

Annual Assembly of the Kentmere Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th May 2015 at 7.30pm

Present:

Iain Johnston (Chairman), Jackie Green (Clerk), Jackie Bettess, Peter Bettess, Robert Courtier, Clare Courtier, Steph McIvor, Sally Allen, Ian McIvor, Sandra Johnston, Carol Lansberry, Jim Stilling, Maureen Baldwin, Maggie Biden, Clara Black Kathie Fry, Hilary Fry, Peter Lansberry, Roger Dewhurst, Tim Sturgis, Jean Sturgis, Hazel Brownlow, Christine Hevey, Max Biden, Andrew Yeats, Stan Collins (SLDC and CCC Councillor).

1. **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed residents to the Annual Assembly, in particular the new residents now included into Kentmere Parish.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Rosamund Ridley, Robert Ridley

3. **Police Community Support Officer**

There was no PCSO in attendance or report received.

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2014**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

5. **Matters arising from the minutes of 18th November 2014**

The Chairman agreed to action:

- (i) the purchase of a microphone for use by the parish meeting;
and
- (ii) the fencing opposite the church (repair and decorate?).

6. **People of Kentmere**

The new residents at Beald Head, Hallowbank are Annalese Rigby and Richard Moray. The sale of Longhouses is in progress to a family resident in London. Philip and Jennifer Dawson left the valley earlier in the year. Sylvia Aitkin, formerly of Millriggs, has died.

7. **Annual Parish Reports**

7.1 Finance

Peter Lansberry (responsible financial officer) presented the finance report for the year-end 31 March 2015, detailing budgeted and actual expenditure. The information to be submitted to the auditor for that financial year will be made available to residents. The accounts were approved by the parish meeting (proposed by Max Biden, Christine Hevey and Roger Dewhurst, all in favour). The chairman thanked Peter

Lansberry for his work as the RFO.

7.2 Highways

Robert Courier (RC) presented a verbal report on highways issues in the parish. General road condition issues were being dealt with on a routine basis through the cooperation with the new area steward, CCC. Water collection at the corner of the lane had been noted. There was discussion of a recent incident near Scroggs bridge caused by the coincidence of a number of lorries and private vehicles. There is no emergency plan should the bridge become inoperable. Following the discussion from the last meeting regarding signage at the Pound, RC proposed to the meeting that the wording should be:

No parking without permission.

Turning area for agricultural vehicles

The meeting agreed the wording and for the sign to be put in place. There was a discussion as to possible solutions to the recurring problem of vehicles turning right from High Brow lane towards Hallowbank. This has led to damage to the wall opposite from reversing vehicles and vehicles getting stuck on the curve. It was agreed that a 'no left turn' sign would probably be ignored. The possibility of reinstating the triangle of land/grass as was originally there or the fixing of a large boulder in that location to deter motorists, were both discussed but not agreed.

7.3 Broadband

Jackie Bettess (JB) presented a report on the latest status of the Connecting Cumbria programme and how it affects Kentmere. The report stressed the importance of having a fast broadband service both now and in the future; and put forward a proposal for an enhanced broadband solution for the valley, developed from the Dufton scheme. It would have to be a community lead and resourced scheme, albeit with some interest shown from local business users. The design specification and costs of the solution would need to be worked up through an initial feasibility study, using external advice and input. The cost of such a study would be around £1000, for which JB has had an offer of funding. The meeting agreed to undertake the feasibility study. The chairman thanked JB and Roger Dewhurst for their work on this project.

7.4 Upper Kent Local Area Partnership (UKLAP)

The chairman reported that, in the absence of any funding, the purpose of the UKLAP was to share issues and information between members and to lobby for responses to local needs. RC has set up a website for the 11 parishes to share highway issues, especially to make these visible to the local authority. Health services and access to these was another area of focus for the UKLAP.

7.5 Planning Notices

A compliance notice for the tree felling permission opposite the factory has been received, although the likelihood of any change/improvement to the entrance of the site is unlikely given the duration of the activity (5 years). Permissions for Bracken Loft and Low Yeat (porches) have been given and work undertaken. The sale of 1 Longhouses is awaiting changes to the use of the attached barn for animal pens.

7.6 Community Led Plan

The next stage of developing the CLP - seeking the input from the community via a questionnaire - will require funding and an application will be made to the local authority. The questionnaire will be put together by the parish team based on the original exercise and examples taken from plans in other similar areas.

8. Other village reports

8.1 Community First Responders (CFR)

Peter Bettess (PB) informed the meeting that there had been two call outs since the last meeting. A public access AED is being planned for Kentmere by the CFR group, based near the phone box at the institute. There may be external funding and using the group's own resources. The cost is likely to be in the region of £2000 for the AED and its secure box. Access to the public AED would be through calling 999 and getting a code from that service to open the secure box. Staveley already has this system in place. The CFR team has two AEDs for use by their service. PB thanked the Parish Meeting for its donation to the team.

8.2 Television for Kentmere

Max Biden (MB) reported that most of the contributing households in the valley had made their donations to the scheme for 2015/16, and expected the remainder to be received shortly.

8.3 (from 7.7 on the Agenda) St Cuthbert's Church

The chairman provided a brief history of the origins and subsequent works and alterations to the church building. The current church dates from 1866, although some of the internal furniture predates that. In particular, the chairman noted that the organ had been installed in 1911 and is one of the finest chamber organs in the area. As part of its overall responsibilities, the Diocese carried out its latest quinquennial inspection of St Cuthbert's in 2012 and identified that urgent work was needed on the roof. An application for funding was made to English Heritage, who has been keen to preserve the building. A grant of £95,000 has been approved by English Heritage, which requires match funding of £20,000. A further £10,000 is needed to fund the costs already incurred in investigating the work needed to the roof and putting that in a bid for grant. The church has a funding appeal for £30,000, against which £3,000 has already been donated. The chairman urged the community to support the roof appeal with ideas for generating funds and donations.

8.4 Stan Collins

Stan Collins (SC) requested that residents notify SLDC of any highway issues, suggesting that there was more funding in the budget for drainage problems. SC warned of recent cases of cold calling re. a mortgage scam and agreed to speak to Trading Standards to ensure that there was a route for reporting such incidents.

9. Election of Chairman and Parish Team

The chairman notified the Parish Meeting of his retirement from the post, in line with the Standing Orders for the Meeting. Peter Lansberry

was proposed by Ian Johnston and seconded by Max Biden, and agreed by the Meeting to be the next chair. PL holds the informal role of responsible financial officer for the Meeting and will continue with this post into the foreseeable future. The parish team, which assists the chair in his role, currently comprises Christine Hevey, Jackie Bettess, Jackie Strickland, Robert Courier and Jackie Green.

10. Any other business

Christine Hevey informed the Meeting of a letter received from SLDC re. water quality risk assessment analysis, to be carried out at her property. This had been sent to all businesses and those with shared water supplies. A report with recommendations to the owners will be produced (already received by the Outhwaite Bridge residents).

The Parish Meeting ended and was immediately followed by a special General meeting of the Kentmere Institute.

Peter Lansberry presented the paper circulated with the Parish Meeting agenda, regarding proposed changes to the constitution, in particular the arrangements for trustees holding the title deeds. It is now common practice for the Official Custodian to be named in the land title rather than individual trustees. This does not affect the ownership arrangements and the Official Custodian has no political interests.

Ian Johnston proposed that the Meeting accepts the changes to the constitution, by replacing clause 2(1) with the rewording presented in the report. This was seconded by Max Biden and accepted by the Meeting.