

KENTMERE PARISH MEETING

Minutes of Kentmere Parish Meeting held on Monday, 14th May, 2012, in Kentmere Institute at 7.30 p.m.

Preliminary: A newsletter had been sent out to residents in February, 2012. As before the chairman showed the Agenda on a projector.

Present: Iain Johnston (chairman), Maureen Baldwin, Jackie Bettess, Pete Bettess, Max Biden, Clara Black, Mick Booth, Hazel Brownlow, Stan Collins, Robert Courtier, Hilary Fry, Christopher Gregory, Shirley Gregory, Edward Harrison, Margaret Harrison, Steve Haywood, Christine Hevey, Tom Howarth (PCSO 5265 Cumbria Constabulary), Sandra Johnston, Carol Lansberry, Peter Lansberry, Robert Ridley, Rosamund Ridley, Jim Sharp, and Jim Stilling. (23 residents)

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from: Maggie Biden, Christine Booth, Christine Cohen, Clare Courtier, Kathie Fry, Christina Haywood, Eve Pennell, Jack Pennell, Jackie Strickland, Jean Sturgis, Tim Sturgis, Gay Talbot, Keith Talbot, Andrew Williams and Anne Williams. (15 residents)
2. **Election of Officers – Chairman, Vice Chairman, Clerk, three support persons and the Internal Auditor.** Details had been circulated in document [KPM20120514-D1.pdf](#). The nominations received had been: Parish Chairman - Iain Johnston, Vice Chairman – Peter Lansberry, Clerk – Pete Bettess, support team – Jackie Bettess, Robert Courtier and Christine Hevey. There being no objections or other nominations the nominees were duly elected by the Meeting.
3. **People of Kentmere** Jan Booth, of Hartrigg, has been chosen to carry the Olympic Torch at Bowness on 21st June, because she is the chairman of the Cumbria Young Farmers. The chairman sent congratulations from the Parish Meeting. As noted in the Newsletter, sent out in February, Bridget Foster, (Christine's daughter), and Jamie Blood became engaged last Christmas and two new residents have moved into Low Yeat. Their names are David Capps and Susan Taylor.
4. **Minutes of Parish Meeting held on 11th November, 2011.** These had already been circulated and several residents had submitted corrections. A second unapproved version of the minutes had then been circulated. Copies were also available at this meeting. The chairman asked if there were any further corrections. None were forthcoming. Hazel Brownlow proposed that the minutes be approved and this was seconded by Hilary Fry and **agreed by the meeting**. Copies of the February newsletter are available.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes.**
 - 5.1. *Minute Book* The chairman stated that he had been in touch with the Record Office and there was an on-going discussion of how best to copy the old minute book. It seemed better to photograph it, rather than photocopy it, as that might result in some damage to the binding. The price would be 5p a page to photocopy the book which was a modest expense. The intention was to have the entire book available on a disc for anyone to access. When this was complete it was hoped to have a simple ceremony to mark the handover of the minute book to the Kendal Record Office.
 - 5.2. *Localism Bill and Parish Plan* Peter Lansberry reported that the bill had received royal assent at the beginning of 2012. Because of the Localism Bill, Kentmere has the opportunity to write its own Parish Plan. Staveley already has a Parish Plan. Iain recommended that we should write our own plan because otherwise we are simply subject to the Lake District National Park (LDNP) plan. The Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) had set up meetings and Peter Lansberry has

attended one. The kind of thing that we *might* mention in our plan is whether buildings should be slate or roughcast or glass. Our plan cannot conflict with the LDNP plan. Rosamund Ridley pointed out the inconsistent messages that we receive from different planners on planning issues. They do not speak with one voice. It was agreed that this was a problem.

6. Reports

- 6.1. *Upper Kent Local Area Partnership (UKLAP)* The chairman stated that there had been a poorly attended meeting of the UKLAP on 8th February, 2012 at Skelsmergh. The weather had been poor. John Farmer of Longsleddale was elected chairman for a further six months, though he was keen to step down. It was planned to have a roster of parishes with a rolling chairman. Of the various parishes, Staveley with Ings and Kentmere seemed the best organised. Various grants had been awarded. Skelsmergh had had acoustics equipment (boards to absorb the echo) delivered for their hall, and heating equipment. It was noted that Selside Memorial Hall also has poor acoustics and ineffective heating. New Hutton had had a new notice board supplied. It was suggested that an application from the 'Big Onion' in Staveley for funds should be passed to the Upper Kent Forum. There was a report on broadband. The flooding in Barrows Green was discussed and a lot of issues relating to highways were raised. Surplus funds had been earmarked for more salt bins.
- 6.2. *Highways*. Robert Courtier spoke to his written report ([KPM20120514-D2.pdf](#)) which had been circulated. He reported that the number of patches applied to the road surface had markedly increased this year such that more had been done to Kentmere Road in two months than in the previous two years. It has been difficult to get Cumbria Highways yet to fully relate to an initiative from UKLAP as a way forward to improve delivery of service. In discussion, Cumbria Highways' *Better Highways* Manager had offered that they would undertake to complete six priorities per parish per year. Robert thought that if this was done over a matter of about four years substantial improvements could be achieved. At the next UKLAP a trial proposal by Robert as to a method of prioritising and monitoring will be put forward for agreement to take forward to Cumbria Highways. There is significant support, particularly from Staveley. Robert drew attention to the emergency number in his report. He asked residents to use this only for genuine emergencies but to go through him for routine problems. He would check to see if the work was in the agreed schedule and if not he would arrange to have it fitted in. Robert reported that another salt bin had been approved and that it would be delivered later in 2012. The system all included the delivery of bulk salt to the factory and which would then be applied to the road by Hollingsworth and Vose. Max Biden asked if the salt would be under cover at the factory. Robert understood that it would be. Robert had asked the council to confirm that they would deliver salt before bad weather, but he was told that the *Core Gritting Group* make a decision to release salt after the onset of bad weather. (Robert's informal comment was that they don't want to let the salt out of their control!) Robert then dealt with the blocked drain at Pool Scar, which looks as though it will be a long term problem. The drain has become blocked after about 150 years, mainly from tree roots. The Environment Agency would have to accept that the water can go into the fields and agreement has to be sought from the relevant land owners. At the end of the report there were no questions and Robert was thanked by the chairman.
- 6.3. *Neighbourhood Watch* The chairman introduced Tom Haworth, our PCSO who spoke to this item. Peter Lansberry will administer the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Tom had managed to obtain ten outdoor Neighbourhood Watch notices for Kentmere, out of a total available of 72. They will be free, although usually they cost 30. We have a few sites in mind round Kentmere. Tom will set up the Kentmere

Neighbourhood Watch scheme on the new police system. He will distribute information on how to sign up for Neighbourhood Watch and stickers for windows. Kentmere had the option to be in the scheme and the meeting was asked for its decision. It was proposed by Max that Kentmere have a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and this was seconded by Robert Courtier. This was agreed on a show of hands. **Agreed: Kentmere to have Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.**

- 6.4. *Finance* Peter Lansberry, spoke to this item. Copies of the concise accounts had been distributed to residents ([KPM20120514-D3.pdf](#)). The income of Kentmere Parish was £1,700 and we have spent £1,600. Peter showed the official version of the accounts which have to be submitted on the approved form which contains a large number of pages. The concise accounts circulated are a summary of the official form. Christopher proposed that the accounts should be accepted and Jim Stilling seconded this. The proposal was accepted by the meeting. **Agreed The Kentmere Parish Meeting Accounts be accepted.** Peter stated that we have *Rules of Governance* which anybody can see on application to him. This confirms that we have no body suing us or a huge trust fund, for example. The internal audit report has been signed by Jackie Strickland and it will go to the external auditor. They may have comments for which we will have to wait and see. Peter asked if the meeting wished to renew our membership of the Cumbrian Association of Local Councils (CALC). Christopher Gregory asked who they were. Peter and the chairman explained that they have an office in Penrith and we can telephone them and ask for advice. Both felt that it was useful for Kentmere Parish Meeting to be a member. **The meeting agreed that we should renew our subscription to CALC.**
- 6.5. *Broadband* Jackie Bettess gave an oral report. On 14th June, 2012 the Council should take a decision on the preferred supplier. The contract will be signed in September, 2012 and the roll-out should start in December, 2012. Kentmere is unlikely to get anything in the first tranche. Jackie reported that BT Openreach had come to a meeting organised by Lakeland Limited. Openreach are going to upgrade the telephone exchange in Kendal but there are no plans to upgrade the rural exchanges, such as Staveley. The chairman pointed out that nowadays everything has to be done on the internet. For example farmers are required to fill in returns on websites. It seems very unfair that ministries insist on the use of the internet, when it is not available in rural areas. In an aside he remarked that there was a similar problem with mobile telephone reception. The chairman asked Stan Collins if there was any progress on broadband. Stan Collins replied that he was not optimistic of any progress. He had raised the matter in London with various government departments, but they regarded Surrey as rural! The chairman remarked that he had had the similar problems with small rural schools.
- 6.6. *Kentmere First Responders* Jim Stilling gave an oral report. There had been no call-outs since the last meeting. Maureen Baldwin was going to stand down as an active responder, but would continue to assist the group. The chairman asked how many active responders we have. Jim replied that we have 8 and a couple of possible new recruits. The training defibrillators were available for inspection at the meeting as were the two training mannequins. The group has recently purchased a 'choking vest' which enables responders to practise the manoeuvre to remove any material from the throat by giving an upward jerk below the rib cage. This was ably demonstrated by Jim Stilling.
- 6.7. *Television for Kentmere (TfK)* A written report by Max Biden ([KPM20120514-D4.pdf](#)) had been circulated to residents. Max thanked residents for the good response to the questionnaire with two thirds of households responding. 14 households rely on the scheme which is 25% of the community. Some houses have no access to satellite signals. The possibility of a TV scheme for the valley was first raised at the 1984 Parish AGM and the scheme got under way in 1985. New residents often ask

if they need to subscribe to the scheme - the answer is "Yes they do, if their TV aerial points to the TfK Kentmere Park or Brockstones transmitter aerials." The subscription rate has been retained at £25 for 2012 and payment would be welcome as soon as possible. There were no questions. The chairman said that the scheme was of enormous benefit to Kentmere.

- 6.8. *Kentmere Institute* A written report by Christine Hevey ([KPM20120514-D5.pdf](#)) had been circulated to residents. Christine asked people not to stick notices on the door of the Institute as it could damage the recently applied varnish. It was planned to put insulation in the Institute roof before redecoration of the interior. A resident asked if this would change the internal appearance. The insulation would be placed between the trusses or beams. This would then be covered by plasterboard which would be painted. It is hoped that this will stop dirt coming in and keep the interior warmer. It is hoped that it will not give rise to damp, as the interior is well ventilated. The chairman said that if more ventilation were required we could consider a solar powered fan to suck air out of the Institute. This would keep the air drier and make the Institute easier to heat. He also remarked that we have the money from grants from the Neighbourhood Forum and UKLAP towards the paint for an interior decoration, after the insulation has been installed.
7. *Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen* The chairman said that he had received suggestions falling into the categories of **Having Fun** and **A Memorial**. **Fun:** A conventional street party is not feasible in Kentmere. It was suggested that we could have a barbeque or a safari day. On the Golden Jubilee there had been an event which moved round Kentmere, with morning coffee, main course for lunch and pudding at different locations. It was suggested that something similar could be organised for the diamond jubilee. The chairman proposed that Hazel Brownlow form a committee to take this forward, with a view to a day later in the year. **This was agreed by the meeting.** Clara Black suggested that we should have a childrens' afternoon, now that we have more children in the valley. **This was agreed by the meeting.** **Memorial:** Several possibilities had been mooted including:
- Another seat by the tower and west wall of St. Cuthbert's.
 - To create a history of each property in Kentmere including when it was built, who had lived there and any alterations, to be pulled into a history of the buildings in the valley.
 - To ring the bell at St. Cuthbert's and to use this as a fund raising exercise. Max Biden said it is hoped that as many church bells across the nation as possible will be rung from 8am on the opening day of the 2012 Olympics (27th July). It is suggested that we could auction opportunities for anyone to ring St Cuthbert's bell. A total of 10 minutes could be split between the number of applicants, or say 20 applicants could ring for 30 seconds each. This would be a unique opportunity for residents and might be particularly appealing to children [*no pun intended*]. However, at the moment the St. Cuthbert's bell was not in a fit state to ring. Max and Robert Courtier had inspected the bell and photographed it. The bell has a distorted axis but it was thought that it might be possible to correct this relatively easily. The chairman agreed to see a blacksmith about the state of the bell.
 - More seats and paint the railings near the church.
8. *Oil Thefts and report from Tom Howarth, PCSO.* There have been reports of oil thefts in Longsleddale and in Kentmere. Tom was doubtful about whether all the reported thefts of oil are genuine, due to questions relating to management of fuel being inconclusive, apparent loss of heating oil may be due to poor accounting, excessive use or an inefficient boiler or Aga. Especially in the case of absentee owners and holiday cottages, However thefts do occur. Tom gave some advice about oil. He made some recommendations:

- Keep installations out of sight
- Use a trellis with a hostile plant to deter thieves
- Locks are not a particularly good idea as thieves will drill holes and cause leaks. This means the expense of repairing the damage and possible problems with pollution. Use heavy duty cable ties to secure tanks this allows signs of tampering to be seen and the tank to be secure to all but prepared criminals.
- Check oil usage regularly
- Use a flow gauge which gives out an alarm if consumption is excessive. .

You can have the security of your house and oil installation checked by the police, phone Cumbria Police on 101 and ask to be put through to Terry Belshaw at Kendal Police station, Terry is the Crime Prevention officer. He also reported that in the wider area there have been flood warnings and a red deer carcass was found in the reservoir. This is thought to have been natural causes, rather than being killed by poaching. There has been a case of a hire car which had not been ordered by the farmer, arriving at a farm. The PCSOs have a new Inspector, Paul Latham who knows the area and is proactive. There also have a new sergeant, Paul Mellard. The chairman thanked Tom Howarth for his services.

9. *Parking* A resident had asked if it was possible to prevent parking between Hellwell Lane and Cross Howe. Jackie Bettess commented that sometimes *all* the passing places are filled with cars. Tom Howarth sometimes finds cars from the community parked in silly places. Tom Howarth showed us a Police Warning Notice which is given out to drivers who have parked in inconvenient places. The Community Officer use as a guide that an 8 feet wide gap needs to be left for delivery trucks, rising to 9 feet at corners. There is no excuse for inconsiderate parking. If necessary the police can remove a car to Crooklands and impound it until a release fee is paid. If residents have problems with bad parking they can telephone 101 and if any policeman is available they may be able to come up to Kentmere. Clara Black asked what people are supposed to do if they break down. Peter Lansberry asked how long they had been handing out the warning notices. Tom replied about a year. The chairman asked if yellow lines were possible. Both Tom Howarth and Max Biden thought that this was not feasible, as there are no traffic wardens to enforce them. Stan Collins thought that it was worth pointing out to drivers that if you park badly you might get a ticket and moreover, points on your licence. The chairman said that in his experience you get two kinds of response which are very agreeable or very aggressive. Robert Courtier asked if it is possible to put up non-enforceable notices. It was felt that this might work. Parkers are like lemmings; when someone parks inconsiderately, others follow. Clara Black said that the meeting had a dog in the manger attitude and asked where we all parked when we went on holiday to other country areas. There followed several amusing anecdotes about parking problems and drivers who were loath to back their cars on single track roads.
10. *Reeds in the Kentmere valley.* This item had been raised by residents who were not able to attend the meeting. Clara Black pointed out that technically the plants are rushes, not reeds. The chairman said that we need to talk to the people who own the relevant fields. Margaret pointed out that there were rules about cutting down the rushes. Clara Black said that it would be desirable to lower the bed of the River Kent by the factory to remove more water from the low lying land. She also remarked that there are many seeds in the rushes. The item was then deferred.
11. *Any Other Business*
12. *Kentmere Polling Station* Stan Collins said that if too many people vote by post, the Kentmere Polling Station might well be closed. At the recent local elections only 33

voters used the voting station. His message was 'use it or lose it.' If you want to retain a polling station, don't use a postal vote.

13. *Upper Kent Neighbourhood Forum.* The next forum will be held here in the Kentmere Institute on 10th July, 2012. All residents are free to attend.
14. *Electricity Outage* Kentmere has had many electricity outages in the last eighteen months. The chairman had written to Electricity North West (ENW) to complain in particular about the latest outage, because the statutory notice of 48 hours had not been adhered to. The chairman reported that ENW had telephoned this day and anybody in the Kentmere who was inconvenienced could claim a refund £25. This rises to £50 for commercial organisations. He gave the telephone number for residents to telephone and the reference to use. (Note added by clerk – Pete and Jackie got their refund but only after a struggle. Hope others were as lucky.)
15. *Himalayan Balsam* Max Biden reported on further attempts to eradicate Himalayan Balsam in the area. Work parties to eradicate the weed were being organised by The Friends of the Lake District, Jim Sharp and Janet Antrobus. The fishermen at Kentmere Tarn are co-operating and it was hoped to spray all this side of the fishery.
16. *Date of next meeting* This was provisionally set for Monday, 5th November, 2012, at 7.30 pm at the Kentmere Institute. Details would be circulated later.
17. The meeting closed at 9 pm and some residents stayed for refreshments and networking.