

Draft Minutes of the Assembly of Kentmere Parish Meeting
held in the Kentmere Institute at 7.30 pm. on Tuesday 12th November 2024

1. **Present:** Peter Lansberry (Parish Chairman), Hilary Fry, Margaret Harrison, Christine Hevey, Steve Hirst, Sheila Hirst, Iain Johnston, Sandra Johnston, Carol Lansberry, Jo Racle, Simon Racle, Rosamund Ridley, Robert Ridley and Chris Sanderson. (14)
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Richard Allen, Clare Courtier, Robert Courtier, Roger Dewhurst, Jackie Green, Nick Pighills and Jim Sharp.
3. **Declarations on Interest:** None
4. **Minutes of the meeting** held on 24th May 2024 had been circulated before the meeting. Acceptance as a correct record was proposed by Peter Lansberry, seconded by Robert Ridley and carried.
5. **Matters arising:** None.
6. **People of Kentmere:** The meeting recorded that Tim and Linda Bolton had left the valley but the community welcomed the arrival of Lee Black and David Makinson to Bridgestone and Gill Phipps and her son Tom the High Holme. The recent, sad death of Christina Heywood of Greenhead was also recorded
7. **Finance:**
 - 7.1 **The financial statement and budget for 25/26:** This had been circulated prior to the meeting. Peter Lansberry explained the figures and answered questions. Acceptance of the financial statement was proposed by Robert Ridley, seconded by Simon Racle and carried.
 - 7.2 **The annual governance statement.** The suggested storage of archive documents in the Institute loft was raised and did the idea require insurance. This will be investigated.
 - 7.3 **The annual accounting statement.** and 7.4 **The approval of the Audit Exemption:** No information had been received this year from the auditors but it was assumed that risk assessment, etc. would be the same as the previous one.
8. **Planning:** There was significant discussion about the proposed extension of the emergency services mast to accommodate mobile phone service. The planning application suggested that this would involve increasing the height of the mast to accommodate the equipment. It was agreed that a reply should be sent to the Planning Office raising the following issues:
 - a) there is no certainty regarding back-up power supply to ensure continued commercial services in the event of a power outage;
 - b) there is no commitment from any commercial operator to fit the extra equipment;
 - c) there is no assessment of the visual impact and the proposed mast would be very visible from a nearby footpath and adjacent residential properties;
 - d) there is already considerable wind noise generated by the present mast and this might be increased if the height of the mast is raised and more equipment added, and
 - e) there is no consideration of alternative designs for the mast such as disguising it such as example which can be seen elsewhere.

9. Parish reports:

9.1 **Flood Storage Scheme:** No progress to report.

9.2 **Broadband:** Some progress was being made by Fibrus/Vibreoptics in bringing faster broadband to all parts of the parish. The Institute is now connected but there has been some issue with funding and although Hallow Bank is being connected other areas may be delayed.

9.3 **Highways:** The chairman commented on the ongoing difficulty in communicating with the department at Westmorland and Furness Council. He did report that some work had been done to repair the majority of potholes and also work beyond their usual remit in repairing some of the broken road edges but they had not included Hellwell Lane. There still remain issues with drainage and blocked gullies. There were questions about roadside trees and the risk to telephone cables. Although this had been reported the chairman said no action was expected from either Open Reach or W & F Council.

10. Any other business:

10.1 **Waste Collection:** The chairman reported that he just received notice of discussions about reorganising waste collection in our area but no details are available yet.

10.2 **Parish Resilience Plan:** There was some discussion about this but the general feeling was that our informal system of care in the community is well developed. There was some discussion about communication with vulnerable people when the telephone landlines are discontinued and there is a power outage. Many of these people rely on electricity for heating and, in several cases, for pumps in their water supply.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.