

LOWER HOLKER PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

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). An election was to be held in May 2015, however only 6 candidates stood for 7 vacancies so the candidates were appointed unopposed. The vacancy was advertised, 2 candidates put themselves forward and one was co-opted to the Parish Council. Parish Councillors Airey & Keith attended the Queen's Garden party in May 2015.

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 adopted a new Protocol on the recording and filming of Council and Committee Meetings in November 2015 and revised the Standing Orders in December 2015.

Representation

Parish Council representatives attend following:

Community Led Plan meetings

Flookburgh & District Recreational Charity meetings

Cumbria Association of Local Councils – District meetings and Parish Clerk Forums

Grange & Cartmel Local Area Partnership meetings

Finances

The Parish Precept for 2015/16 was set at £16,894 and other income was received from VAT repayment, Grants and Bank Interest, so total receipts were £19,554.44. Over the year £14,589.00 was spent, leaving a Bank balance at the end of the year of £23,503.44 (Receipts & Payments Account attached). Grants have been made to support the Flookburgh & Cark Christmas Lights, Lower Holker Village Hall, Flookburgh Community Playgroup, Flookburgh Burial Ground and Great North Air Ambulance. The Parish Council revised

Communication

The Parish Council website was launched 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 100 unique visits a month, mainly from UK but including USA, Germany, France, Brazil and Taiwan. The Parish Council Facebook page was launched in 2012 and includes meeting notifications, local information and news items. It currently has 97 likes and the most views of a posting was 1,865 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

New Parish Councillor Barry Dawson has attended the Good Councillor Training course and he and the Parish Clerk has attended a Planning Workshop organised by South Lakeland District Council. Parish Clerk has also attended the Cumbria Association of Parish Councils' Clerks' Forums which provide information on current and future issues for Parish Councils.

Planning Applications

Fifteen Planning Applications via South Lakeland District Council or Cumbria County 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 by the Government, 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 Toilets have again been the focus of vandalism during the last year, which has caused inconvenience and extra costs to be incurred.
- The Parish Council has purchased storage boxes for 2 external defibrillators in Flookburgh Square and at Flookburgh Primary School.
- The Parish Council continue to pay for the maintenance and electricity for street lighting and emptying 2 of the litter bins.
- The Parish Council also agreed to financially support the reinstatement of the Saturday circular bus service, which restarted on 19 March 2016.
- Officers from South Lakeland District Council have been asked to undertake patrols regarding dog fouling. Notices have been put up around the Parish to remind residents that dog fouling is not acceptable and should be reported to South Lakeland District Council. Reminders about dog fouling have also been posted on the Facebook Page and Website.
- The Parish Council received several inquiries regarding the availability of Allotments in the Parish. The Clerk liaised with Holker Estates regarding vacant plots in Cark.

Highways

- Reports of potholes, drainage problems, street light faults and other defects are regularly reported to the County Council Highways department.
- The Parish Council met with Lakeland Leisure and liaised with Cumbria Highways and Cumbria Police following complaints of drivers travelling too close to horseriders on Moor Lane.
- Reports of speeding and rude cyclists have been forwarded to Cumbria Police and Sustrans.
- Plans for yellow lines to stop inappropriate parking in Cark and Flookburgh have been agreed with Cumbria Highways.

Flookburgh Square

The Parish Council has been planning improvements to Flookburgh Square including tarmacking, replacing the bollards and marking out spaces for parking and pedestrians. The responses to the Community Led Plan have been taken into account during the design process which has been carried out in conjunction with Cumbria County Council Highways Department. The funding for this work is from the Parish Council's financial reserves and funds have also been contributed by County and District Councillors. The works are scheduled to take place in June 2016.

Community Led Plan

The Community Led Plan steering committee met regularly to analyse the responses Survey distributed in early 2015. The responses already have been used to inform the plans for Flookburgh Square and respond to a District Council survey on Street Cleaning. A Community Led Plan will be prepared in 2016 based on the analysis of the survey responses.

Invited Speakers and Public Participation

The Peninsula Practice Public Participation Group, North West Ambulance Service and several members of the public have attended Parish Council meetings and contributed to the sharing of information within the Parish.

Parish Clerk

Parish Clerk Lyn Prescott has had health issues which has meant that some projects have not progressed as planned, however following her return to health outstanding projects should be completed during the next year. The Parish Clerk would like to thank the Parish Councillors for their understanding and support during this time.

Trevor Wilson
Chairman

Lower Holker Parish Council

Lower Holker Parish Council					
Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2016					
Previous Year	2015/16		Previous Year	2015/16	
£ Receipts	£		£ Payments		£
15392.33 Precept		14478.26	3793.08 Clerk's Salary		4017.28
1357.67 Council Tax Support Grant		1415.74	160.00 Clerk's Telephone		160.00
1050.90 VAT Refund		1159.14	749.76 Administration		917.12
0.00 District Councillors Grant re Flookburgh Square		1000.00	15.00 Training		39.50
0.00 Cumbria County Council Grant re Road Marking (Flookburgh Square)		1500.00	200.00 Grants (Sec 137)		250.00
1.30 Bank Interest		1.30	450.00 Grants		850.00
			579.77 Street Lighting Expenses		704.61
			455.59 Insurance		395.82
			1159.14 VAT		1027.43
			200.00 Newsletter		200.00
			30.49 Website		30.49
			4137.52 Toilet Running Expenses		3912.75
			600.00 Clock Repairs & Maintenance		100.00
			1344.00 Flookburgh replacement road sign		0.00
			0.00 Parish Council Elections		0.00
			654.11 Public Safety and Environment		1984.00
			125.95 Community Led Plan		0.00
			473.00 Community Led Plan (LAP Grant)		0.00
17802.20		19554.44	15127.41		14589.00

Lower Holker Parish Information

Parish

Lower Holker Parish includes the communities of Cark, Flookburgh, Holker and Ravenstown and the surrounding area and has a population of 1869 (2011 Census) and 1459 Registered Electors (2015). Lower Holker Parish Councillors are also the Trustees of the Public Watering Place Charity.

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of the Month at 7.00 pm, alternating between Flookburgh Village Hall and Lower Holker Village Hall. The only exception is August when no meeting is held. There is also an Annual Parish Meeting held either in April or May, when the Annual Report is presented to the Parish. Dates of meetings are displayed in the Noticeboards in Cark (near the Toilets) and Flookburgh (on the Village Hall). The next meeting dates are also included in the Parish Link (on the Parish Council News page), on the Facebook page and on the Website.

Parish Councillors

Parish Councillors are elected for 4 years, there was not an election in 2015 as there was only 6 candidates for 7 posts. Following the election date 2 candidates were put forward for the vacant post and one was co-opted to the Parish Council. The Parish Councillors are:

Mrs Ruth Airey (Vice Chair)	58827
Mr Barry Dawson	59075
Ms Gill Gardner	59461
Mrs Margaret Keith	58236
Mrs Susan Rawsthorn	58038
Mr Jonathon Ryland	58051
Mr Trevor Wilson (Chair)	07778570920

District Councillor

Ms Gill Gardner 59461

County Councillor

Mrs Sue Sanderson

Parish Clerk

Mrs Lyn Prescott, 13 Church Walk, Flookburgh, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 7JX
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