

KENTMERE PARISH MEETING

Minutes of Kentmere Parish Meeting held on Monday, 22nd April, 2013, in Kentmere Institute at 7.30 p.m.

Preliminary: As before the chairman showed the Agenda and other information on a projector.

Present: Iain Johnston (chairman), Jackie Bettess, Pete Bettess, Maureen Baldwin, Maggie Biden, Max Biden, Clara Black, Martin Boak (PCSO Cumbria Constabulary), Hazel Brownlow, Stan Collins (Councillor), Robert Courtier, Roger Dewhurst, Jackie Green, Christopher Gregory, Shirley Gregory, Edward Harrison, Margaret Harrison, Christine Hevey, Sandra Johnston, Carol Lansberry, Peter Lansberry, Robert Ridley, Rosamund Ridley, John Stephens (Sergeant, Cumbria Constabulary), and Yvonne Wilson. (23 residents)

- 1. Welcome** The chairman welcomed residents, councillor Stan Collins and the police sergeant and PCSOs to the meeting.
- 2. Apologies for absence** were received from: Christine Cohen, Clare Courtier, Hilary Fry, Kathie Fry, Jim Stilling, Jean Sturgis, Tim Sturgis, Andrew Williams and Anne Williams. (9 residents)
- 3. Election of Officers** A list of the nominations and seconds for the vacant posts had been circulated as KPM20130422-D1.pdf. For each post there was only one nomination. It was proposed by Hazel Brownlow and seconded by Max Biden that all the persons standing for office be elected and this was **agreed by the meeting**. The Parish Chairman, Iain Johnston and the Parish Clerk, Peter Bettess, gave notice that they would not be standing in 2014. The chairman urged residents to give some thought to successors.
- 4. Neighbourhood Policing Team** Sergeant John Stephens represented the Neighbourhood Policing Team, which had been re-organised since the last meeting. He introduced his colleague, PCSO Martin Boak. Sgt. John Stephens gave a short presentation on the organisation of policing in the area and also on crimes in the area. He is the Community Sergeant and his area extends as far as Sedbergh and Arnside. Our previous PCSOs, Tom Haworth and Alex Potter have become regular police officers. We now have three PCSOs. In addition to Martin Boak we have Jayne Park and Martin Hutchinson. In the wider area many categories of crime have fallen, though vehicle crime has increased. In Kentmere there have been 19 incidents including one crime of attempted burglary. The incidents included antisocial behaviour, a dog attacking sheep, hounds hunting foxes, parking, a fallen tree, five mountain rescue call-outs, and the church bell being rung in the middle of the night. In general, crime was very low in Kentmere. Sgt. Stephens urged residents to report any suspicious incidents. There had been three suspicious incidents, they involved a gun, a caravan and an abandoned car, but in general not a lot happened. The chairman raised the issue of cyclists at night with very high, very bright lights, which sometimes dazzled car drivers. Max Biden proposed that the meeting should minute its appreciation of the work of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and **this was agreed**. Sgt. Stephens and PCSO Boak then left as they had other commitments. Some email addresses: mark.hutchinson@cumbria.police.uk, jayne.park@cumbria.police.uk, martin.boak@cumbria.police.uk, kendalnpt@cumbria.police.uk, john.stephens@cumbria.police.uk.
- 5. People of Kentmere** The chairman welcomed Jackie Green and Roger Dewhurst, who had moved into Green Quarter House. The chairman showed a photograph which included a German PoW, who it turns out is now living in Arnside!

6. Minutes of Parish Meeting held on Thursday, 1st November, 2012. These had already been circulated and a correction had been made. Hard copies were also available at this meeting. The chairman asked if there were any further corrections. None were forthcoming. Robert Courtier proposed that the minutes be approved and this was seconded by Maureen Baldwin and **agreed by the meeting**. Electronic versions of the minutes (KPM20121101-M.pdf) are also available from the clerk and on the web site: www.kentmere.org.

7. Matters arising from the minutes.

- 7.1. **Parish Plan** The chairman reminded the meeting that we need to organise something and mentioned the survey and the exercise using Post-It notes. He reported that we are being urged to formulate a Parish Plan. It would be useful to draw together the thoughts of residents. For instance an input might be that 'I wish someone would come up and do our feet.' There should be broadband in the Parish Plan. It will cost money to develop a Parish Plan, but some funds are available for this purpose. Max Biden told the meeting that Staveley with Ings had a Parish Plan which was interesting and informative to look at on their website. The chairman added that Longsleddale also have one. Stan Collins asked about other communities.
- 7.2. **Planning Application 7/2012/5529** *Create a temporary access and a hardstanding pad.* Details were given in the minutes of the previous meeting, and were to be found at <http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/planning>. (Post meeting note: withdrawn.)
- 7.3. **Planning Application 7/2013/5159**, *Covered yard for sheep handling at Boundary Beck.* Details can be found at: <http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/planning>, (Post meeting note: granted 22nd April, 2013).
- 7.4. **Planning Application 7/2013/5113**, *Replacement directional sign, Hollingsworth and Vose Air Filtration Ltd.*, Details can be found at: <http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/planning>, (Post meeting note: granted 3rd May, 2013)
- 7.5. **TfK – Television for Kentmere** Max Biden reported that the accounts for 2012 were in the course of preparation and that subscriptions for 2013 would be requested when these were circulated. In the meantime, there was nothing significant to report.
- 7.6. **BT – British Telecom.** The chairman reported that he had written a letter to BT about television services. They telephoned back after receiving the letter. BT's response was that we could subscribe to BT Infinity. Iain raised the problem of the cabling up the valley. After that BT were quiet about the cabling.

8. Reports

- 8.1. **Finance** A report had been circulated as KPM20130422-D6.pdf. Peter Lansberry stated that we had had a substantial income. UKLAP had paid for the new road signs. Peter Lansberry has the form for auditing our accounts and this will be available from 13th May. If residents wish to inspect it, can they please contact Peter Lansberry. The window of opportunity to see the documents is from 13th May to 10th June. The precept is the same as last year. He has still not been informed as to whether the precept has been agreed, but he hopes that agreement will arrive soon. Peter Lansberry is not sure of the snow clearance situation, but he hopes that we will not have to pay more than £500 this year. Hazel Brownlow asked if we were 'clear'. Peter Lansberry replied that we still have £79 to pay. Also Stephen Raven has not sent in a new bill, or indeed cashed the last cheque. Max Biden proposed that the accounts be accepted and this was seconded by Christopher Gregory and passed *nem. con.*
- 8.2. **Broadband** Jackie Bettess had circulated a written report as KPM20130422-D4.pdf, and she spoke to it. The CCC project is only moving very slowly and the CCC have still not had official approval from the EU. Stan Collins also felt that progress was

very slow. He had discussed this with officials at DEFRA and Cumbria is actually at the front in broadband issues. Some counties will not have done anything by the time the entire project ends in 2015. Stan Collins said that we should prepare bids. Mention was made of the BARN project in North Lancashire, which is connecting a lot of remote users to extremely fast broadband. Jackie Bettess said that one of the problems was that most Kentmere residents who wanted broadband had some kind of service, even if it was very slow. Few residents wanted to pay a lot more to have a very fast service. If there was no will to pay more, then little would change. The BARN scheme had been put in place for residents who had no broadband access at all. In order to have a better service in Kentmere it would be necessary to upgrade the Staveley telephone exchange. But BT regard the upgrade of the exchange as not commercially viable. The chairman commented that it was unreasonable of the authorities to insist on farms making returns electronically, and yet not to provide a decent broadband service. Peter Lansberry made a similar point about tax programs.

8.3. Highways –

8.3.1. **Valley Road** Robert Courtier had circulated a written report as KPM20130422-D2.pdf, and he spoke to this. A system had been agreed through UKLAP which gave each area six priorities for road maintenance per year as seen by each parish. Unfortunately the communication system does not function well and Cumbria Highways do not take sufficient notice of what has been agreed. They had been told about the Fellfoot defects (which caused several punctures in late December, 2012) but did nothing about them. Two claims have been put in for compensation to the Council. Despite the lack of communication Cumbria Highways have done everything agreed so far. They are currently spending £10,000 on underlay on the valley road. The next stage will be more disruptive, as they plan to spend £30,000 on top dressing the road. Robert has been trying to find out when this will happen. It is difficult to get information from Cumbria Highways. The ganger in charge of the surfacing of the road knew nothing about the hole at Pool Scar! Hazel Brownlow commented that the hole at Pool Scar is dangerous. The chairman commented that Robert has been instrumental in driving this work forward. Robert pointed out that there is a single web site for all the road problems, for the several parishes which are following the UKLAP pro-forma method of notification. This is at: <http://www.staveleywithingspc.co.uk/upper-kent-lap>. From this web page the spreadsheet dealing with Kentmere can be accessed, as can those for the other parishes in the UKLAP.

8.3.2. **Signage for Hollingsworth and Vose** Robert Courtier had circulated a written reports as KPM20130422-D2.pdf, and he spoke to this. Hollingsworth and Vose will put up a new sign beside their turn-off and there will also be a new sign further down the valley. They had applied for planning permission for the main one, as it is on their land and not the highway. A picture of Robert's was displayed on the screen. The Hollingsworth and Vose proposal is very similar to this. A further sign – referred to as the 'Valley sign' is also to be erected through Cumbria Highways. Robert had prepared four possible layouts for this other sign following comments made at the last Parish meeting together with other comments. These four options had been placed on the table at the side of the meeting. Residents were asked to put indicate their preferences after the meeting, by putting them in order of preference. (Note from Robert after meeting: After distribution of votes for choices, the vote was a majority in favour of Option 1 with wording: **Single Track Road - Be prepared to reverse - Few passing places**. This wording will now be taken to Cumbria Highways for final approval and action.)

- 8.3.3. **Unstable condition of roads** Robert pointed out that the road at Crag Quarter, just before the turn off up to Heads Cottage was showing signs of becoming unstable and that the road and retaining wall might well collapse sometime in the near future. There are other sites in the valley where failures might also well occur due to movement over time. He mentioned the high retaining wall close to the Ulthwaite Bridge turn off as a site which might cause problems. He asked residents to tell him off any locations where they perceived problems might be developing. Successful action can be taken in these circumstances, as was done with the Black Beck culvert.
- 8.3.4. **Thanks to Robert Courtier** *Jackie Bettess proposed a vote of thanks to Robert for the enormous amount of time, effort and expertise that he had brought to the roads problems. This was carried by acclaim.*
- 8.3.5. **Comments on Highways Issues by local councillor** Stan Collins said that he had experienced the similar problems with the highways people. The department was still not set up to cope with a limited budget. He speculated that there were perhaps too many administrators and too few people actually working on the ground. He gave an example of where a defect had been brought to the attention of the department but nothing had been done. The subsequent collapse had required extremely expensive emergency remedial action. 'A stitch in time saves nine'. A cultural change was required.
- 8.3.6. **Parking arrangements in Staveley** Stan Collins brought this to the attention of the meeting as it impinged on Kentmere residents, even though we are not in the parish. Yellow lines and double yellow lines are being proposed. The area by the shops could have parking limited to one or two hours. The shop keepers are in favour. Sensible people would not park there anyway. Recently the bus had had to reverse and turn back after twenty minutes, because of parking obstructions. In the end it had to leave the village by the way in which it had come. There had been complaint from the bus company. It was proposed to restrict parking near Kentmere Limited and near the church between 8 am and 4 pm. There were some problems with school parking. It was proposed to restrict parking in station road. The 30 mph speed limit would be extended over Barley Bridge to the last of the contiguous houses. Plans of the proposed changes had been tabled at the meeting. Residents were invited to inspect them and to send comments on the proposals to Victoria Upton, County Hall, Kendal.
- 8.4. **Institute and relation to Parish Meeting.** Peter Lansberry had circulated a paper on this topic, KPM20130422-D7.pdf, which he spoke to. Under present rules the Parish Meeting can nominate one committee member. This type of structure was common forty years ago, but is not common now. There are many parties which have the power to nominate committee members. All are currently being asked if they ought to give up the right to nominate representatives. The current structure is unwieldy and often representatives do not turn up to meetings. There are two sets of trustees, nominated and elected, and twelve in all. It is better to have fewer, more active trustees. *Peter Lansberry proposed that the Parish Meeting should give up its right to nominate a trustee. This was seconded by Robert Courtier and was carried by general agreement.*
- 8.5. **UKLAP** (Upper Kent Local Area Partnership) The chairman, Iain Johnston, informed the meeting that he is currently chairman of UKLAP. It has spent just over £10,000. He read out a list of items of expenditure. Kentmere were awarded £300 for a warning sign. The grit bins have cost £2,600 to date. Stan Collins has purchased a speed indicator device to measure the speed of vehicles, which is available for parishes to use. The chairman remarked, with just a hint of sarcasm, that the council should take a survey of the number of vehicles using the valley road, *and not lose the results.* Money had also been provided to parishes to create web sites. The LAP were running a training day, to assist parishes in creating parish plans. Stan Collins is helping to fund two Village Agents operating for **AgeUK**. He asked the

chairman to send copies of items for the Parish Plan in case the agent can help. There were lots of health problems arising from lack of mobility in the aged. Chiropody is very important.

9. SLDC Community Governance Review A paper had been circulated by the chairman, KPM20130422-D5.pdf and he outlined the contents. The intention was to look at the geography of the wards and parishes and to see if there were any anomalies. The anomalies are mostly in towns. However the chairman noted two anomalies around Kentmere. Croft Head and Ulthwaite Fold are both in the Ings (Hugill) Parish. It had been suggested that they might be better in Kentmere. Another anomaly was Millriggs and Boundary Beck, which are in the Staveley Parish. All these places have much closer links to Kentmere than the parishes in which they are currently situated. The Kentmere Institute was built due to the initiative of people at Millriggs, and yet they were not in the Kentmere Parish. Maureen Baldwin asked whether Sawmill Cottage was in Kentmere Parish and the chairman gave the answer that it is. He remarked that Civil Parishes were set up in 1894 and were simply based on ecclesiastical parishes. There was some discussion of the issue. Clara Black felt very strongly that there should be *no* alteration in the boundaries of Kentmere Parish. The boundaries were perfectly natural and were set up long ago. Margaret Harrison asked what would be used as the new boundaries. The chairman replied that field walls could be used. Max Biden asked if the residents of the properties mentioned above wanted to be associated with Kentmere. The chairman said that he had received three letters from residents of the properties expressing a wish to be in Kentmere Parish, in addition to verbal communications, all in favour of the proposal. Max Biden then proposed that the Kentmere Parish Meeting should express a wish to the council to include these properties within Kentmere Parish. This was seconded by Jackie Bettess. There were 14 votes in favour of the proposal and none against, so that ***the proposal was carried***. The parish clerk was asked to write to the council, informing them of the vote and including copies of the letters from the residents of the above properties. (Note: this has been done.)

10. Any Other Business

- 10.1. **Emergency Cards** Sandra Johnston explained that as a Jubilee project in 2002, emergency cards had been distributed to all properties in Kentmere. It was now proposed to update these cards. The parish clerk undertook to send out an email about the proposed update. (Note: this has been done and residents have responded.)
- 10.2. **Microphone in Institute** Clara Black stated that it was hard to hear the speakers in Parish Meetings and a microphone should be provided. This was noted.
- 10.3. **Himalayan Balsam** Max Biden advised the meeting that four working parties to remove Himalayan Balsam in the parish had been arranged for the summer. Local support was always appreciated and he had details and dates if residents wished to help.

The meeting closed at 9 pm. Residents viewed the various plans and voted for their preferred road sign layouts. There followed a short meeting dedicated to the constitution of the Kentmere Institute.

The video "Capetown" – Winner: Best Film (Culture) in the 2012 Kendal Mountain Festival – "a moving documentary about Hound Trailing and the young hound Capetown, also known as Bess and her owner Yvonne Wilson" was then shown, in the presence of Yvonne Wilson, a Kentmere resident. It was greatly enjoyed by those present.