

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2011

Present N. Pighills (chairman) Mrs S. Johnston (vice chair) Mrs M. Baldwin, Mr & Mrs P. Bettess, Mr & Mrs D. Bridge, Mrs H. Brownlow, Ms H. Connerr, Mr & Mrs R. Courtier, Mr & Mrs C. Gregory, Mrs M. Harrison, Mrs C. Hevey, Mr & Mrs R. Hinchliffe, Mr I. Johnston, Mrs C. Lansberry, Mr & Mrs R. Ridley, Mr J. Stilling, Mrs J. Strickland, Mr & Mrs A. Williams, Cllr. Stan Collins (SLDC & CCC) PCSO's Howard and Potter (local officers for our area)

People of Kentmere

The Chairman welcomed the Hinchliffes and the Lansberrys who have now moved permanently into Green Quarter House and Middle Holme respectively.

He also mentioned the recent death of Margaret Driscoll who had moved to the Grove in the mid-fifties with her husband Dennis, and who had lived there until 2002.

Community Policing

PCSOs Howarth and Potter introduced themselves and addressed the meeting. Generally, they said, Kentmere had no crime but there had been nine calls in the previous year to deal with various matters. The PCSOs intend to be a more visible presence in the valley and will generally travel in marked police cars.

There was some discussion of the most common problem in the valley – that of obstruction of the road by parked cars – and the legal situation was explained.

Chairman's Announcement

The chairman announced that both he and the vice-chair, Sandra Johnston would retire after the Meeting, neither would stand for re-election. This would allow them to conduct the election later in the agenda.

Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010 were read and accepted by the Meeting.

Matters Arising

Winter Road Maintenance

The chairman had been continuing to try to ascertain how it might be possible to obtain financial help from the CCC towards the cost of snow clearance and gritting. The CCC are apparently paying for this work in Longsleddale and the chairman had been seeking to establish the mechanism for this. He once more asked CCC Councillor Stan Collins for help in this.

Hilary Fry reported that the five weeks of ice and snow had done a great deal of damage to the road, but some resurfacing work had been carried out on Hellwell Lane and Gravengate. The drain under the road at the foot of Ravens Garth in Staveley had finally been repaired by United Utilities.

### Financial Report

Iain Johnston circulated the financial report and explained that from the precept of £1670, £1000 had been passed to St. Cuthbert's Church and that two years contributions, £50 each would be passed to the First Responders. It was intended to settle Stephen Ravens bill in the near future.

### Highways Report

This had been circulated with the agenda. There were no further comments.

### Broadband Report

A report had been circulated with the agenda. Jackie Bettess explained that CCC had gone out to tender for a supplier to provide all their communications services, including broadband. She was concerned that this would lead delays since the new scheme means that the finances for many aspects of I.T. and Broadband had been lumped together. Jackie agreed to obtain a copy of the tender document relating to this project.

### Local Area Partnership

A paper on this topic had been circulated with the agenda. Robert Courtier explained that this Government incentive is intended to devolve more responsibilities to Local people. Kentmere is in the Upper Kent Local Area Partnership, a group of 14 parishes. By non-participation, Kentmere had until recently been missing out on the financial possibilities. The chairman reported that, at a recent meeting, he and the vice chairman had appointed (pro tem) Robert Courtier and Jackie Bettess to represent Kentmere in the L.A.P. This appointment was ratified by the Meeting with a show of hands.

### Proposals for Changes to the Parish Meeting Structure

Presented with the paper on the L.A.P. were proposals to formalize the structure of the Parish Meeting by the election of a six member committee to "administer its day-to-day affairs, with authority to explore issues which they consider relevant to, or have been raised by, the Parish and Parish Meeting. The second proposal was to allocate specific roles of responsibility to committee members. The chairman explained that he felt it premature to change the format of the Meeting there and then. He was aware of the need to change, of changes which have taken place and which are to come. He said structural changes should be discussed broadly and with great thought and should involve more of the parishioners than those at the Meeting. He said that if it were proposed to change the format and proceedings of a democratic body which had operated in much the same way for 106 years, it should be done in a democratic way. Robert Courtier said that what the chairman was suggesting had already been done by the papers sent to every household. The chairman replied that the notice had been short and his view was that wider opinion should be canvassed. There was some discussion. Despite some protest, the chairman declined to take a vote on the matter and the agenda item was closed.

### Elections

*Robert Courtier nominated Iain Johnston for chairman, seconded by Andrew Williams and all electors present were in favour.*

*Hilary Fry nominated Peter Lansberry for Vice Chairman, seconded by Maureen Baldwin and carried by a majority vote.*

*Iain Johnston thanked the Meeting for their vote of confidence in himself and Peter Lansberry. He gave a vote of thanks to the retiring chairman and vice chairman.*

*Other Business*

*Hilary Fry – the retiring Highwayman – spoke of the scheme which had come into being in 1999. Hilary wished to stand down after nine years. He was given a vote of thanks for all the work he had done for the valley.*

*The meeting closed at 8.50 pm*