

# Assembly of the Kentmere Parish Meeting

## Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.30pm

### Present:

Peter Lansberry (Chair), Jackie Green (Clerk), Iain Johnston, Jackie Bettess, Peter Bettess, Robert Courtier, Clare Courtier, Ian McIvor, Sandra Johnston, Carol Lansberry, Jim Stilling, Maureen Baldwin, Roger Dewhurst, Christine Hevey, Margaret Harrison, Max Biden, Richard Allen, Stan Collins (SLDC and CCC Councillor).

### 1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed residents to the Assembly.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Anne Williams, Andrew Williams, Maggie Biden, Hazel Brownlow, Andrew Yeats, Gay Talbot, Keith Talbot, Jayne Park (Cumbria police), Andrew Griffin, Vanessa Griffin, Hilary Fry, Kathie Fry, Clara Black.

### 3. Police Community Support Officer

There was no PCSO in attendance or report received.

### 4. Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015

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

### 5. Matters arising from the minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015

The Chairman agreed to action:

- (i) the sign in front of The Pound to discourage parking.

### 6. People of Kentmere

There are new owners of 1 Longhouses, Andrew and Vanessa Griffin and family who will use it as a second residence.

### 7. Finance

#### 7.1 Auditor's Report and Risk Assessment

The Chair reported back to the Parish on the Auditor's report and the recommendations made regarding risk assessment. The meeting debated the two main financial risks that were considered possible but unlikely to happen – that the Parish has insufficient funds and that the Parish funds are stolen. The meeting agreed that these were low risk events. The meeting considered the risk assessment procedure that is in place, as reported by the Chair, and noted that it is both sufficiently rigorous and meets requirements.

#### 7.2 Finance Report

The Chair presented the budget report for 2016/17. Two items of

expenditure in 2015/16 were discussed by the meeting - £50 for grass cutting and £50 towards the cost of the housing survey. The meeting approved the first and the latter was approved at a lower rate of £25 (proposed by Max Biden and seconded by Iain Johnston). The budget for 2016/17 was approved by the meeting (proposed by Max Biden and seconded by Roger Dewhurst).

## **8. Planning Notices**

The Chairman reported that there are no current planning applications in Kentmere Parish.

## **9. Annual Parish Reports**

### **9.1 Upper Kent Local Area Partnership (UKLAP)**

Iain Johnston explained that of the 14 parishes comprising the Upper Kent, only 3 or 4 are usually represented at the meetings. Mainly, the UKLAP has become an opportunity to share issues and lobby the local authorities rather than having a resource-led purpose.

### **9.2 Broadband**

Jackie Bettess (JB) reported back to the meeting on the progress made in pursuit of improved broadband capacity in Kentmere. Two companies, Boundless and Solway have been contacted regarding their service offer but neither is interested in the Kentmere proposal, on financial grounds. Following the confusion as to the cost of installing a fibre cable to the H&V Factory (discussed at the broadband meeting in October 2015), JB clarified that the BT estimate was £300,000 and not £30,000. Roger Dewhurst informed the meeting that BDUK had funded three pilots using wireless technology, in North Wales, Yorkshire and Humberside. The suppliers in each of these have been contacted with a view to whether the same technologies could be applied in Kentmere, but none were interested (there was an overlap with the companies above). JB will pursue the ongoing discussions with BT and Connecting Cumbria and maintain the links with the H&V Factory IT planners. Stan Collins warned the meeting of the ineffectiveness and cost of the satellite solution that the Government is proposing for hard to reach communities like Kentmere.

### **9.3 Community Led Plan (CLP)**

The Chairman reported that there are possible changes to the Neighbourhood Plan rules, which may have an impact on the CLP.

## **10. Other Village Reports**

### **10.1 St Cuthbert's Church**

Max Biden (MB) tabled a report to the meeting providing a detailed update as to the funding and work programme for the repairs to the church roof (copy attached to the minutes). Following the publication of the tender documents, a preferred contractor has been selected – a company from Ashton under Lyne. The estimated cost for the work, excluding professional fees and VAT, is £144,675. This leaves a shortfall of £18,606. Work is scheduled to start in March 2016 and will

take 4-5 months. MB asked the meeting to consider how the shortfall could be met and urged further donations and contributions. The contract will be signed when all the funding is in place, preferably no later than December 2015. In response to a question concerning the level of contingency built into the budget, MB pointed to the £17,840 set against provisionals and contingencies. Hilary Fry has produced a book on the flora and fauna in the churchyard, the sales from which will contribute to the fund.

### **10.2 Community First Responders**

Peter Bettess informed the meeting that a free public access defibrillator had been provided by the Northwest Ambulance Service. The Kentmere CFR team provided the cost of the box to house the defibrillator (total installation approx. £1,000). It is located on the end wall of the Institute and available to anyone who has rung 999 and received the access code. The code could be made available to local residents if that was considered helpful. The annual fell race provided significant funds for the local CFR team and the meeting thanked Maureen Baldwin for organizing the catering so successfully. Jim Stilling said that a 10-year certificate had been awarded to the team by the NWAS and the meeting congratulated the team on its work.

### **10.3 Television for Kentmere**

Max Biden informed the meeting that the annual report would be available in January 2016 and presented to the next meeting

## **11. Any other business**

### **11.1 Fire Service**

Stan Collins summarized Cumbria CC's budget proposals, which include making savings in the Fire Service through closure of some stations identified as having low demand. Christine Hevey explained that a local petition had been produced with the aim of getting ten thousand signatures to trigger a discussion in parliament. The meeting agreed to write to residents with information on the petition and Council proposals; and to respond via the Facebook page that has been set up.

### **11.2 Electoral Review**

There is to be a review of the electoral boundaries in South Lakeland. The chair will make the letter informing parishes of the review available on the Kentmere website.

### **11.3 Coffee morning**

The next Kentmere coffee morning will be on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The meeting was asked for volunteers, with names to Christine Hevey.

### **11.4 Stan Collins**

Stan Collins asked the meeting for ideas for small projects focusing on public health issues.