

**LOWER HOLKER PARISH
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Flookburgh Village Hall at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 28th May 2013

MINUTES

Present

Parish Councillors R Airey (Vice Chairman), G Gardner, M Keith, J Rowlandson, T Wilson (Chairman), Parish Clerk L Prescott, PC P Harris, Mr B Dawson, Mrs J Carr, Mrs S Cowton-Williams, Dr Gent, Mr T Owen, Mrs S Thompson.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Councillors Rawsthorn and Ryland, County Councillor Wilson and PCSO Firth were received and accepted.

2 Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd May 2012 were agreed unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

3 Annual Parish Council Report

Chairman Trevor Wilson reported 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 Friday 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. Any member of the public is welcome to raise a concern with the Parish Council and attend any meeting.

The Parish Precept was set at £14,000 and other receipts included VAT repayment, a Grant from the Local Area Partnership, a Training Bursary from the National Association of Local Councils and Bank Interest, so total receipts were £16,347.56. Over the Year £12,539.99 was spent, leaving a Bank balance at the end of the year of £17,705.86. Grants have been made to support the Cartmel Peninsula Schools Olympics, Flookburgh & Cark Christmas Lights, The Red Cross, Great North Air Ambulance & Flookburgh Village Hall for CCTV.

The Parish Council has continued to operate the Toilets at Cark and a lengthsman has tidied up the site and has refurbished 2 noticeboards and 4 public benches in the Parish. A replacement bench has also been installed in Flookburgh Square and infilling of the potholes on the Square has been organised.

During the past year we have been consulted on a range of issues by the Government, Cumbria and South Lakeland Councils, the Police and Holker Estates. The issues include the use of 'red' diesel, budgets, rights of way, bus operator grants, minerals and waste, police stations, the national grid, a wind farm and woodland management.

All the Councillors and the Parish Clerk have attended training courses organised by the Cumbria Association of Local Councils to ensure that they continue to run the Parish Council professionally and properly represent the electorate.

Eighteen Planning Applications within or near the Parish have been considered, relating to domestic and commercial use, of which most received no objections, 2 were objected to and 2 were supported.

The Parish Council now has a Facebook page and over the next year a website will be launched.

The initial survey for the Community Led Plan has shown that most residents enjoy the sense of community, amenities, environment and activities. They don't like the mess created by dogs & litter, bad parking, speeding traffic, potholes, lack of play spaces, antisocial behaviour, the changes at the doctor's surgery and inadequate waterways maintenance. A range of ideas have been suggested to improve the area, including a litter picking group, parking changes, play equipment and changing bus times. The next step is to prepare a more detailed survey to be distributed to all households (and will be available online) by a Steering Group so that a detailed Action Plan can be made and implemented. Volunteers for this Steering Group are needed.

4 **Report from Public Watering Place Charity**

The Clerk reported that income totalling £1148.88 had been received from 3 Field Rents, Dividends and Rural Payments Agency and grants totalling £950 had been made to 2 local University Students, Flookburgh Playgroup and Ravenstown Club. The bank balance on 31 March 2013 was £7820.06. Grants are available for groups which benefit the local community and to support local individuals eg towards further education.

5 **Report from County Councillor (written report)**

Councillor Wilson was absent on holiday. His written report follows:

The May 2013 Elections resulted in no overall majority and the Council is now led by a Labour and Lib-Dem coalition; Labour having the largest number of seats. Budgets continue to be reduced and by the end of 2013-14 the county budget will have been reduced by 33% compared to 4 years ago. He serves on committees including Nuclear Issues, Connecting Cumbria (broadband), is chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee. Ongoing issues involve the UMBH Trust, the takeover of North Cumbria Hospital Trust and monitoring the impact of the Health service reforms in our area. The County Division stretches from Humphrey Head to Gummers Howe and covers 5 Parishes. Main concerns related to Highways (potholes, culverts & winter gritting) which should continue to be reported on the Highways Hotline or contact him. A major reorganisation of Highways has taken place with reductions in staffing and budgets and Highway spending is much less than areas like Adult Care. He regularly attends Parish Council meetings and plus talking to residents and following up any concerns. The Local Community/Parish Plan is important to identify priorities for the Parish for all residents and businesses and will assist Parish dealings with District and County Councils. Continue to contact him with any concerns.

6 **Report from District Councillor**

District Councillor Gardner reported:

She has had a very busy year including attending a range of events eg Family Fun Day, Tree lighting and as Santa Claus for the toddler group. Regular visits to Flookburgh School have taken place including discussing the problems of dog poo and walking around the close streets with the school chalking the dog poos on the lanes. She is working on several issues including Dog poo, hedge cutting and potholes. A successful public meeting was arranged with SLDC, followed by cleaning up dog poos on Moor Lane (with help from her daughter), School Lane and shore lane, but in the following days more have been left and it is up to dog owners to take responsibility for their pets. Leaflets are available to report people not cleaning up after their animals and stickers are also available to put on your bins. Overgrown hedges were reported to Rod Wilson as it is a County Council matter. Pot holes are being regularly reported as she has discovered more whilst on her bike preparing for the triathlon. Rod Wilson has been very supportive as County Councillor and she agrees that we need to get involved with the Village Plan so we have a say in our world. She is raising money for the Flookburgh District Recreational Charity Trust by means of an open water triathlon and sponsor forms are available if you would be able to support this. Any issues that you have please don't hesitate to contact her.

7 **Report from Cumbria Police**

PC Harris reported that crime in the area has reduced compared to the previous year, particularly violent crime which has fallen by 23%. No vehicles have been stolen and no burglaries but there has been an increase in vehicle damage and anti social behaviour, which is a Community Priority. 48 calls were made to the Police in the last month. Thieves who have stolen farm machinery have been apprehended by Lancashire police but overall rural crime has fallen.

8 **Reports from local Organisations**

To receive reports from local organisations.

a) Tim Owen of the Community Rail Partnership reported:

Local organisations and rail companies are planning to rail services and Cark Station, which is now a hub station for Tourism. The usage at Cark is 28 journeys/resident compared to Barrow at 9 journeys/resident. Improvements including refurbishing the waiting room, painting (except the Bridge which is Network Rail), CCTV, flowerbeds and electronic signs are planned so there will details on when trains will be coming. The timetables will change, with no reduction in trains but not as many to Manchester and 3 extra stops at Cark from May 2014 when all trains will then stop at Cark and an improved Sunday service. There are ongoing problems with visitors arriving unable to travel on, particularly to Lakeland Leisure, as there is no phone box and often no mobile signal to order a taxi, however a noticeboard has been requested with information. Please publicise the service to make sure it is used. Councillor Airey also asked about the damaged Station sign in Flookburgh Square and Tim is to pass the information on to the Rail company.

b) Dr Gent of Fairfield Surgery reported:

Fairfield Surgery has been undergoing staff changes due to retirement but is now fully staffed. The practice name has been changed to Peninsula Medical Practice and there has been a new registration with the Care Quality Commission. Patients can be seen at either the Fairfield Surgery or the Rose Grove Surgery in Grange, with 50% of appointments at each surgery, with the exception of minor surgery which will only be offered in Grange at the new Berners site, where £200,000 has been spent on providing a sterile environment. Temporary care for emergencies would be provided at Fairfield if required, but not minor surgery. The Practice will be establishing patient groups for the surgeries in Flookburgh and Grange and the new site at Berners and want Flookburgh residents to be involved in both. The Surgery hours have been reduced with 3 full days and 2 half days at Flookburgh, though hours will be changing when Dr Bunter finishes his other job. Urgent appointments should be available on the same day. Changes to the Waiting Room have been required for cleanliness and 2 noticeboards will be installed, 1 for statutory notices and views from the patient group will be sought for information required.

c) Ruth Airey of Flookburgh Operatic reported:

The Operatic Society has a shortage of members and has not put on a show for the last 2 years but have had 2 musical evenings. The AGM is next Wednesday (5th June) and new members are welcome.

d) James Rowlandson of Flookburgh Band reported:

That the Band is going well, though there is a shortage of youngsters, with some band members travelling from outside the area eg Askam and they haven't entered in competitions for the last 2 years.

e) James Rowlandson of Ravenstown Club reported:

The Club has been undergoing renovations and has had a full bar refit and new carpets (with a contribution from the Public Watering Place Charity) and it taking bookings for events. Everyone involved in the running of the Club, with the exception of the cleaner, is an unpaid volunteer.

f) Gill Gardner of Flookburgh Recreational Charity Trust reported:

The topsoil is going back on the site and they have received funding from the Local Area Partnership and Cumbria County Council towards adult exercise equipment. A Duck Race is planned for 7th July and Gill is undertaking a Triathlon to raise funds.

g) Lyn Prescott of Flocks 4 Youth reported:

The Youth Club is very popular with up to 50 youngsters attending each week. They also go on visits for bowling, lazerzone, riding and Blackpool sandcastle.

h) Barry Dawson of Flookburgh Village Hall reported:

The Village Hall is having the best year yet, with a new boiler being installed improvements to the kitchen. Bookings are up including Tai Chi and Mothers and Toddlers and the new Lunch Club is proving popular. The next improvements planned is painting the outside of the building. They would like there to be a more visible sign for the Village Hall so that people can find it, possibly removing the Christmas Tree holder and placing a sign there. The Library is also proving popular.

i) Sally Cowton-Williams of Flookburgh Guides, Brownies and Rainbows reported:

They cover the area from Haverthwaite to Grange and there are 12 Rainbows (5-7 yrs), 8 Brownies (7-10 yrs) and 9 Guides (10-14 yrs) who meet at the Church Hall each week. The Rainbows have been celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Rainbows starting with a Princess party and enjoy crafts, games and a mock sleepover. The Brownies have been working on badges for First Aid, Disability, Swimming, Cooking and Crafts. The Guides have been working on badges for Traveller, Culture, Water Safety, Confectionary and have had visits from the Trefoil Guild, Mendhi Hand Painting, Birds of Prey, Little Beasties and a Disability Awareness helper dog. 2 Guides are undertaking the Baden Powell award.

j) David Chick from Lower Holker Bowling Club (Written report) reported:

Apologies for absence due to a Kendal League match. The Club runs 7 competitive teams, in the Rothery League (2), Kendal League (3) and South Westmorland Seniors League (3), travelling as far afield as Langdale, Sedbergh and Bolton le Sands and are having considerable success this season. There is a shortage of younger members and contacts with Cartmel High School and Flookburgh Primary School, together with support from PCSO Howard Firth is working towards organising taster sessions for local youngsters, one being organised for 2 groups of 12 on 26th June. Child Welfare and a CRB qualified person is in place at the Club. Smaller bowls, suitable for children, are being borrowed from a Heversham Club, requiring collection and return after each session, the cost of 12 sets of 12 bowls being £700 and currently well beyond the means of the Club. The Annual Duck Race will be held on 29th June by the Engine pub to raise funds, sponsored by local businesses, £1 per duck and £75 first prize.

k) Geoffrey Critchley of Lower Holker Village Hall (written report) reported:

This year following the energy saving project the main hall, billiard room, balcony and fire exit have been redecorated, together with repair of the wall adjoining Bank Top, rebuilding the driveway wall and replacement of the train at the top of the drive. Inspection of the electrical system and installation of a new fire alarm has been completed. The Bowling Club maintains the green to a high standard. Moles have been discouraged and other unwelcome visitors proved elusive to the Environmental Health department. A range of organisations utilise the hall and grounds and events this year include Lizzie G, Christmas Bingo, Open Gardens, Craft Fair and 200 Club. Fund raising is ongoing and the next project will be planning the project of updating the heating system.

The Meeting closed at 8.25 pm