

KPM19791107

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 1979

*A Special Assembly of the Parish Meeting was held in the Institute at 7 p.m. after due notice. Mrs J.O. Williams in the chair.*

*Those present: The Chairman (Mrs J.O. Williams)*

*Mr & Mrs C.E. Black, Mr & Mrs J.H. Barkway, Mr & Mrs K. Dawson, Mr & Mrs D. Driscoll, Mr C. Bayes, Mr R. Pighills, Mr M. Dobson, Mr Jeff Walker, Mr Philip Dawson, Mrs Bialy, Mr James Cropper, Mr Stephen Eccles,*

*Apologies: Mrs R. Pighills*

*1.1 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1979 were read, approved and duly signed as a correct record.*

*1.2 Matter Arising*

*(a) Road repairs. Apart from the cracked drain outside Greenhead most matters had been dealt with satisfactorily*

*(b) Snow Clearance. The 'Highways' dept had written to Mrs Williams in reply to her letter referring to complaints on Snow Clearance. Amongst other comment, they stated that they thought they 'had a farmer' in Kentmere who was interested in having a snow plough fitted to his tractor to operate on a 'hire' basis. The meeting asked the Chairman to (i) ascertain the name of the farmer, (ii) report on progress (iii) find out from SLDC (dept) whether they felt this action would absolve them from clearance duties.*

*2.1 Mrs Williams confirmed her wish to retire from office after four years service.*

*Mr J. Williams proposed that Mr J.H. Barkway of Greenhead should be elected to the Chair. This was seconded by Mr R. Pighills. The motion was passed unanimously.*

*2.2 Mrs C. Black proposed and the Chairman seconded a formal vote of thanks to Mrs Williams for the thorough, painstaking and successful way in which she had carried out the duties of her office. The motion received unanimous acclaim.*

*3.1 The Chairman informed the meeting that James Cropper & Co. had acquired the property known as Reservoir Cottage in Dec 1978. Mr Cropper added the company had now become the 'de facto' owner of the Reservoir in protection of the water supply to the Paper Mill.*

*3.2 The Chairman referred to earlier correspondence resultant from a previous meeting sent upon instruction to the Lancs County Council complaining*

(a) in the strongest possible terms about the behaviour of young people who use the cottage and warning Lancs County Council that without proper supervision the withdrawal of the use of the cottage would be requested.

(b) That for some time disturbance had been experienced at the farm (Hartrigg) particularly at night after jollifications further afield. This comment was objected to by Mr K. Dawson and supported by his wife Mrs Dawson as being exaggerated and not wholly true.

A meeting discussion produced dissent by Mr & Mrs Dawson from the views put forward in the letter. They added that 'by & large' they found the behaviour reasonable & supervision adequate.

(c) Stating extreme anxiety of many of the valley's inhabitants at the proven cases of theft from more than two properties.

(d) The Lancs Education Authority vehicle had been driven with such lack of care as to make driving on the road hazardous.

The comment was made that some local driving made conditions equally difficult.

3.3 Pointed and feeling discussion took place and the Chairman asked Mr Cropper "what he would like to hear from the meeting" and "why, if he felt able to answer, had James Cropper & Co. purchased the cottage."

On the first point Mr Cropper asked for a witness who would if necessary go to court and give firm examples of improper supervision. On the second point he explained that the Company hoped to develop the 'Cottage' and 'Barracks' and then use them for:

(a) properly supervised Burneside and local 'children's parties'

(b) other children's parties subject to proper control & supervision

(c) entertaining Foreign and UK customers of James Cropper & Co.

(d) entertaining children from Garthwaite (a Leonard Cheshire home for mentally handicapped children)

It was recognised that turning what were described by one as "hovels" into hospitable vacation homes would only be achieved at considerable expense.

3.4 Further discussion ensued and the Chairman summed up the feeling of the meeting thus:

1. That there was disquiet among many inhabitants of Kentmere as to the presence in the valley of Lancashire County Council youth parties (as opposed to children) particularly in view of the fact that burglaries had been enacted by people introduced to Kentmere by previous youth visits.

2. No person (known) was prepared to stand and say that they had witnessed improper supervision of parties.

3. That, firmly, it was no business of the meeting to tell the owner of a property what he may or may not do with his property; but it was the right of a Parish Meeting to express the use or misuse of any premises.

4.1 Mr Cropper after thanking the meeting for its frank views and, in turn, being thanked for his detailed comment, then left the meeting.

5.1 Any other business

The Chairman raised the 'unsavoury matter' of expenses that had to be faced in the light of the fact that Mrs J.O. Williams was prepared to be Parish Clerk, provided she did not have to foot all the secretarial expenses as she had done for the last four years.

Mr Bayes expressed his amazement that she had not had her expenses reimbursed.

It was explained that without a 'precept' (addition) on the rates, i.e. so much in the pound, there was no money available.

5.2 He also said that it would be unfair to ask those attending the meeting giving views for others on a matter as private as rates. He undertook with the general assent of the meeting to send an explanatory letter to all householders in Kentmere –

(a) to explain the reason behind the need for finance

(b) to estimate the annual cost

(c) to enclose a Ballot form for (in favour or against) the payment of a Parish precept.

6.1 The Chairman thanked those present for their honestly expressed views and hoped that they would represent a minimum number of attendants at future business meetings.

7.1 Mr J. Williams informed the meeting of a proposal to build a group of 'residences' on the land known as 'The Allotments' near Elf Howe. Mr Williams had been asked by Parishioners of Staveley to convey this to Kentmere Parish Meeting and state that the intention was that only local people would qualify for permission to buy. He asked on their behalf whether (outline and eventually permission being granted to build) Kentmere inhabitants would be interested.

The meeting agreed that an affirmative answer should be given.

7.2 There being no other business the meeting was closed.

Jeremy H. Barkway

26<sup>th</sup> March 80