of the Council's busy schedule in support of local people.**