

LOWER HOLKER PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

Chairman's Report

Lower Holker Parish Council has 7 Councillors who represent the electors in the villages of Cark, Flookburgh, Holker and Ravenstown. The Parish Council now meets at 7 pm 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. Any member of the public is welcome to raise a concern with the Parish Council and attend any meeting.

Finances

The Parish Precept was set at £15638 and other income included VAT repayment, and Bank Interest, so total receipts were £16,633.11. Over the year £13,475.76 was spent, leaving a Bank balance at the end of the year of £20773.21. Grants have been made to support the Flookburgh & Cark Christmas Lights, Help for Heroes, Great North Air Ambulance and North West Air Ambulance.

Toilets

The Parish Council has continued to operate the Toilets at Cark, with assistance from Dave & Heather who open them and Mike & Marion who close them each day. Mike has also kindly replaced one of the faulty locks. Maintenance and cleaning works have been undertaken and repairs due to vandalism were required.

Consultations

During the past year we have been consulted on a range of issues by the Government, Cumbria and South Lakeland Councils These include South Lakeland District Council Consultations on their Constitution, Council Plan 2014-19, Development Briefs, Homelessness Strategy, Polling District & Places Review and Strategic Housing Market Assessment. Cumbria County Council's Consultation on their 2014/15 Budget. Government Consultations on Greater Flexibility on Planning conditions for Change of Use and proposed changes to the Site Selection Process for a Geological Disposal Facility.

Training

The Parish Councillors have attended 'Essentials for Local Councillors' and 'Next Steps' training organised by the Cumbria Association of Local Councils. This training was organised locally, other local councils participated and shared the cost, which reduced the cost from £413 to £200. The Parish Clerk has attended a Clerk's Forum and Questionnaire Training course.

Planning Applications

Thirteen Planning Applications within or near the Parish have been considered, relating to domestic and commercial use, of which most received no objections, one was objected to on the grounds of the effect on neighbouring residents, one was supported on the grounds of potential increased local employment and concerns were raised about one application in terms of environmental impact. The

Consultation period for Planning Applications has now been reduced by South Lakeland District Council from 28 days to 21 days.

Communication

The Parish Council now has a website at www.lowerholkerparishcouncil.org.uk launched on 2nd February 2014 and the Facebook page has proved popular with hundreds of views for some posted items. The Parish Council publishes a page in the monthly Parish Link and Agendas and Minutes are displayed in the Cark Noticeboard.

Community Led Plan

A Steering Group was set up in July 2013 with representatives from the Parish Council and local organisations and a Questionnaire is being developed.

Environment

The Parish Council has purchased a litter bin, now situated in Cark, and arranged for South Lakeland District Council to move one of the litter bins in Flookburgh to Ravenstow (which had no litter bins). CCTV has been financed and installed to overlook Flookburgh Square. Potholes on Flookburgh Square have also been filled. Three new street signs for Church Walk and Moor Lane have been organised with South Lakeland District Council to replace missing or unclear signs.

Highways

Reports of potholes, missing or damaged signs, white lines and other defects are regularly reported to the Highways department. The Highways department also advise when road closures will take place, which the Parish Council reports to the community through the Parish Link, Facebook and the Website.

River Eea

Concerns were raised about the River Eea water quality due to outflows from the Pumping Station behind Cark-in-Cartmel Railway Station. Contact and meetings were arranged with the Environment Agency and United Utilities and work has been taking place at the Pumping Station and onwards to the Treatment Works in Grange by United Utilities to improve the water quality. Local residents have set up a Cark Community River Improvement Group and the Parish Council paid the meeting room costs for the initial meetings.

Community

The Parish Council organised a free Heartstart course, with the participation of Grange & District Community First Responders and 12 residents learned how to check vital signs, put someone into a recovery position, perform CPR and use a Defibrillator.

Trevor Wilson
Chairman

Lower Holker Parish Information

Parish

Lower Holker Parish includes the communities of Cark, Flookburgh, Holker and Ravenstoun and the surrounding area and has a population of around 1800. 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 an election in 2011, so these Parish Councillors will be in post from 2011 to 2015:

Mrs Ruth Airey (Vice Chair)	58827
Ms Gill Gardner	59461
Mrs Margaret Keith	58038
Mrs Susan Rawsthorn	58038
Mr James Rowlandson	07917118926
Mr Jonathon Ryland	58051
Mr Trevor Wilson (Chair)	07778570920

District Councillor

Ms Gill Gardner	59461
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County Councillor

Mr Rod Wilson	36673
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Parish Clerk

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