

LAKES PARISH
ANNUAL REPORT
2020/21



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF LAKES 2021

Held in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 21, Part 3, in Ambleside Parish Centre on Monday 17th May 2021 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 15th May 2019 (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 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

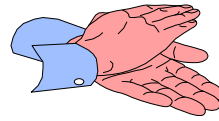
A presentation was given on these proposals by Officers of United Utilities

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 2020/21

It is hard to believe two years have passed since our last AGM, but the world certainly changed. For over a year now we have managed to keep the Council functioning, albeit in an altogether different and challenging form. We have also fulfilled our statutory planning duties submitting planning responses, within the allotted time, to LDNPA.

After the first lockdown, with full Covid precautions in place, we tentatively reopened White Platts for a shortened season and I am pleased to report that the income from this helped to keep our estate of public toilets functioning.

We received praise for being the only Authority to keep toilets open in central Lakes throughout the various lockdowns. These toilets were used by local people and essential workers in the area when nothing else was available due to cafes, pubs etc. being closed.

I must single out two Councillors for special mention.

Councillor Vivienne Rees who has represented Grasmere ward for over 20 years, but who retired recently due to ill health. We thank her for her great contribution to the Lakes Parish community.

Councillor Phillip Thompson whose dedication to Ambleside has been above and beyond the call of duty. Again, many thanks to both of you.

We welcome our new Clerk in waiting Charlene Bell, who lives in Patterdale, and is currently Clerk to Patterdale Parish Council. Charlene takes over from Michael Johnson. Michael retires officially on the 30th September after 17 years as Clerk to Lakes Parish Council. We shall of course be having an official recognition of his loyal service to the Council when Covid restrictions allow.

Cllr Louise Waterhouse, Chairman of Lakes Parish Council May 2021

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:-

The Parish Council Precept.

South Lakeland District Council expenses incurred in the Parish mainly to fund maintenance of the pre-1974 street lighting system.

Parish Expenses in recent years have been as follows:-

2017/2018	£95,000
2018/2019	£96,000
2019/2020	£98,000
2020/2021	£98,980

With little perceptible rise in the Precept from 2017 to 2020, for 2020/21 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 2019 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 with contactless entry, work with SLDC to provide a new toilet block in Rothay Park near to the new Play area, look after the flower beds at Waterhead and continue 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 (sadly missing last year), the need to continue to operate all public toilets (formerly the responsibility of SLDC), environmental projects, Waterhead planting, maintenance - including all the bus shelters you see throughout the Parish from Brockhole to Dungeon Ghyll, public seats, street lighting, bike racks, the Parish Handyman, a Parish Steward, 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 2020/2021

Receipts	2019/20	2020/21	Payments	2019/20	2020/21
			Parish Clerk	30,836	31,612
Parish Precept	96000	98000	Finance Officer	5,266	3,333
Council Tax Grant	4,081	4027	Parish Handyman	4,926	4,869
Grants (Inc PCC CCTV)	8,000	3000	PAYE/Employers NI	13,316	11,084
VAT Refund (net)	5,666	9327	Office Expenses	10,975	7,704
Bank Interest	1,761	1406	Expenses & Allowances	277	250
White Platts	89,033	56914	Bus Shelter Cleaning	384	610
Public Toilets	43,601	26833	Winter Gritting	0	0
Room Hire	1,984	262	Chairman's Allowance	0	0
Donations (inc seats)	967	13447	Postage	452	0
Misc Receipts	175	25	Grants/PCC Repayment	5,000	7,500
Insurance refund	0	2394	Public Toilets Expenditure	64,722	64,208
			White Platts Expenditure	45,723	49,122
Total	251,268	215,635	Subscriptions	844	849
			Footway Lighting	1007	1,215
			New bus shelters/seats	8,475	2,300
			Insurance & Audit Fee	2,718	3,907
			Projects (Reserves)	53,254	1,726
			Playground Inspections	142	144
			In Bloom/Planting Waterhead	14,515	10,798
			Repairs & Maintenance	652	938
			Training/Office stationery etc	1,356	1,486
			Parish Newsletter	500	900
			Parish Steward	3,624	13,343
			VAT	28,011	0
			Total	296,975	217,898

Year End Balances

Balance B/Fwd 1 April 2020	232,564
Add: Receipts 2020/21	215,635
Less: Payments 2020/21	217,898
Balance C/Fwd at 31 March 2021	230,301
Bank Balances at 31 March 2021	
Current Account	68,697
Savings Account	161,604
Total cash in bank	230,301

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 (To 29 March 2021)

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

M. A. Johnson Esq.
First Floor, Ambleside Library LA22 0BZ
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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. The Parish Council welcome the re-establishment of a Police presence based at Ambleside Police Office.

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 7 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. For the larger jobs in the Parish and to look after Waterhead, a Parish Steward has been recruited, working two days a week in the summer. In conjunction with St Marys Church, St Oswalds Church and the Langdalian magazines, the Council has reintroduced its popular Newsletter although somewhat sporadic due to Covid issues.

Continuing liaison with Cumbria County Council for Highway matters/minor road repairs.

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 148 planning applications during the year.

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. It has replied to the current consultation on Unitary Cumbria and supported the single Unitary bid.

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 surfacing of the new exit, and repairs to the veranda by the ticket office. The Council paid for new railings at Waterhead.

There are new seats at Waterhead, on Elterwater Common, Loughrigg Terrace and Moss Parrock, Grasmere.

The Parish continues to work with SLDC to improve the planting at Waterhead and Councillors are now involved with hanging baskets and beds in Ambleside and Grasmere. Last year the Parish took responsibility for the revamp and planting of flower beds at Waterhead and now all of the beds in this area have been 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, Lakes Loos have been appointed to clean and maintain the Ambleside toilets. CCTV is installed at the entrance to Moss Parrock Grasmere, Rydal Road and Mechanics toilets to try to deter anti-social behaviour. This is part of our programme of continuous investment bringing improvements to the public toilet estate. In the coming year we will introduce contactless entry at Low Fold and White Platts toilets.

The Council in partnership with Cumbria Constabulary is funding a CCTV camera to be located at the top of Compston Road and linked to Police HQ at Penrith.

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 has made representations at the highest level of Government about the pop up camping regulations that may well have a major impact on the daily life of our residents and cause serious environmental harm to parts of the Parish.

The Council continue to be represented on the University of Cumbria Liaison Group and made strong representations in support of local residents to help deal with some anti-social behaviour at the Rydal Road Halls of Residence.

This list contains only a few examples of the Council's busy schedule in support of local people.