

LOWER HOLKER PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

Chairman's Report

Councillors

Lower Holker Parish is represented by 7 Parish Councillors: Ruth Airey (Vice Chair), Barry Dawson, Gill Gardner, Margaret Keith, Susan Rawsthorn, Jonathan Ryland and Trevor Wilson (Chair).

Meetings

Lower Holker Parish Council meets on the first Wednesday of every month, with the exception of August, alternating between Lower Holker and Flookburgh Village Hall. The Police and the District and County Councillors attend the majority of these meetings and provide regular reports. All residents are welcome to raise concerns with the Parish Council and attend any meeting. The Parish Council revised the Financial Regulations in April 2016 as recommended by the National Association of Local Councils in relation to breach of regulations, disclosable interests and contracts (incorporating the specific requirements of The Public Contracts Regulations 2015).

Representation

Parish Council representatives attended the following:
Flookburgh & District Recreational Charity meetings
Cumbria Association of Local Councils – District meetings and Parish Clerk Forums
Grange & Cartmel Local Area Partnership meetings
Natural England England Coast Path event

Finances

The Parish Precept for 2016/17 was set at £14976.05 and other income was received from VAT repayment, Grants and Bank Interest, so total receipts were £18796.39. Over the year £26,894.45 was spent, leaving a Bank balance at the end of the year of £20,405.38 (Receipts & Payments Account attached). Grants have been made to support the Flookburgh & Cark Christmas Lights, Flookburgh Burial Ground and Great North Air Ambulance.

Communication

The Parish Council website was launched on in 2014 and includes the next meeting Agenda, Minutes of previous meetings, Council contact details, Community information, News items and financial details of the Parish Council. It receives around 150 unique visits a month, mainly from UK but including USA, Germany, Japan, France, Bulgaria and India. The Parish Council Facebook page was launched in 2012 and includes meeting notifications, local information and news items. It currently has 126 likes and the most views of a posting this year was 1,763 people. The Parish Council also publishes a page in the monthly Parish Link newsletter and Agendas and Minutes are displayed in the Cark Noticeboard.

Training

The Parish Clerk has attended the Cumbria Association of Parish Councils' Clerks' Forums which provide information on current and future issues for Parish Councils.

Planning Applications

Seventeen Planning Applications via South Lakeland District within the Parish have been considered and responses submitted, relating to domestic and commercial use.

Consultations

During the past year the Parish Council has been consulted/surveyed and responded to a range of issues raised by the Government, National Grid, Cumbria and South Lakeland Councils & Cumbria Police.

Public Safety & Environment

- The Parish Council has continued to manage the Toilets at Cark, with assistance from Dave & Heather who open them and Mike & Marion who close them each day.
- The Parish Council continue to pay for street lighting and emptying 2 of the litter bins.
- The Parish Council is also providing a grant to support the reinstatement of the Saturday circular bus service, which restarted on 19 March 2016.

Highways

- Reports of potholes, drainage problems, street light faults and other defects are regularly reported to the County Council Highways department.
- Meetings have been held with a Cumbria County Highways Engineer on a range of highways matters in the parish, including concerns relating to road safety.
- A meeting was arranged with Lakeland Leisure and Cumbria County Council and plans agreed to improve road safety on Moor Lane in relation to horseriders.
- Plans for yellow lines to stop inappropriate parking in Cark and Flookburgh have been implemented by Cumbria Highways.

Flookburgh Square

The Parish Council has undertaken major improvements in Flookburgh Square, including retarmacking and making out spaces for parking, disabled parking, a bus stop and pedestrian walkway. The majority of the funding for this has been from Parish Council reserves, but contributions have also been made by Cumbria County Council, South Lakeland District Council and Cumbria Steam Gathering.

Community Led Plan

The Community Led Plan has continued to be on hold but should be completed in 2017.

Invited speakers & Public Participation

Representatives from Natural England attended a meeting to outline the plans for the England Coast Path. Several members of the public have contacted the Parish Council and attended Parish Council meetings.

Trevor Wilson

Chairman 3 May 2017

Lower Holker Parish Council				
Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2017				
Previous Year		2016/17	Previous Year	2016/17
	Receipts			Payments
£14,478.26	Precept	£14,976.05	£4,017.28	Clerk's Salary
£1,415.74	Council Tax Support Grant	£1,246.03	£160.00	Clerk's Telephone
£1,159.14	VAT Refund	£1,027.43	£917.12	Administration
£1,000.00	District Councillor's Grant re Flookburgh Square	£0.00	£39.50	Training
£1,500.00	Cumbria County Council Grant re Road Marking (Flookburgh Square)	£0.00	£250.00	Grants (Sec 137)
£0.00	SLDC District Councillor Locality Budget (Road safety signs for Moor Lane)	£700.00	£850.00	Grants
£0.00	Local Area Partnership Grant (Flookburgh Square Noticeboard)	£346.00	£704.61	Street Lighting Expenses
£0.00	The Cumbria Steam Gathering (Flookburgh Square tarmacking)	£500.00	£395.82	Insurance
£1.30	Bank Interest	£0.88	£1,027.43	VAT
			£200.00	Newsletter
			£30.49	Website
			£3,912.75	Toilet Running Expenses
			£100.00	Clock Repairs & Maintenance
			£0.00	Parish Council Elections
			£1,984.00	Public Safety and Environment
				Flookburgh Square Improvement Works
				Saturday Bus Service grant
£19,554.44		£18,796.39	£14,589.00	£26,894.45
Bank Reconciliation				
Natwest Bank, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria				
Balances as per Bank Statements 31 March 2017				
	83315608 Current Account	£17,804.96		
	83309810 Business Reserve Account	£2,600.42		
	Petty Cash	£0.00		
		£20,405.38		
	Less unrepresented cheques	£0.00		
		£20,405.38		
	Add uncleared payments	£0.00		
	Total balance as at 31 March 2017	£20,405.38		
Receipts and Payments Summary				
	Cash Book Balance Brought Forward	£28,503.44		
	Add : Total Receipts	£18,796.39		
		£47,299.83		
	Less : Total Payments	£26,894.45		
	Cash Book Balance carried Forward	£20,405.38		