

LOWER HOLKER PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

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). The Councillors have between them 99 years of service as Lower Holker Parish Councillors, the most longstanding being Councillors Rawsthorn, Keith and Ryland.

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.

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
Grange & District Wellbeing Group

Finances

The Parish Precept for 2017/18 was set at £13407.58 and other income was received from Grants, VAT repayment, Grants, Community Infrastructure Levy and Bank Interest, so total receipts were £212,494.49. Over the year £206,796.12 was spent, leaving a Bank balance at the end of the year of £23,503.33 (Receipts & Payments Account attached). Grants have been made to support the Flookburgh & Cark Christmas Lights, Flookburgh Village Hall, Lower Holker Village Hall 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, Policies and Procedures and financial details of the Parish Council. It receives around 150 unique visits a month, mainly from UK but including USA, Ireland, Germany and Russia. The Parish Council Facebook page was launched in 2012 and includes local information and news items. It currently has 145 likes and the most views of a posting this year was 2,328 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 General Data Protection Regulation Training and the Cumbria Association of Parish Councils' Clerks' Forums which provide information on current and future issues for Parish Councils.

Planning Applications

Twenty six 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 and responded to a range of issues.

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 has prepared and distributed a Community Emergency Plan with details of contacts in case of a major incident within the Parish.
- The Parish Council has bought a Speed Gun, jointly with Lower Allithwaite Parish Council. Volunteers have been trained by Cumbria Police and regular speed monitoring is taking place.

Highways

- Reports of potholes, drainage problems, street light faults and other defects are regularly reported to the County Council Highways department using the new HIMs reporting system.
- 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 and improvements have been made, particularly in signage.

Flookburgh Community Playground

The new playground on Moor Lane has now been installed. There is a dedicated car park, play equipment for all ages, and a kickabout area with goalposts. This is the result of over 10 years' work by the Parish Council and Flookburgh & District Recreational Charity with the support of the local community and grants from local and national organisations.

Public Participation

Several members of the public have contacted the Parish Council and attended to speak at or observe Parish Council meetings. Reports have also been received from the Friends of Cark Station, Love Flookburgh Group & Patient Participation Group.

Trevor Wilson
Chairman 2nd May 2018

Lower Holker Parish Council					
Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2018					
Previous Year		2017/18	Previous Year		2017/18
	Receipts			Payments	
£14,976.05	Precept	£13,407.58	£4,137.48	Clerk's Salary	£4,306.20
£1,246.03	Council Tax Support Grant	£1,078.42	£160.00	Clerk's Telephone	£160.00
£1,027.43	VAT Refund	£32,318.79	£665.18	Administration	£695.86
£0.00	Flookburgh & District Recreational Charity Grant re Flookburgh Community Playground	£114,429.48	£10.00	Training	£10.00
£0.00	WREN Grant re Flookburgh Community Playground	£49,391.00	£200.00	Grants (Sec 137)	£100.00
£700.00	SLDC District Councillor Locality Budget (Road safety signs for Moor Lane)	£1,000.00	£450.00	Grants	£900.00
£0.00	SLDC Community Infrastructure Levy	868.57	£400.55	Street Lighting Expenses	£772.51
£346.00	Local Area Partnership Grant (Flookburgh Square Noticeboard)	£0.00	£417.09	Insurance	£953.93
£500.00	The Cumbria Steam Gathering (Flookburgh Square tarmacking)	£0.00	£3,219.79	VAT	£32,480.14
£0.88	Bank Interest	£0.65	£200.00	Newsletter	£200.00
			£94.89	Website	£24.99
			£3,219.50	Toilet Running Expenses	£3,393.16
			£0.00	Clock Repairs & Maintenance	£0.00
			£63.08	Parish Council Elections	£0.00
			£372.32	Public Safety and Environment	£1,506.81
			£12,684.57	Flookburgh Square Improvement Works	£0.00
			£600.00	Saturday Bus Service grant	£0.00
			£0.00	Flookburgh Community Playground	£161,292.52
£18,796.39		£212,494.49	£26,894.45		£206,796.12