

**LAKES PARISH**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**AND ANNUAL REPORT**

**2018/19**



## **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF LAKES 2019.**

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 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 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 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018 (see below).
3. Matters arising from the Minutes (if any).
4. Chairman's Report.
5. A presentation from United Utilities on proposals for Grasmere Treatment Plant
6. 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 9th May 2018 at 6pm**

PRESENT: Cllrs. L Waterhouse (Chairman), Mrs F.M. Sparrow, P. Thompson, Mrs J Birkett, N. Martin, P Simpson, Mrs A Sowerbutts, K. McCarten, Mrs E Footit, L. Johnson, P. Truelove and 3 members of the public.

IN ATTENDANCE: None

ALSO: Michael Johnson

APOLOGIES: Cllr B. Hewitt and R. Moody

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held at the Library, Kelsick Road, Ambleside on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017 were accepted as a correct record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

3. CHAIRMANS REPORT

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.

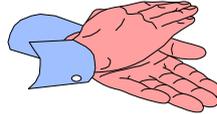
**Cllr Louise Waterhouse, Chairman of Lakes Parish Council May 2018**

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

Marj Waddecar, on behalf of the Greenbank and Castlefield Residents Association, expressed her thanks to the Parish Council for their support on various issues throughout the year. She said it is much appreciated. One member of the public asked if the Parish Council were going to do their own consultation exercise on the LDNPA Local Plan. The Council do not have the power to do this as it is

completely within the remit of the National Park Authority. The Council will be discussing the Local Plan at its next Meeting with any issues raised being sent direct to LDNPA. The general public can also make their own representations. There were no other statements or matters raised.

Meeting closed at 6.10pm



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 1<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

We have been in our new home for over a year now and it has been an outstanding success helping to secure the future of the library. We have a modest income stream from letting our Council chamber that helps towards the rental and overheads.

White Platts continues to perform well for us and we continue to monitor and update our offer to visitors. We hope in the future to add more holes to the crazy golf and improve the experience. We have embraced new technology in our public toilets empire going contactless, but we will still accept cash. We now wait to see how this works over the busy season.

If only I could report on progress at Waterhead as I wrote a year ago we were awaiting permission from SLDC to replant and take over the maintenance of the flower beds. Unfortunately as of the middle of April we are still in the same position, Brexit negotiations spring to mind!!! Watch this space....

The Ambleside Christmas lights were again blessed with beautiful weather and a huge amount of visitors. It was just bad luck that Cumbria highways decided to let 3 different road works take place on that day but even that didn't spoil another successful event.

The Council continues to be financially healthy, and we have just started a conversation with Cumbria police for CCTV cameras in strategic places in Ambleside. We also hope to refurbish Rothay Park toilets but yet again this is in partnership with SLDC and progress is slow.

Thank you to all Councillors for their voluntary dedication over the past year, but special thanks to my deputy Brian Hewitt and Phillip Thompson for his unstinting work in Ambleside. It was with regret that we accepted the resignation of Fiona Sparrow due to ill health, we wish her well in her retirement.

A special thanks to our 24 hour Clerk Michael and our Financial officer Julie Hartley

**CLlr Louise Waterhouse, Chairman of Lakes Parish Council May 2019**

### **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
2018/2019	£96,000

With no perceptible rise in the Precept for the past 5 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 2017/18 was £1,613.69. Of this, over **£1,574 goes to the County Council, the District Council and the Police**. The rest (**approx. £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 upgrade the public toilets, look after the flower beds at Waterhead and are considering how to improve the 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, Waterhead planting, 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 2018/19**

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>
			Parish Clerk	29,642	30,233
Parish Precept	94,100	95,000	Finance Officer	4,800	5,016
Council Tax Grant	4,445	4,208	Parish Handyman	4,936	5,221
Grants	2,180	3,250	PAYE/Employers NI	12,800	13,090
VAT Refund (net)	7,063	6,437	Office Expenses	8,559	10,035
Bank Interest	1,086	1,717	Expenses & Allowances	180	310
White Platts	93,709	95,128	Bus Shelter Cleaning	882	420
Public Toilets	49,739	49,139	Winter Gritting	896	736
Room Hire	248	2,421	Chairman's Allowance	0	0
Donations (inc seats)	1,591	942	Postage	482	505
Misc Receipts	140	190	Grants	15,725	13,075
Insurance refund	0	4,461	Public Toilets Expenditure	64,142	61,020
			White Platts Expenditure	38,877	47,055
<b>Total</b>	<b>254,301</b>	<b>262,893</b>	Subscriptions	647	682
			Footway Lighting	1,643	995
			New bus shelters/seats	1,407	5,404
			Insurance & Audit Fee	2,595	2,652
			Projects (Reserves)	31,797	13,974
			Playground Inspections	180	136
			Cumbria/Lakes in Bloom	3,507	3,777
			Repairs & Maintenance	272	466
			Election Expenses	0	0
			Parish Newsletter	1,886	0
			Bank Charges	0	0
			VAT	22,083	23,835
			<b>Total</b>	<b>247,938</b>	<b>238,637</b>

**Year End Balances**

Balance B/Fwd 1 April 2018	255,805
Add: Receipts 2018/19	262,893
Less: Payments 2018/19	238,637
<b>Balance C/Fwd at 31 March 2019</b>	<b>280,061</b>
Bank Balances at 31 March 2019 – Less un-presented cheque	-120
Current Account	51,802
Savings Account	228,379
<b>Total cash in bank</b>	<b>280,061</b>

## GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

The Parish Council awarded the following grants to local organisations in 2018/19:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>£</b>
Ambleside Community Christmas Lights Committee	5,000
Our Place Youth Club	1,500
Greenbank and Castlefield Play Area	2,000
The Armit Trust (Endowment fund)	1,000
Ambleside Parish Centre (older person's coordinator)	1,500
British Legion poppy wreaths	75
Great North Air Ambulance	750
Grasmere Village Hall	1,000
Holy Trinity Langdale PCC	250
<b>Total</b>	<b>13075</b>

## 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.  
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E-mail: [lakesparishclerk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lakesparishclerk@yahoo.co.uk)  
[www.amblesideonline.co.uk/parish](http://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](mailto:Vickyhughes622@gmail.com)

### CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCILLOR (Lakes)

Mr Will Clark [Will-Clark@hotmail.com](mailto: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 continuing 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 for at least the next 10 years.
- 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 172 planning applications and was represented at one 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 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 area around the bowling green, 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 going to improve planting with hanging baskets in Ambleside. This year the Parish took responsibility for the revamp and planting of flower beds at Waterhead and it is hoped that the whole of this area can be devolved from South Lakeland District Council to be looked after by the Parish Council.
- The Council continues to successfully run and operate seven toilets in Lakes Parish, A new Contractor has been appointed to clean and maintain the Ambleside toilets. High definition CCTV is installed at the entrance to Moss Parrock Grasmere, Rydal Road and Mechanics toilets 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 restricting parking in that location from 8pm to 6am to deal with overnight parking by camper vans. They have supported the establishment of a new play area for Greenbank and Castlefield residents.
- 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 which now appears to have dealt with the issue.
- Unfortunately the Council was badly let down by Royal Mail who distribute the Parish newsletter. This has resulted in the termination of their contract. The Council continue to seek an alternative distributor. **This list contains only a few examples of the Council's busy schedule in support of local people.**