

## **Kentmere Parish Meeting 16 June 2011**

Dear Parishioners,

Attached is a response to the proposals for consideration at the meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June. This should be read in conjunction with the papers originally sent out for Annual Meeting and circulated again last week.

Whilst it is not my place to comment on the content of this response I have to point out that although I have a lot of sympathy with Nick's last paragraph, the Parish Meeting is not allowed to accept postal votes or proxies. Decisions of the Parish Meeting can only be taken by those Local Government Electors present at the meeting. I am happy receive any submissions for or against the proposals either written or spoken and these will be included in any discussion at the meeting. But if you wish your vote to be counted, I urge you to come to the meeting. If you have any problem accessing the attachment to this email please let me know.

To assist discussion and voting at the meeting I have prepared some questions of the type that may have occurred to you and I have given some answers. These matters can, of course, be aired again at the meeting should you wish.

### **Q1. Would the new proposals change the way in which the Parish Meetings are held?**

A1. No. The only changes will be concerned with the notice of the meetings where résumés of information received by the Parish and issues arising could be circulated before the meetings, so that electors are better informed. This is happening already. There is also an intention to determine the dates of each of the bi-annual meetings well in advance and at least by the end of the preceding meeting.

### **Q2. Are the proposals irrevocable?**

A2. No. If the proposals are adopted they can be amended or revoked at any subsequent meeting.

### **Q3. Would the proposed "committee" take decisions on behalf of the Parish Meeting?**

A3. No. Decisions of the Parish Meeting are taken by those Local Government Electors present at the advertised public meetings. The Parish Meeting can, however, decide that certain actions, but not decisions, could be delegated to designated persons either on an ad hoc basis or as a form of standing order.

### **Q4. How will information be circulated in the Parish?**

A4. It is intended that all electors can either opt to receive information electronically or else request hand delivery of all papers. As the great majority of information in local government is now circulated electronically this would be the preferred method for the future if possible.

### **Q5. If electors think that any issue is important enough to have a meeting before the next bi-annual Parish Meeting what can be done?**

A5. The normal position will be that during the year the Chairman will receive information some of which will be of significance to the parish and he will circulate that either to everyone or to those electors who are most likely to be affected (e.g. planning issues). On occasion, where the matter is both important and requires rapid action, this may include calling a Parish Meeting. If, however, any electors feel concern about issues affecting the parish, then as long as at least six electors agree and make the request, an additional Parish Meeting will be called to discuss them.

Iain Johnston

[parishchairman@kentmere.org](mailto:parishchairman@kentmere.org)