

Minutes of the assembly of the Kentmere Parish Meeting held in The Kentmere Institute at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 12th November 2018.

**Present:** Peter Lansberry (Chairman), Iain Johnston (Clerk) Richard Allen, Jackie Bettess, Max Biden, Tricia Broomby, Clare Courtier, Robert Courtier, Roger Dewhurst, Hilary and Kathie Fry, Sandra Johnston, Carol Lansberry, Ian and Steph McIvor, David and Sue Rowland, Jim Stilling and Andrew Yeats from the Parish, Chris Garner, Margaret Harrison, County Councillor Stan Collins and District Councillor Hazel Hodgson.

1. Peter Lansberry welcomed everybody to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Maureen Baldwin, Peter Bettess, Maggie Biden, Hazel Brownlow, Jackie Green, Christine Hevey, Stephen and Sheila Hirst, Robert and Rosamund Ridley, Jim Sharp and Tim Sturgis.
3. **There were no declarations of interest.**
9. **The chairman took agenda item 9. Planning** next. The meeting heard Mrs Broomby's reasons for asking for retrospective planning permission for a 'Shepherd's Hut' in her garden at Lowbridge. After a few questions Mrs Broomby and Mr Garner retired whilst the meeting considered the application. There were no objections and the meeting agreed that a letter of support should be sent to the Planning Office. Mrs Broomby returned to the meeting and thanked members for their support.
4. **Lake District National Park:** Mark Kidd, Chairman of Staveley Parish Council and National Park member for the Central and South East Area had been asked to attend the meeting but due to a clash of dates he was unable to take up the offer but will attend a future meeting.
5. **The Minutes** of the last meeting held on 14th May 2019: A draft copy had been circulated. It was agreed without objection to accept the minutes as a true record of that meeting.
6. **There were no Matters Arising** from those minutes other than matters to be discussing in the agenda.
7. **People of Kentmere:** The chairman welcomed Sue and David Rowland who have moved into the Old Mill. Mrs Anne Williams has moved to a residential home in Windermere after living in Kentmere since the late 1950s. The clerk showed a picture of pupils at the Kentmere School in the 1930s and reported that a number of photographs of Kentmere by Joseph Hardman had become available and a display of them would be mounted in the Institute. The pictures depicted sheep shearing at Bridgestone, Hartrigg, Kentmere Hall and Brockstones.
8. **Finance Report:**
  - 8.1 **Budget for 2019/20:** The chairman outlined the proposed budget for the coming year and explained the need for a new noticeboard and the plan to attach it to the wall of The Institute. He expressed thanks to Freddie Yeats who had worked to cut the grass and nettles in The Pound. There were no questions and without objection it was agreed to proceed with a budget of £1500 as indicated.
  - 8.2 **Risk Review:** The chairman pointed out that the Parish is required by the local government regulations to review the internal risks annually, and to minute that review.

The system of internal control requires that any expense not included in the Annual Budget and Precept are approved by the Parish Meeting. All payments are made by cheque, and each cheque requires two signatures. The financial position is reviewed when a new commitment is identified, and when cheques are written. That review includes a forward projection of known or expected financial commitments that the parish will be required to meet. It does not take account of other risks where the relevant authority is either SLDC, Cumbria CC or other service providers. It was agreed without objection to accept this review.

**8.3 Annual Audit:** The chairman explained the new system for audit which has started this year and that 'no response' was the preferred outcome and as we hadn't heard from the auditors we assume that all is well.

9. **Planning:** This item had been dealt with earlier in the agenda.

10. **Parish Reports:**

10.1 **Upper Kent Local Area Partnership:** Iain Johnston reported that the most recent meeting had been very poorly attended and that LAP seems to be losing its importance.

10.2 **Broadband:** Jackie Bettess outlined a proposed contract with BT OpenReach to provide better broadband coverage to properties in the parish which had been by-passed when the fibre was brought between Staveley and the green box at Pumple Syke. A Fibre Community Partnership is being explored with OpenReach to deliver broadband to those premises between Ulthwaite and Longhouses who wish to take part. Although there are 'vouchers' available through a Government scheme, there is still a cost which has to be met by those taking part. Openreach require a legal entity to sign the contract and the most obvious entity is the Parish Meeting. If it is agreed that the Parish Meeting can enter into the contract, it is planned that all monies due to Openreach will be paid into the Parish account before the contract is signed so that there is no possible risk to the Parish.

We are advised by South Lakes District Council legal officer that the contract with BT should be signed by three members of the Parish. A proposal was made: **The Parish Meeting should grant P R Lansberry (the Chairman), I W Johnston (the Parish Clerk) and Mrs J Bettess delegated authority to sign the contracts if and when they are agreed, providing the terms are substantially as outlined above.** This proposal was agreed without objection and carried.

10.3 **Highways:** Robert Courtier reported a clear improvement in the levels of communication with the Highways Authority and things are being done. The Hartrigg Road has had its initial work and is due to be sealed in the near future. It was commented that there is still a problem with water on the valley road and with winter approaching that could cause problems with ice. Cllr Stan Collins said that there were two machines being trialled to fill potholes on rural roads and there is a programme of drain clearing. He reiterating comments that the loss of 'lengthsmen' who were responsible for clearing drains has never been resolved and the problem of finding gullies in the overgrown verges is still an issue.

11. **Other Village Reports:**

11.1 **St Cuthbert's Church:** Iain Johnston (Churchwarden) gave a brief summary of the activities at the church during the last few months - the success of the once-a-month midweek Holy Communion service, the church's mission to sustain and support the valuable community spirit of Kentmere and an outline of some forthcoming events. He

said that the big project for the coming year is to develop the history of the church and the community of Kentmere. A Heritage Lottery Fund Sharing Grant has been made to undertake the work with assistance from Lancaster University. It is hope that the resulting study will enable the parish, other students and visitors to use the resources to further their knowledge and understanding of our heritage. Robert Courtier said that there was much work to be done searching through records and historical documents and the help of members of the parish would be much appreciated.

**11.2 Community First Responders:** Jim Stilling reported that the number of 1st Responders in Kentmere had dwindled even further and the present members would be standing down before the next annual training and assessment. The main reason for this was the extra burden being put on them by the ambulance service. He said that the defibrillator on the Institute would remain and the volunteers would be happy to help parishioners in any way should the need arise. A question was raised about the equipment in the valley. Jim replied that the equipment was no longer at Hallow Bank and although there is equipment at Low Bridge it may be redundant. It was agreed that the ambulance service was making greater demands and the 1st Responders were the casualties. The meeting expressed their thanks to Jim and the other Responders and regretted the ending of such a service whilst understanding the reasons. There were some enquiries from the floor asking for details of how to become a Responder. There were some comments about the communications problems in Kentmere with no mobile phone signal although Jim said it may be better when the new emergency services mast was erected.

**11.3 Police Report:** Despite emails and phone calls no communication had been received.

**There was no other business** and the meeting was closed with a reminder of the Parish Meeting Coffee Morning in Staveley Village Hall on Saturday 8th December.

**The next Assembly of the Parish Meeting will be on 13th May 2019**

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## **The Annual Meeting of The Kentmere Institute**

held in The Kentmere Institute immediately following the Parish Meeting  
on 12th November 2018

- 1. Apologies for absence** were received from Maureen Baldwin, Peter Bettess, Maggie Biden, Hazel Brownlow, Jackie Green, Christine Hevey, Stephen and Sheila Hirst, Robert and Rosamund Ridley, Jim Sharp, and Tim Sturgis..
- 2. There were no declarations of Interest.**
- 3. Annual Report and Accounts:** In the absence of the chairman Christine Hevey the reports were made by Iain Johnston (Treasurer) who said that the Institute was in good heart. The Financial statement showed that there was a balance some £16,000 in the bank accounts and with this the Trustees would be looking at ways of improving the building, making it more comfortable, improving the lighting, upgrading the kitchen (the

Kentmere Women's Institute have already donated a larger fridge), looking at the possibility of installing solar panels on the roof, installing wi-fi, installing a sound system with hearing loop and bringing the 100 year old building into the 21st century. Iain commented that the biggest problem was still the lack of parking space and asked for any further ideas for improving the facilities. The report was accepted by all present.

4. **Appointment of Trustees.** Iain asked the meeting to re-elect all of the existing Trustees and commented that they would be looking at amending the present constitution to make the committee structure more realistic and manageable. This was agreed by all present.

The meeting was closed and refreshments were served.