

**LOWER HOLKER PARISH
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Lower Holker Village Hall at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 18th May 2016

MINUTES

Present

Parish Councillors R Airey (Vice Chairman), B Dawson, M Keith, T Wilson (Chairman), Parish Clerk L Prescott, Mr R Shaw (North West Ambulance Service), Mr M Owen, Mr T Owen, Mrs K Wood.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Parish & District Councillor G Gardner, Parish Councillor S Rawsthorn, County Councillor S Sanderson, Mrs S Cowton-Williams, Mr G Critchley, Mrs J Mardon, Mrs G Pett & Mr J Rowlandson, were received and accepted.

2 Minutes of Last Meeting

Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 29th April 2015 were proposed by Councillor Airey, seconded by Councillor Dawson, agreed unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

3 Guest Speaker – Rick Shaw of North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust (NWAS)

Mr Shaw is a Service Development Manager and 20-year paramedic. The role of the Ambulance Service has changed and now not all 999 calls will lead to a despatch of an ambulance unless that is the most appropriate response. The NWAS has a range of vehicles at its disposal including helicopters, ambulances, cars and motorcycles. This area is covered by both the Great North Air Ambulance and the North West Air Ambulance helicopters. The service provided by the NWAS includes 999 calls, 111 calls, major incident management, patient transport, outpatient and planned care appointments. They are supported by the Volunteer Community Responders (1,000 in Cumbria). NWAS cover Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire, with a population of 7 million. They answer 1.3 million 999 calls a year and have 950,000 patient contacts.

Traditionally the role of the Ambulance service was to “scoop and run”. Paramedics were introduced in 1981 and are now required to be registered to practice. Paramedics now include Consultant Paramedics and there is a Paramedic MSc course. The aim is for the ambulance to be a mobile treatment centre and because of this 38% of 999 calls in South Cumbria don't go to hospital as that isn't the most appropriate response. The Ambulance Service now works more closely with GPs and other health professionals. 31% of calls for an Ambulance are from GPs between 12 noon and 3 pm and this results in ambulance queues at the Hospitals at certain times of the day. In South Cumbria there is an ageing population and 17% of calls relate to falls. The Ambulance Service work with physiotherapists on calls which relate to falls.

The NWAS service responds to different calls in different ways. These include Paramedic Pathways, Community Care, Acute Visiting Scheme, Community Paramedics, GP Bureau, Urgent Care Desk, Frequent Caller Initiative and Mental Health Care. Community Paramedics are now in Millom, based at the Health Centre, as part of a trial. 100 Paramedics qualify each year in the North West, although they may choose to leave the area.

The NWAS has call centres in Preston, Liverpool and Manchester. The target answer time is 95% within 5 seconds. Incident details are taken and the severity of the call analysed – from Red 1 (life threatening – 8 minute target arrival time), then Red 2, Green 1, Green 2, Green 3, Green 4 (3 to 4 hour target arrival time). In 2014/15 in South Cumbria of 3,000 calls a day 41% were Red calls. The average time an ambulance is engaged in a call is 78 minutes (ie despatch, collection, delivery to hospital, prepare for next call). There is an increasing demand, already a 3% increase in calls this year compared to last year.

The NWAS has a publicity campaign **#Team999** to explain the current service arrangements and they are happy to talk to community groups to spread the word. Their website is www.nwas.nhs.uk

Annual Parish Council Report

Chairman Parish Councillor Trevor Wilson delivered the following 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 £19554.44. Over the year £14589.00 was spent, leaving a Bank balance at the end of the year of £23503.44 (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 on 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 and would like to thank the Parish Councillors for their understanding and support during this time.

5 Report from Public Watering Place Charity

The Clerk reported that during the last financial year the Income received was £953.73. Income is no longer received from the Rural Payments Agency as there is not sufficient acreage to qualify under the new RPA Scheme. Grants paid out to University students were £150 and £100 was

awarded to Lower Holker Village Hall towards Fire Safety Equipment. The Charity Account balance on 1st April 2015 was £9095.96, and on 31st March 2016 was £9781.69.

6 Report from County Councillor

County Councillor Sue Sanderson was absent, but provided the following written report:

At the last County Council meeting a motion was passed opposing the forced academisation of state schools, this was principally because of concerns about rural schools which are shared by rural councils nationally. The Government have since withdrawn these proposals.

I met with Cumbria Highways and went through the issues raised by Parish Councils. As you know we had agreement with the Caravan Park regarding horse signs I am arranging a meeting with the manager to which Parish Council members will be invited as requested. There are several planned resurfacing works in the parish in the coming financial year. Money was allocated to the Parish Council by the County Council for car park lining and also lines opposite residents' houses where there are issues about cars parking opposite so they are unable to turn into their properties.

The Cumbria Strategic Waste partnership which is all six Districts and the County Council met recently and we have agreed to work more collaboratively to achieve more savings/income generation. New targets are being set and more emphasis is being put on the circular economy.

The South Lakeland Recovery Group which I chair is now meeting fortnightly. We are very pleased that we have coped with the housing needs so far. South Lakes Housing has started returning tenants to their homes. We asked people to return to their homes on Saturday for an hour so we could ensure we had recorded them all and we had their current addresses. Flood Forums continue to be held round the District, but are beginning to change in format to reporting back the outcomes of their investigations in a public meeting where possible mitigation measures can be discussed.

We had an officer from the Department of Communities and Local Government attend our last meeting and he will be coming back to work with us.

Additional information from SLDC: The rollout of kerbside recycling of plastic and cardboard has taken place in Ulverston Town Centre, Kirkby Lonsdale and Milnthorpe began on 10th May. The next phase will be Burton in Lonsdale and Arnsdale. Over 37% of properties in South Lakeland now receive the service, everyone will receive it by February 2017. Two smaller lorries have been delivered so we can begin looking at the more difficult access areas.

7 Report from District Councillor

District Councillor Gill Gardner was absent but provided the following written report:

Over the year I have been busy with a lot of different case work from Council Tax to Planning issues winning one to expand a business. A Speed Gun was borrowed to try to slow down the traffic on Moor Lane (mile road) for the horses. Volunteers were trained in its use however due to a shortage of volunteers and that the Speed Gun doesn't work in the rain, operations were suspended until the Summer.

The usual dog fouling problems still haven't changed after all the litter picks lane clean ups. The Council have been involved and have warned an offender. Book in the 4th June Saturday morning for the next litter pick. It has been reported to me that the bottom of the mile road is full of litter I am working with the County Councillor about the speeding limit signs turned round on Moor Lane and asked for additional new smaller signs.

I am still learning on Planning Committee and Full Council. I seem to always be doing something about the Council and a year goes by so quickly.

8 Report from Cumbria Police

No report has been received.

9 Reports from local Organisations

- a) Tim Owen of Furness Line Community Rail Partnership reported:

I am chair of the Furness Line CRP. Cark Station has had a new Customer Information System installed and new Community Noticeboards. The new service franchise has just been awarded to Arriva who will operate it under the Northern franchise. Rolling stock continues to be a problem due to delayed electrification of other lines, putting the planned 8 trains a day to Manchester in 2017 in doubt, but it will be in place by 2019 as new rolling stock will be available. The new franchise welcomes the formation of station groups, which are being set up at Kents Bank, Silverdale and Grange and there are 2 local volunteers at Cark (Mike Hemming & David Stubbins) but more are needed. The new Timetables are now available locally. Recently train staffing shortages have meant that services cannot be supplied so the trains may run empty and not stop at stations.

- b) Ruth Airey of Flookburgh Opera reported:

The Flookburgh Opera has unfortunately disbanded and the remaining funds have been distributed to local organisations.

- c) Gill Pett of Flookburgh Primary School (written report) reported:

A new Headteacher, Mrs Gill Pett, was appointed at the end of September 2015 and made substantive from January, 2016. A church school inspection was carried out in June 2015; the school achieved a 'satisfactory' grade overall and was acknowledged as rapidly improving. The Inspector reported: 'The strong leadership of the acting headteacher, supported by a committed staff team, is driving forward improvement of the school as a church school.'

'... the improvement of the school as a church school has been rapid. The response made to the focus for development from the last SIAS report has made a sound contribution to school improvement.'

(The full School report is available on the Parish Council website)

- d) Sally Cowton-Williams of Flookburgh Rainbows, Brownies and Guides (written report) reported:

Flookburgh Pack has 5 Rainbows, 12 Brownies and 5 Guides. The Rainbows and Brownies are working on variety of crafts and the Guides are working on badges (First Aid, Chocolate and Community Action) For Community Action they are helping the Soroptomists develop the sensory garden in Grange. The Guides are building bug houses and making wind chimes. A pack holiday was held in October 2015 at Silverdale (theme Alice in Wonderland).

- e) Barry of Flookburgh Library and Flookburgh Village Hall reported:

The Library continues to be very popular as a social event for the community. As well as books there are also quizzes, raffles, bingo, coffee and tea and (some weeks) lunches. There will be a Queen's Birthday event with bunting, a quiz, a raffle and lunch. The village hall continues to run with regular groups and maintenance is an ongoing issue.

- f) Lyn Prescott of Flocks 4 Youth (Youth Club) reported:

The Youth Club continues to be popular with local children aged from 8 to 16 years. The Club staff used to be funded by Cumbria County Council but funding is no longer available. The Junior Club has been run independently by the local Steering Committee since April 2015 and the Senior Club from September 2015. It is run by 2 qualified Youth Workers and one Volunteer and there is a variety of activities each week. A total of 31 children from Flookburgh and the surrounding villages are members.

- g) Geoff Critchley of Lower Holker Bowling Club (written report) reported:

Lower Holker Bowling Club is situated at Lower Holker Village Hall in the village of Cark in Cartmel. The club currently has a membership of 41. The club provides the opportunity for social bowling as well as competitive bowling in three bowling leagues: South Westmorland Seniors league (2 teams); Rothay League (2 teams); Kendal and District League (3 teams). In the 2015 season the 'A' Team playing in the Kendal and District League were relegated to Division 2. All our other teams retained their positions in the various leagues. During the season the club organised two Open knockout competitions which were kindly sponsored by Haven Leisure and Holker Estates. The Bowling Green is available for use for Social bowling and is open to all members of the community for a small fee. New members are always welcome and tuition can be arranged for novices bowlers. Full membership cost £20 per year but any person who wishes to try the sport out can pay for each visit by placing the game fee in the box provided. For further information contact the Club Chairman Alan Oldcorn, on 015395 58918 or any member.

- h) Geoff Critchley of Lower Holker Village Hall (written report) reported:

Lower Holker Village Hall has 13 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. In the last 12 months the Trustees have made a concerted effort to recruit Trustees as numbers were declining and the remaining Trustees were getting older. This effort was successful and I am pleased to report that we have recruited four new Trustees to assist in the running of the hall. During the year work was carried out to install additional emergency lighting and fire detection equipment as required by the recent Fire Risk Assessment Report. The cost was £2000. A grant was obtained from The Frieda Scott Trust to help undertake this work. Our Energy Saving Project is still active and consideration is being given to replacing the heating system in the Main Hall with more modern and energy efficient heaters. This is proving a difficult task to choose the right system for our needs. The outside of the hall will be repainted this year with the aid of a grant from Cumbria CC Community Foundation. Fund raising activities continued throughout the year in the form of the 200 Club, Craft Fair, Quiz nights, Christmas Bingo. A very successful and enjoyable evening was the Ulverston Victoria High School Band concert which played to a packed house. The village hall is well used and I believe essential to the community in providing a low cost venue for many activities however with the demise of Flookburgh Operatic Society the hall has lost a valued friend and hirer of the hall and I ask all the community to make as much use of the hall as possible to ensure its continued existence.

- i) Janet Mardon of Lower Holker WI (written report) reported:

Lower Holker WI are small in number but are celebrating 90 years this year. On June 30th in Flookburgh Village Hall we are having a celebration for the whole community celebrating our and HM Queen Elizabeth's 90 years with photos and displays of village life as well as Afternoon Tea, a raffle and bottle tombola. Any offers of help, photos, contributions of prizes etc. would be much appreciated.

- j) James Rowlandson of Flookburgh Band & Ravenstown Club reported:

Flookburgh Band has had another good year with quite a few concerts and all well attended. Finding new players still seems to be a problem, old or young, and we would welcome any persons interested to come along. This coming year we have had to turn down a few engagements due to lack of players, however we will still be putting on our last night of proms and Christmas concerts, as well as 2 shows on the bandstand at Grange, and some smaller gigs with our ensemble. Hopefully the coming year may bring some new players!

Ravenstown Club has had another busy year including quite a few charity do's that we have put on, as well as private functions. Membership is round about the 130 mark which it has been at

for the last few years. Our 2 snooker teams, 2 darts teams and bingo on a Thursday all play a big part in keeping the club going through the winter months. We have had the seating in the dance room altered to accommodate some booth type seating, and had the full interior, and most part of the exterior of the club decorated to give it a fresh look. Unfortunately our funds couldn't quite stretch the extra £1200 to have the dance floor repaired and recoated, but it's in the pipeline to get done after the summer. We have some other plans for improving the club including a kitchen and some other minor alterations which we hope to get done in the near future. As always we could do with some more committee members to help out with things as the club is still run on a voluntary basis, and new members are always welcome.

As some of you will know both the Band, which I've been a member of since I was 7, and the Club, play a big part in my life and my family and friends lives, and hopefully by this time next year both organisations will have gained some more members and can continue into the future.

k) Katie Wood of Flookburgh & District Recreational Charity Trust reported:

In September 2015 we selected our preferred Tender, Kompan Ltd. It was indeed a close call between Kompan and Playdale but we overall we preferred Kompan's designs. Since May 2016 we have raised a total of £27436.60, bringing our total raised to date total to over £52,000. The total project cost is expected to be £175,000. Since early 2016 our focus has been on fundraising, we have applied for many grants and have already been successful at securing some funds. We are also waiting on decisions for some others. We have two large grants to apply for from WREN (£50K) and Dong Energy (70k). These grants in particular could be instrumental in getting the project off the ground. We need approximately £85,000 to build Phase one and we hope now that this will be a possibility for 2017. In terms of community fundraising we have already held an Easter Egg Hunt this year and are also planning a duck race 5th June, Chapel Island walk 17th July and Jayne Pugh has volunteered to do a Parachute jump later on in the year. The groundworks for the site are also our priority at the moment, PJ Lambeth will be completing the car park by the end of the year but we also need the site to be levelled and seeded. We are currently obtaining quotes for this work and aim for it to be completed as soon as possible.

10

Close

Chairman Trevor Wilson thanked the Councillors and the Parish Clerk for their work over the past year.