

**LOWER HOLKER PARISH
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Flookburgh Village Hall at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 29th April 2015

MINUTES

Present

Parish Councillors R Airey (Vice Chairman), G Gardner (& District Councillor), T Wilson (Chairman), Parish Clerk L Prescott, Former County Councillor R Wilson, Mr B Dawson, Mrs K Wood, Mrs G Rowlandson & Mrs J Rowlandson-Benson.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Mr T Owen, Mrs G Pett, Mr G Critchley, Mrs V Wakefield, Mrs L Youd and PCSO H Firth were received and accepted.

2 Minutes of Last Meeting

Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Monday 9th May 2014 were proposed by Councillor Gardner, seconded by Councillor Airey, agreed unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

3 Annual Parish Council Report

Chairman Councillor Wilson reported as follow:

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

4 Report from Public Watering Place Charity

The Clerk reported that income totalling £1102.52 had been received from 3 Field Rents, Dividends from invested funds and the Rural Payments Agency. Grants totalling £350 had been awarded to 7 local University Students and a grant of £300 had been paid towards a new front door for Flookburgh Village Hall. A replacement gate has been purchased and fitted to one of the rented fields. The bank balance on 31 March 2015 was £9095.96.

5 Report from County Councillor

County Councillor Wilson reported he resigned due to ill health on 15th March 2015 as his recovery period means that he would be unable to continue as County Councillor.

He had represented an area which covered 5 Parish Councils and appreciated the welcome and friendliness he received when attending Parish Council meetings. The County Council is undergoing a continuing period of austerity with another 3 years of cuts and a budget reduction of £80 million. This will mean that unless the Council has a statutory requirement to supply a service it is unlikely to continue to provide it. The new Council offices in Carlisle will result in a saving due to the need not to undertake £50 of repairs on existing buildings. A Unitary authority, rather than one with both County and District councils could reduce costs, but is unlikely at present.

He has served on the County Council Health Scrutiny committee for the last six years and for Chair as the last two. There are ongoing issues in terms of the quality and delivery of health services in Cumbria and delivery of services in a rural county is difficult and can cost more. The Committee has worked with the NHS on the plan to change delivery of services so more will be delivered locally with Hospital outreach.

County Councillor Wilson has worked closely with highways and expects the outstanding white lining to be carried out soon. He has also contributed funding towards the marking out of Flookburgh Square, which the Parish Council are planning to resurface and Highways are drawing up plans for this to be put to a public consultation.

Parish Councillor Wilson thanked County Councillor Wilson for the work he has done within the parish and wishes him well in his recovery.

6 Report from District Councillor

District Councillor Gardner reported:

She has had a very busy year and it is difficult to remember all she has done. She has raised £1000 towards the resurfacing of Flookburgh Square and £15,000 towards the Moor Lane Play Area.

She joined the District Council Planning Committee and has experienced a very steep learning curve, finding difficult decisions have to be made and working to be fair and understanding. As an ex-swimming teacher she is delighted to be on the District Council Wellbeing Board and working with those who are now running the Ulverston and Kendal Leisure Centres, which is offering discounts to people with diabetes and working on maintaining the funding. Another responsibility is as member of the Lake Administration Committee and Licensing

In the Parish she is on the Community Led Plan Steering Committee and welcomes the next street clean where, as requested, SLDC have provided advance notification of the next date of 12th May. Related to this she arranged 2 Community Clear Ups and nearly 30 bags of litter and dog poo was collected, contributing to her nickname in the Council chambers as dog poo crusader. Further Clear ups will be arranged 4 weekly and she would like a Take Your Litter Home sign to be put up on Moor Lane. She has also worked with residents who are experiencing problems from holiday home users, both in noise and problem parking and joined the River Eea cleaning group organised by resident Linda Youd.

She reported that it has been an honour to help the community and hopes to be able to stay on after the election.

7 Report from Cumbria Police

PCSO Firth was unable to attend, but sent an update to advise local trends in Flookburgh and Cark for the year 2014/2015.

- Incidents and calls for service down.
- Number of cold callers down.
- On street anti-social behaviour especially during the winter down but the new season is upon us.
- Domestic burglary virtually non-existent.
- Small number of thefts from vehicles.
- Small number of thefts of actual vehicles themselves.
- Incidents and calls for service from Lakeland leisure down.
- Domestic no change.
- Problems and issues in local pubs down.
- Burglary other than dwellings roughly the same.

Recently he has been down on the Mile road with a colleague doing some speed checks. This was as a direct result of a number of complaints received by the local horse riding fraternity. A number of speeding tickets were issued and the local complainant was updated.

8 Reports from local Organisations

To receive reports from local organisations.

- a) Katie Wood of Flookburgh & District Recreational Charity Trust reported:
The Committee are now finalising the project plan for the Moor Lane site. The project will include areas for adult, toddler, junior and free play plus a picnic area. The total budget for this is £150,000 including VAT and the aim is for this to be completed by March 2017. There are future plans for a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) and BMX track. The Tender documents will be despatched to playground companies in early May with a return date of mid June 2015. The tenders will then be evaluated and a company appointed.
- b) Gemma Rowlandson of Flookburgh Community Playgroup reported:
The group cater for children aged 2 years old. The members are working to maintain numbers by holding open days and undertaking fund raising to pay the costs. They currently have 7 members and hope more will attend from September 2015. The children move onto Nursery in the term following their third birthday.
- c) Ruth Airey of Flookburgh Opera reported that the Opera recently put on performances of the new opera 'Just a Little War' which was locally written, featuring as the main character a young man from Flookburgh. Due to a shortage of members, it is unlikely that another opera will be performed and the future of the Opera will be considered at the AGM in June.
- d) Lyn Prescott of the Community Led Plan reported:
The Questionnaire for the Community Led Plan was distributed in January 2015 to all households with a very good return rate which represented all age groups, all communities and all households, including second homes. The Steering Committee are currently undertaking an in depth analysis of the responses and will be preparing an Action Plan. The information about street cleaning has already been used to respond to an SLDC survey in February 2015 and a date has been set for a major street clean in May.

Initial responses showed that

- The majority were satisfied with their healthcare
 - Nearly 50% walked in the parish every day
 - The majority didn't consider the recreational facilities in the parish to be sufficient
 - Adult exercise equipment and playground equipment suitable for all ages received the most positive responses for recreational facilities needed.
 - There was an even split between those who attended social or activity groups and those who didn't and a majority didn't think more were needed.
 - Respondents were more satisfied with how the needs of older people were catered for than of younger people, people with disabilities and families.
 - 11% of people have had family members move away due to lack of suitable or affordable housing.
 - Preferences for new housing (highest to lowest): Sheltered; Affordable; Local Occupancy (Parish); Local Occupancy (District); 1 or 2 bedroom; 3 or 4 bedroom; 5 bedroom or more.
 - Preferences for improvements to Flookburgh Square (highest to lowest): Safer Ways to Cross; One Way Route; Short Stay Parking; General Parking, Bus Stops (Local/School Buses); Seating; Don't Change Anything; Other.
 - The majority were dissatisfied with dog fouling; road maintenance; pavement cleaning, footpath/bridleway maintenance and litter.
- e) Linda Youd of the Cark Community River Improvement Group (written report)
The Group held a Caring for Our River Day, at which representatives from United Utilities, the Environment Agency and South Cumbria River Trust were all available to provide information and guidance. This was followed by a very educational group visit to the pumping station near Humphrey Head. The Group asked the involved groups to liaise and

communicate with local residents through the parish magazine, providing information and contact details so everyone is clear what each group does and what their contact details are, but this has not yet been done.

- f) Ruth Airey (report from James Rowlandson): Flookburgh Band & Ravenstown Club: Both are doing well.
- g) Valerie Wakefield of Flookburgh Rainbows, Brownies & Guides (written report) reported: That they have had a busy year and would like to thank St John's Church for letting them use the church room.
Guides: The guides had decided to run a year of fun. They had a pamper night, made a video, looked & discussed body image, made cakes, played bingo, made bird boxes and held a games evening. Brownies: The Brownies have celebrated their Centenary with a day at Muncaster Castle with 2000 brownies and a range of activities. They earned their cycling badge on Holker car park and have also done Archery, baking, made clay models, mother's day boxes and truffles, had a firework display and went on a penny walk and Easter Egg Hunt and made bird feeders.
Rainbows: They have worked on 'Roundabout' and 'Frozen' badges, made snowmen with marshmallows, clay models, had a snowball fight), made cakes, made bird feeders and did tree rubbing. Trips to the Zoo, ice skating, a firework display and had an Easter Egg Hunt Cumbria South celebrated their Ruby Anniversary with a trip to Conishead Priory.
- h) Gill Pett of Flookburgh Primary School (written report) reported: The school Ofsted report in October 2014 said the school was good in all areas. They have close links with Cartmel Priory School including attendance at local cluster school events. They have participated in KS2 Football tournament & National Award by Discovery Education, Global Learning Project on Ghana and Brewery Dance Performance Platform. They have design a window for Cark Station with the Community Rail Partnership. Year 5/6 have worked on Lego Robotics with BAE Systems, Makutano, Bible Explorers, Outdoor Education at Towerwood and a Brewery Arts Music Festival. The School has been involved with in Jesus for Jesus Ministries, Holker Garden Festival Scarecrow Competition, E-Safety Training, FOF Easter Bingo, National Walk to School Week and Year 2/3/4 will have a class trip relating to History & Geography to Morecambe in June.
- i) Barry Dawson of Flookburgh Village Hall and Flookburgh Library reported: The Library is held every Friday and is well attended. On Good Friday a quiz and raffle was held, with an Easter Egg donated by the Post Office and £100 was raised. A VE day quiz & raffle will be held next Friday. The Village Hall has a new front door, with funds donated by the Public Watering Place Charity. Complaints in the Community Led Plan about the shortened step due to the new door led to a widening of the door step.
- j) Lyn Prescott of Flookburgh Youth Club (Flocks 4 Youth) reported: The Youth Club has had a challenging year as in May the existing staff were made redundant by Young Cumbria and the club ran with temporary staff until the end of term. The Senior Club restarted in September with new staff but the Steering Committee were advised in August that no funds or staff were available to run the Junior Club. Work has since been undertaken by the Steering Committee to raise funds, recruit & check staff and put new procedures and policies in place and the Junior Club will restart on 30th April 2015.
- k) Tim Owen of Furness Line Community Rail Partnership (written report) reported: He was appointed Chairman following the untimely death of Peter Robinson of Grange in August last year. The study by consultants commissioned last year concluded that the current timetable was unfit for purpose and was unable to serve a number of important markets along the line. This study was used by the Community Rail Partnership (CRP) to back up its response to the Department for Transport's consultation document on the franchising of the TransPennine and Northern franchises. The Invitation to Tender for the

franchises specified that from December 2017 there should be at least eleven services to Preston of which eight should go forward to Manchester with a maximum of two interim stops after Preston. These services should be formed of high quality rolling stock, there will also be additional weekend services and the current number of stops at Cark will be protected.

- l) Allan Oldcorn of Lower Holker Bowling Club (written report) reported:
The Club operates from Lower Holker Village Hall from whom it leases the bowling green. The Bowling Club is run by a voluntary Committee who together with its members are responsible for the maintenance of the bowling green and its surrounds. The club has 52 members who pay an annual subscription which allows them unrestricted use of the green and the chance to play competitive bowling in various leagues. The club has a total of 7 teams which play in three different leagues. The bowling green is open for social bowling when the green is not being used for league matches and visitors are allowed to use the green on payment of a session fee. Bowling is not restricted to persons of more advanced years but a skilful sport which can be enjoyed by persons of all ages. The bowling club welcomes new members, be they experienced or newcomers. Coaching for novice bowlers can be arranged by contacting Geoff Critchley, Allan Oldcorn or Graham Wood.
- m) Geoff Critchley of Lower Holker Village Hall (written report) reported:
Lower Holker Village Hall has 10 Trustees who are responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the hall. The hall is owned by Holker Estates and is let to the Trustees under a 10 year renewable lease. The hall was built in 1908 and is a very large building requiring regular maintenance and improvement. Funds are generated from hiring of the halls rooms, grants from outside bodies, fund raising activities and the letting of the bowling green to Lower Holker Bowling Club. This year the hall underwent inspection so had to obtain a Fire Risk Assessment Report. This report identified the need to update the emergency lighting and fire detection system at a cost of over £2000. An application has been made to obtain a grant to undertake this work. The Energy Saving Project is still active and draught fans have been installed this year in both main rooms. Due to other commitments and expenditure no other progress has been made this year. It is intended to replace or upgrade all heating boilers in the future. The village hall is well used and new residents are sought to serve as Trustees (committee members) and spare a few hours a month to ensure the future of the hall.
- 9 Councillor Trevor Wilson thanked the District & County Councillors for all their hard work for the community. He also thanked everyone for all their hard work running local groups which keep the community vibrant for and providing reports for the meeting.

The meeting was closed at 8.10 pm