

A response to Proposals 1 and 2.

A suggestion that we should leave the Parish Meeting structure unchanged.
A proposed motion for vote at the Extraordinary Parish Meeting on 15th June 2011.

I am very concerned that the proposed committee structure would create a barrier between the wishes of people in the valley and what the Parish Meeting actually does. I am worried that the committee would meet in private and prepare proposals for action – pre-selected and pre-packaged, without asking anyone's opinion – and expect us to vote them in.

If you are in any doubt that this would happen, look at the way in which proposals 1 and 2 came to the Parish Meeting on 16th May. They were prepared by a few people, in private, without any attempt to seek parishioners' points of view. The proposals were neatly packaged, the only option on the table, and, with seven days notice we were expected to vote them in. Seven days notice to vote in changes to the Parish Meeting structure that has been in place since 1894! Fortunately, that vote did not happen.

By contrast, if you look at the way we have been accustomed to do business in the Parish Meeting, you will see a different process – the most recent example being consultation leading to the hydro project:

12th December 2007 – first discussion of the topic at the Parish Meeting.

17th December 2007 – ad hoc meeting to discuss the composition of a parish newsletter to be circulated.

21st January 2008 – extraordinary Parish Meeting which discussed both verbal and written responses to the newsletter. Appointment of a steering group to move the project forward.

This was a fully consulted democratic process which took place over a period of almost 6 weeks.

I am quite aware of changes which are taking place and that the Parish Meeting must adapt to them. I believe that our present Parish Meeting structure has the ability to do this by the appointment of individuals to take on specific issues as they arise. With our present structure everyone can take part in decision making in the valley, which is carried out openly during the meetings, and policy proposals are not being formulated behind closed doors.

My suggestion is that the best way we can ensure that our voices are heard, is to leave the Parish Meeting as it is. We already have appointed representatives to deal with Highways, Finances, TV scheme and LAP. All these people report regularly to the Parish Meeting and we can add to the list as the need arises.

Proposal

That the structure of the Parish Meeting remain unchanged, without the election of a committee, but with the appointment of representatives who would be responsible for specific issues, which may arise from time to time, and report to the Parish Meeting, and residents regularly.

Proposed by: Nicholas Pighills

Seconded by:

Voting on the Proposals

The national government has a postal voting system whereby those who cannot attend a polling station can still register their vote. I am sure that the KPM would not wish to be seen to be less democratic, and so I encourage those who are working on the evening of the 15th May or who cannot attend for other reasons, to submit their written vote to the Parish Meeting Chairman.

Nicholas Pighills 1st June 2011