

LOWER HOLKER PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

Chairman's Report

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 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

Cartmel Old Grammar Charity meetings

Finances

The Parish Precept for 2014/15 was set at £16750 and other income was received from VAT repayment and Bank Interest, so total receipts were £17802.20. Over the year £15127.41 was spent, leaving a Bank balance at the end of the year of £23538.00 (Receipts & Payments attached). Grants have been made to support the Flookburgh & Cark Christmas Lights, Grange & District First Responders and Flookburgh Burial Ground maintenance.

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 and News items. It receives between 100 and 200 visits a month, mainly from UK but also from Germany, USA, Portugal, Romania, Thailand and Macedonia. The Parish Council Facebook page was launched in 2012 and includes meeting notifications and local information and news items. It currently has 61 likes and the most views of a posting was 955 people. The Parish Council 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 several Cumbria Association of Parish Councils' Clerks' Forums which provide information on current and future issues for Parish Councils.

Toilets

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.

Environment

The Parish Council has purchased another new litter bin, now situated on Moor Lane and replaced the damaged road sign on Allithwaite Road in Flookburgh. They continue to pay for the maintenance and electricity for street lighting.

Community Led Plan

The Community Led Plan steering committee has met regularly and prepared a questionnaire which was distributed to households throughout the Parish in January 2015. The responses are currently being analysed and they have already been used to respond to a survey on street cleaning by South Lakeland District Council. The Community Led Plan will be prepared once all the information received has been analysed.

Community Emergency Plan

The Parish Council has started work on a Community Emergency Plan in conjunction with the Environment Agency to deal with potential emergencies - flooding, major transport incidents etc.

Flookburgh Square

The Parish Council has decided to undertake improvements to Flookburgh Square, utilising financial reserves. Funds have also been allocated by County and District Councillors and this has the support and co-operation of Cumbria Highways. The responses to the Community Led Plan are being taken into account during the design process and implementation is expected to be completed within 2015.

River Eea

A representative from the Environment Agency attended the Parish Council meeting in October 2014 and outlined the risks of flash flooding which have been identified relating to the River Eea. Information regarding the potential risk areas and advice in the event of a flood were provided. Since this meeting the Parish Council have been working with the Environment Agency to consider how to reduce the risks and deal with a potential emergency.

Highways

Reports of potholes, drainage problems, street light faults and other defects are regularly reported to the County Council Highways department. Due to continued pressure by the Parish Council, Highways have undertaken works to reduce standing water on Allithwaite Road.

Planning Applications

Fourteen Planning Applications via South Lakeland District Council or Cumbria County within or near the Parish have been considered, relating to domestic and commercial use. Most received no objections or comments.

Consultations

During the past year we have been consulted/surveyed and responded to a range of issues by the Government, Cumbria and South Lakeland Councils, Cumbria Police and the local NHS as follows:

Government - External Audit and Data Transparency Consultation.

Cumbria County Council's Consultation on their Budget 2015/16; Connecting Cumbria Phase 2; Council Plan Update 2015; Flood Risk Strategy; National Grid - North West Coast Connections.

South Lakeland District Council - Clean Streets Survey; Indoor Sports Survey Draft Budget

2015/16 to 2018/19; Council Plan Update 2015; Neighbourhood Plan - Lower Allithwaite

Neighbourhood Area Application; Planning Website Survey; CIL: Consultation on the Draft

Charging Schedule; Neighbourhood Plan - Grange over Sands Neighbourhood Area

Application; Local Lettings Policy & Local Connection Policy Review 2014; Parish and Town Charter.

Cumbria Police - Your Police Your Say (Cumbria Police Consultation on the Setting of Police Precept for 2015/2016 & 2016/201) & Police Service Review

NHS - Better Care Together

Trevor Wilson
Chairman

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 Councilors 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 7.30 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 Councilors

Parish Councillors are elected for 4 years, there was an election in 2011, so these Parish Councillors have been 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

(vacant - Mr Rod Wilson resigned in 2015 due to ill health)

Parish Clerk

Mrs Lyn Prescott, 13 Church Walk, Flookburgh, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 7JX
(015395) 58224

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