

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Kentmere Parish Meeting

held in The Kentmere Institute at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 24th May 2021

1. **The Chairman**, Peter Lansberry, welcomed parishioners to the assembly.

Present: Richard Allan, Max Biden, Tricia Broomby, Robert Courtier, Roger Dewhurst, Jackie Green, Christine Hevey, Iain, Johnston, Sandra Johnston, Carol Lansberry, Peter Lansberry, Ian McIvor and Chris Sanderson, (13)

2. **Apologies for absence** had been received from Maureen Baldwin, Hazel Brownlow, Maggie Biden, Clare Courtier, Steve and Sheila Hirst, Robert and Rosamund Ridley, Jim Sharp, Jim Stilling and Kate Whitley.

3. **There were no declarations of interest.**

4. **The Minutes** of the meeting held on 24th November 2020. A draft copy of these had been circulated. All members attending the meeting agreed that they were a correct record. Similarly all members confirmed the minutes of the Special Meeting held by 'zoom' on 16th February to consider the flood prevention scheme proposed for Kentmere.

5. **There were no matters arising** from those minutes.

6. **People in Kentmere.** Members welcomed the arrival of Simon and Jo Racle at Browhead. They also recorded Jackie Bettess' move away from the valley and the recent death of Richard Dickinson formerly of Brockstones.

7. **Finance:**

7.1 **Detailed accounts:** Peter Lansberry explained the details of the financial statement. There was one question regarding the 'flood monitoring fund' It was explained that this had been granted for a purpose which no longer existed. The Parish Meeting has no proposal for using it and so far nothing has emerged from the present scheme which warrants its use so it is held in reserve. A question was raised about the marked difference in the precept between 2019 and 2020. The Chairman explained that the parish had accrued a significant reserve of funds which can only be used for certain specific costs including snow clearance. In some years this had not been used so it had been agreed to reduce that surplus.

7.2 **Annual Governance Statement.** Formal approval of this is required each year. There were no questions. Max Biden proposed approval, this was seconded by Robert Courtier and carried by all present.

7.3 **Account Statement.** Approval was proposed by Richard Allan, seconded by Ian McIvor and carried by all present.

7.4 **Certificate of Audit Exemption.** Approval was proposed by Christine Hevey, seconded by Roger Dewhurst and carried by all present.

7.5 **Approval of payments.** Approval was sought for the planned payments in the budget of £420 to The Kentmere Institute and £435 to St Cuthbert's Church for churchyard maintenance. Max Biden asked if the £700 allocated for 'Churchyard Restoration', although not used during the past year, remained in the budget. This was confirmed and agreed that with approval it would be paid when it was needed. Approval for payment of these monies was proposed by Carol Lansberry, seconded by Sandra Johnston and agreed by all present.

8. **Elections:** The Chairman explained that in the standing orders for the parish there was a strong recommendation that posts should not be held for long periods. It was agreed, however, that as there had been no nominations the present post holders should continue.

- 8.1 **Chairman** - Peter Lansberry
- 8.2 **Parish Clerk** - Iain Johnston
- 8.3 **Parish Team** - Robert Courtier, Jackie Green and Christine Hevey
- 8.4 **Internal Auditor** - Max Biden

9. **Planning:** There were no current planning applications

10. Parish Reports

10.1 **Highways:** Robert Courtier reported that the road surface on the valley road was coming to the end of its serviceable life. He explained his efforts and difficulties in getting potholes repaired as the agency stuck rigidly to their 40mm depth even if there were adjacent potholes which didn't quite meet that. There was a question about crumbling road edges. This is another bone of contention and despite efforts to convince them, the agency claims that they are not part of the highway unless they impinge upon the classified road width. There was a question about crumbling roadside walls, which is acknowledged to be the responsibility of the landowner. The Chairman agreed to contact Staveley Parish Council to see if anything could be done.

10.2 **Broadband:** The Chairman reported that a company had been formed and a scheme has been put together but the Government has 'moved the goalposts' and the Company is not yet aware of the impact of the changes. It was reported that BT are aiming to get rid of copper phone lines within the next five years and we would all require VOIP phones which require an uninterrupted power supply to enable them to be working at all times. Any break in the power supply would mean a loss of telephone communication. It was agreed that the Chairman would circulate that information to all residents and alert everyone to the risks involved.

10.3 **Flood Group:** The Chairman explained the story so far about the Kentmere Temporary Water Storage Scheme. A meeting has been held with the Environment Agency (EA) and their consultants during which it was clear that the design is at a very preliminary stage. The topographic survey is nearing completion and the site investigation is due to start shortly. The EA have confirmed that the results of these surveys will be made available when complete. Detailed discussions regarding the impact of the scheme, both environmentally and operationally, will follow when the survey information becomes available. Further meetings with the EA will take place at intervals in the coming year. The technical liaison team have recently spent a lot of time investigating the existing natural river features which have caused flooding in recent years during moderate storms. This work, which is on-going, will provide better information for the Community illustrating the actual effect of the proposed scheme.

11. Other village reports

11.1 **St Cuthbert's Church.** The church had been closed for much of the pandemic and the fabric of the building had suffered as a result. A great deal of work had been put in to prepare it for reopening which took place on 17th May. The church is now fully open and the normal pattern of services has been resumed. Parishioners are urged to visit the church to see the splendid display covering the history and development of Kentmere since Viking times. The research has been done by an enthusiastic team of Kentmere residents supported by the History Department of Lancaster University.

11.2 **The Kentmere Institute.** This has also been closed for much of the pandemic but has been supported with significant grants which will enable the planned refurbishment to go ahead in the near future.

As there was further business the meeting was closed at 9.30 p.m.