

Minutes of Special Parish Meeting called to consider the proposed flood prevention scheme in Kentmere. The meeting was held by 'Zoom' on Tuesday 16th February 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Peter Lansberry (Parish Chairman), Iain Johnston (Parish Clerk), Richard Allen, Max and Maggie Biden, Tricia Broomby, Isabel Brunner, Dave and Sue Capps, Robert Cohen, Jo Colley, Helyn Connerr, James Cook, Ruth Corfield, Robert and Clare Courtier, Roger Dewhurst, Andrew Gay, Jackie Green, Vanessa Griffin, Alistair Hall, Amy Harrison, Margaret Harrison, George and Sarah Hayton, Christine Hevey, Andrea Hills, Steve and Sheila Hirst, Kate Holt, Carol Lansberry, Pat Malone, Richard Morey, Ian Mclvor, Liz Mackereth, Nicholas Pighills, Simon Racle, Dave and Sue Rowland, Chris Sanderson, Jim Sharp, Tim and Kate Whitley. (43)

Apologies for absence were received from Anne Hall and Gay Talbot

Introduction: Peter tried to fill in the story so far. Much of the detail is not known. Only the landowners have been informed of some of it. The Environment Agency had not informed the Parish Chairman of their plans. There had been no consultation, so we need to be asking questions. That seems to be the only way. In the end the LDNPA will have to consider the EA's proposals, but that might a long time in the future and too late for our purposes. The flood prevention scheme which has received a lot of criticism is already under way in Kendal. The issue does not just concern Kentmere as there are four significant rivers which converge just to the north of Kendal. A careful approach will have to be made to EA as we don't have any concrete proposals to consider, but it is hoped that the EA will be receptive to our concerns and suggestions.

The chairman asked if there were any thoughts about forming a group to lead the approach. Chris Sanderson agreed that a group should be formed to represent local and landowners'. For clarity the chairman noted that the proposed group should comprise Peter Lansberry, Amy Harrison, George Hayton, Jim Sharp (landowners likely to be affected by the scheme), Robert Courtier and Richard Allen (civil engineers). This group should garner local concerns and needs.

Jackie Green asked as we have had no information from EA, what dynamic will the group have to get information. Robert Cohen said that EA have a responsibility to undertake a proper consultation exercise. The Chairman responded that we may need to call upon Robert's expertise in these matters.

The chairman asked for appropriate comments, thoughts, concerns, etc. This can be done using a new email address which will be published in the day or so. A vote was taken and it was agreed that the group mentioned earlier in the meeting should be responsible for collating the list of concerns and providing feedback to the parish.

A question was asked about why residents had not been informed earlier. Jim Sharp responded that the EA had avoided communication with the parish and only the landowners had been informed and the Parish Chairman had not been aware until Amy Harrison's circular email at the beginning of February.

There was agreement that the 'group' should go ahead, sort out who would be chair, establish communication routes and circulate information from the Environment Agency.

As a final comment the Chairman thanks Nicholas Pighills for his interesting and very useful information and urged anybody who had any additional information about the valley, interesting snippets, of history, memories, etc. to add them to the Parish History archive which was begun by Jackie Bettess. Jim Sharp also asked if anybody had photographs of the tarn in flood especially at the time of Storm Desmond.

The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.