

LAKES PARISH

ANNUAL REPORT

2019/20



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Library, Kelsick Road, Ambleside on Wednesday 15th May 2019 at 6pm

PRESENT: Cllrs. L Waterhouse (Chairman), B. Hewitt, P. Thompson, Mrs J Birkett, N. Martin, C. Shepherd, P Simpson, Mrs A Sowerbutts, Mrs E Footit, L. Johnson, Will Clark, Mrs Dot Wood, Mrs Gilly Hodkinson, Mrs Vivienne Rees, Mr Donald Cook

IN ATTENDANCE: Luke Johnston, Steve Capstick and Allan Porter from United Utilities

ALSO: Michael Johnson, Jane Renouf

APOLOGIES: Cllr P. Truelove

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held at the Library, Kelsick Road, Ambleside on Wednesday 9th May 2018 were accepted as a correct record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

3. CHAIRMANS REPORT

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

4. PRESENTATION BY UNITED UTILITIES ON UPGRADE OF GRASMERE WASTE WATER PLANT

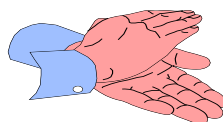
A presentation was given on these proposals by Officers of United Utilities

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

Mr Cook drew attention to a sunken pavement near Roberts Book Shop and the pavement near the Rock Shop which he said was like a ploughed field. He also drew attention to the King Street car park and small trees that were causing a problem. He complimented the County Council on their recent resurfacing of the Market Square area of Ambleside. Cllr Clark in his capacity as County Councillor undertook to raise these issues with Officers of that Authority.

Meeting closed at 6.24pm

THESE MINUTES ARE PRESENTED IN THIS REPORT AS DUE TO THE COVID EMERGENCY NO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TOOK PLACE IN 2020.



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 2019/20

SADLY THERE IS NO ANNUAL REPORT DUE TO THE COVID EMERGENCY

Cllr Louise Waterhouse, Chairman of Lakes Parish Council May 2020

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
2019/2020	£98,000

With no perceptible rise in the Precept for the past 5 years, for 2019/20 the Parish Council has decided to increase this by just 2% 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 2018/19 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 2019/2020

Receipts	2018/19	2019/20	Payments	2018/19	2019/20
			Parish Clerk	30,233	30,836
Parish Precept	95,000	96,000	Finance Officer	5,016	5,266
Council Tax Grant	4,208	4,081	Parish Handyman	5,221	4,926
Grants (Inc PCC CCTV)	3,250	8,000	PAYE/Employers NI	13,090	13,316
VAT Refund (net)	6,437	5,666	Office Expenses	10,035	10,975
Bank Interest	1,717	1,761	Expenses & Allowances	310	277
White Platts	95,128	89,033	Bus Shelter Cleaning	420	384
Public Toilets	49,139	43,601	Winter Gritting	736	0
Room Hire	2,421	1,984	Chairman's Allowance	0	0
Donations (inc seats)	942	967	Postage	505	452
Misc Receipts	190	175	Grants	13,075	5,000
Insurance refund	4,461	0	Public Toilets Expenditure	61,020	64,722
			White Platts Expenditure	47,055	45,723
Total	262,893	251,268	Subscriptions	682	844
			Footway Lighting	995	1,007
			New bus shelters/seats	5,404	8,475
			Insurance & Audit Fee	2,652	2,718
			Projects (Reserves)	13,974	53,254
			Playground Inspections	136	142
			In Bloom/Planting Waterhead	3,777	14,515
			Repairs & Maintenance	466	652
			Training/Office stationery etc	0	1,356
			Parish Newsletter	0	500
			Parish Steward	0	3,624
			VAT	23,835	28,011
			Total	238,637	296,975

Year End Balances

Balance B/Fwd 1 April 2019 Current A/C £51802, NSB £228379	280,181
Add: Receipts 2019/20	251,268
Less: Payments 2019/20	296,975
Balance C/Fwd at 31 March 2020	234,474
Bank Balances at 31 March 2020 – Less unrepresented cheques	3,551
Current Account	29,646
Savings Account	208,379
Total cash in bank	234,474

GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

The Parish Council awarded the following grants to local organisations in 2019/20:

Organisation	£
Ambleside Community Christmas Lights Committee	5,000
Total	5,000

LIST OF LOCAL COUNCILLORS

AMBLESIDE WARD COUNCILLORS

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

Mr Paul Wileman
Tel. 07782 323504

Mr Chris Shepherd
Tel. 07922 402008

Mr Brian Hewitt (Vice Chairman)
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 Paul Martin
Dillygarth
Loughrigg
LA22 9HF
Tel 015394 33165

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

Vacancy

RYDAL & LOUGHRIGG WARD COUNCILLORS

Mrs Gilly Hodkinson
Tel. 015394 33516

Mr Will Clark
Tel. 07919 298671

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*
Mr Malcolm Lamb lambmalcolm@rocketmail.com
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 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.**