

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of The Kentmere Parish Meeting
held in The Kentmere Institute at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 13th May 2019.

Present: Peter Lansberry (Chairman), Iain Johnston (Clerk), Richard Allen, Maureen Baldwin, Jackie Bettess, Max and Maggie Biden, Tim Bolton, Patricia Broomby, Hazel Brownlow, Robert and Clare Courtier, Roger Dewhurst, Jackie Green, Christine Hevey, Stephen and Sheila Hirst, Sandra Johnston, Carol Lansberry, Ian and Steph McIvor, Jim Stilling (i.e approx 33% of the electoral role) and Hazel Hodgson (South Lakeland District District Councillor).

1. Peter Lansberry welcomed everybody to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Pete Bettess, Robert and Rosamund Ridley, Jim Sharp and Gay Talbot.
3. There were no **declarations of interest**.
4. **The minutes of the last meeting** held on 12th November 2018: a draft copy had been circulated. It was agreed without objection or amendment to accept the minutes as a correct record.
5. **There were no matters arising** from those minutes other than matters to be discussed elsewhere in the agenda.
6. **People of Kentmere:** The meeting recorded the recent death in Summerhill Nursing Home, Kendal, of Andrew Williams formerly of The Old Mill, Kentmere. Andrew had been born in Kentmere and had lived all of his life here.
7. **Finance Report**
 - 7.1 **Detailed Annual Accounts:** a copy of these had been circulated. The chairman explained some of the detail. There were no questions and the accounts were accepted without dissent.
 - 7.2 **Annual Governance Statement:** The chairman explained the minor changes to this statement since the previous year. All parishioners present were in favour.
 - 7.3 **Accounting Statements for 2018/19.** All parishioners present were in agreement with the chairman signing the document.
 - 7.4 **Approval of Audit Exemption:** The chairman explained that as the income and expenditure of the Parish Meeting were below £25,000, if we agreed to the exemption there would be no charge for the audit. All parishioners present were in favour.
 - 7.5 **Approval of payments:** The chairman asked the Meeting to sanction the payment of two cheques - one to St Cuthbert's Church for £420 in meeting the Parish's responsibilities towards the upkeep of the graveyard, and one to The Kentmere Institute for £400 in respect of the use of the premises throughout the year. These payments were approved by all parishioners present.
 - 7.6 **Parish Noticeboard:** It was explained that currently the parish had no official noticeboard as it should have. Negotiations with the trustees of the Institute had led to an agreement that a new noticeboard could be affixed to the outside of the Institute for both Parish and Institute use. The Parish would contribute towards the cost but the Trustees of the Institute had agreed to take responsibility for the noticeboard. The meeting agreed with the proposal and gave permission for up to

£580 to be spent. The final decision on costs would be made by the chairman, clerk and Christine Hevey (representing the Institute).

8. Elections

8.1 Election of Chairman: Peter Lansberry has been chairman for four years. The Standing Orders say that the chairman should hold the office for three years but there is the opportunity to increase this to five if necessary. The clerk asked the meeting if there were any other nominations for the post of chairman. As there were none the clerk asked the meeting to approve the appointment of Peter for another year. This was agreed by all present.

8.2 Election of Parish Clerk: It was agreed by all present that Iain Johnston should continue in this role for another year.

8.3 Election of the Parish Team - an ad hoc group of parishioners who support the chairman in his role. It was agreed that the team (Jackie Bettess, Robert Courtier, Jackie Green and Christine Hevey) should be re-elected en bloc.

8.4 Election of Internal Auditor. It was agreed that Max Biden should continue in this role.

9. **Planning:** There were no current planning matters to discuss.

10. Parish Reports:

10.1 Highways: Robert Courtier reported that the road to Hartrigg was due to be 'dressed'. He said that people had expressed concern about the edges of the road down the valley which in places had a significant drop off the roadway. Robert reported that the Highways Authority would take no responsibility for this despite the hazard. This could, of course lead to claims for damage to vehicles.

10.2 Salt bins. The chairman explained that we already had several salt bins which were provided by the appropriate authority some time ago. However in places where there are no salt bins the council simply leaves a heap of grit and salt. It is proposed that the parish should purchase two more salt bins for sites on Low Field Lane. The Meeting gave permission for up to £400 to be spent on these.

11. Other Village Reports:

11.1 St Cuthbert's Church: Max Biden reported that Iain Johnston had announced his intention to stand down next year from the post of churchwarden, a position he has held for many years. Max said that a vote of thanks was due to Iain for all of his work at the church which also includes playing the organ. He asked parishioners to consider who might be encouraged to replace Iain next Spring. Max also reported on the work in progress by a team in the valley, in conjunction with the History Dept at Lancaster University, to explore the history and development of the valley and church as a result of a sharing grant from English Heritage.

11.2 The Community First Responders: Jim Stilling reported that there was no change to the situation reported at the last meeting.

11.3 The Kentmere Institute: Iain Johnston explained the plans currently being formulated by the trustees of The Institute for a major upgrading including an upgraded kitchen, an improved water supply, new windows, an overhaul of the roof, the creation of two unisex toilets for the disabled, improved lighting and to seek ways of improving the parking. He explained that the Institute was being used more for private parties and this should be encouraged. Sheila Hirst then explained ideas for a ceilidh in August. This was met with enthusiasm. She also mentioned the idea of

starting a film club. The chairman announced that the Parish Meeting had been given a grant of £250 towards the cost of a projector. He commented that in the light of Sheila's remarks perhaps we should be looking at a more sophisticated projector and sound system. This would be raised with the trustees as part of the upgrading project and the Parish Meeting could make a donation towards such equipment. Max Biden suggested that in next year's budget we should increase the donation to the Institute in support of this. These comments all met with the meeting's approval. Steph MacIvor suggested that more use should be made of the website to advertise the Hall. Hazel Hodgson (SLDC) said that there were grants available for many of these projects as long as we could demonstrate the use, the need, etc., and that we should refer to her for advice when we know what we want.

11.4 **Police Liaison:** There had been no response to our request for a report.

12. **Any other business:**

12.1 **Hazel Hodgson** (SLDC) said that there was concern over blocked culverts and drains on the valley road and difficulty in solving the problems. It was pointed out that although there were problems with this all the way to Staveley many of them were not in this parish. There was general discussion mainly along the lines that the gulleys were emptied but the drains were never cleared and even some of the gulleys hadn't been attended to as they were overgrown with grass a hard to find. Hazel said that the Highways Authority had access to the appropriate machinery. She would follow up our concerns but we must keep up the pressure too.

12.2 **Television for Kentmere:** Max Biden reported that the scheme has been turned off and the electrical supply to the mast has been terminated . The next project is to dismantle the mast and equipment.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 9.05 p.m. and parishioners enjoyed discussion along with tea/coffee and delicious cakes.