

**LOWER HOLKER PARISH
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Lower Holker Village Hall at 7.00 pm on Monday 19th May 2014

MINUTES

Present

Parish Councillors R Airey (Vice Chairman), G Gardner, T Wilson (Chairman), Parish Clerk L Prescott, County Councillor R Wilson, PCSO H Firth, Mr B Dawson, Ms G Cleeve and Mr H Eakins.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Councillors Keith, Rawsthorn, Rowlandson and Ryland, Mr T Owen and Mr G Critchley were received and accepted.

2 Minutes of Last Meeting

Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 28th May 2013 were proposed by Councillor Airey, seconded by Councillor Gardner, agreed unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

3 Annual Parish Council Report

Chairman Councillor Wilson reported that 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 launched on 2nd February 2014 at www.lowerholkerparishcouncil.org.uk 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 Ark 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 Ark, and arranged for South Lakeland District Council to move one of the litter bins in Flookburgh to Ravenstown (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 Ark-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 Ark 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.

4 **Report from Public Watering Place Charity**

The Clerk reported that income totalling £1119.95 had been received from 3 Field Rents, Dividends and Rural Payments Agency. Grants totalling £400 had been awarded to 4 local University Students. The bank balance on 31 March 2014 was £8740.01.

5 **Report from County Councillor**

County Councillor Wilson reported that his division includes 5 Parish Councils. The County Council has had to reduce spending by £24 million, part of 3 years' saving of £80, which will result in a slimmed down Council with much reduced staffing. He chairs the County Health Scrutiny Committee at a time when the Hospital Trusts in Cumbria have clinical and budgetary problems and he is meeting regularly with the Trusts, Clinical Commissioning Group and the Better Care Together who are examining options for the county. He attends the majority of the Parish Council meetings, often dealing with Highways related matters and has also been involved in meetings to develop the Lower Holker Community Led Plan. This Plan will be essential to enable the community to access resources to ensure our community remains a vibrant one. He has also been involved with the Recreational trust and would like to pay tribute to Councillor Gardner for her leadership and work keeping the project going to improve the quality of life for children and young people.

Councillor Wilson was asked whether there was any good news about the Circular Bus Service – he reported that the subsidy will continue at present and then reconfigured services is expected. He and Councillor Bill Wearing have been attending meetings in relation to this and expect a response within the next month.

6 Report from District Councillor

District Councillor Gardner reported:

She has joined the Planning committee and found it very interesting with the complex laws and planning regulations. Last year she arranged a meeting regarding dog fouling and the District Council adopted new dog fouling byelaws, though nobody has yet been find, and there needs to be more publicity about the new byelaws. Bins have been relocated and a new bin bought by the parish and placed in areas identified as problem areas for dog fouling. Last year she arranged lane clean ups with volunteers and plan to do more this year. The overgrown school lane has again been an issue due to the barrier and the hedges not being cut and she is working with the County Council to resolve the problem. A new committee has been formed to improve the River Eea and held a Look after your River event and a trip to the Grange Pumping Station.

7 Report from Cumbria Police

PCSO Firth reported that overall crime has reduced over the past year, particularly antisocial behaviour. This may be due to fewer youths on the streets, perhaps at home on the internet. There are now fewer officers and there is no longer a custody suite in Ulverston, only in Barrow and Kendal. Milnthorpe and Sedburgh Police offices are also closed.

Crime/Anti-Social Behaviour Figures:

	2013/14	2012/13	Change
Cumbria - Crime	2974	2983	Reduced
Cumbria – Anti Social Behaviour	3077	3242	Reduced
South Cumbria – Crime	938	974	Reduced
South Cumbria – Anti-Social Behaviour	992	1164	Reduced
Ulverston/Lakes/Cartmel Peninsula - Crime	171	171	Same
Ulverston/Lakes/Cartmel Peninsula – Anti-Social Behaviour	157	175	Reduced

Crime = Burglarly/Theft. Anti-social behaviour includes neighbour disputes/internet (eg Facebook) incidents

PCSO Firth was asked about the increasing crime relating to Cash Machines. He reported that violet crime has gone up, but the Cash Machines referred to were not in the immediate local area. Rural Crime includes poaching, with a few incidents and good intelligence is received locally including via the NFU initiative. Vehicles are stopped regularly in relation to sheep rustling and dog worrying continues to be a problem.

8 Reports from local Organisations

To receive reports from local organisations.

a) Lyn Prescott of the Community Led Plan reported:

Community Led Planning is a tried and tested approach that helps local people explore the needs for their area, set priorities and plan actions. The Steering Group, with representatives from the Parish & District Council and from local organisations, has met regularly since forming last summer and is now in the final stages of preparing the Questionnaire which will be distributed throughout the community. Questions on the topics of health, caring for our community, activities, housing, environment, Flookburgh square, parking, transport, road safety and business will be included. During the process, the findings of the initial questionnaires have been considered and a meeting held with Holker Estates and Lakeland Leisure. Committee members have attended questionnaire training and advice has been provided by Action with Communities in Cumbria and South Lakeland District Council.

b) Barry Dawson of Flookburgh Village Hall and Flookburgh Library reported:

The Village Hall's AGM last week was attended by 10 members of the public. The Village Hall has had a good year with increased bookings, although Age Concern has withdrawn funding the Tai Chi so that will end this month and can only continue if participants pay upfront for a set of sessions, rather than weekly. The Hall has had a new heating system, new domestic boiler and new cooker range installed. The Library, held on a Friday morning, is used a social meeting point for the community. The next project is to paint the outside of the village hall, hopefully the road will be tarmacked before this.

- c) Lyn Prescott of Flookburgh Youth Club reported:
The Youth Club has had a very successful year, with 80 regular members who attend the club aged between 8 and 16 years and participate in arts & crafts, cooking, indoor games, video games and outdoor games. They also and go on trips eg paintballing, carting, bowling, camping, Alton Towers and Blackpool. There is a Steering Committee of 4 local parents who oversee the running of the club and support the Youth Workers. There are currently staffing changes taking place and the future plans are not yet clear due to the lack of information received from Young Cumbria who provide the youth workers.
- d) Chairman of Lower Holker Village Hall (written report) reported:
There have been committee changes due to Pat Rawcliffe, Holly Treadwell and Elizabeth Shorrock leaving and Jules Evans and Gill Cleeve joining. There are plans to start improving the heating systems by installing down draught fans in the billiard room and main hall. The boundary wall alongside the drive has been taken down and rebuilt by Brian. Fund Raising Events which have taken place include Bingo, Craft Fair, Table Top Sale, 200 Club, Ladies evening and Quiz Nights. Regular bookings include the Operatic Society, School of Dancing and Bowling Club and planned future events include concerts, Chapel Island Walk, Treasure hunt and willow weaving.
- e) Geoff Critchley of Lower Holker Bowling Club (written report) reported:
The Bowling Club is based at Lower Holker Village Hall and has a membership of 47. They has social bowling (available any day when a match is not being played) and competitive bowling in 3 leagues (South Westmorland Seniors, Rothay and Kendal and District). Home Matches are at Lower Holker and away games as far away as Ambleside, Sedbergh or Kirkby Lonsdale. New members welcome and tuition can be provided for novice bowlers. Full membership is £20/year, but trials can be arranged by paying a game fee.
- f) Lee Johnson of Lower Holker Women's Institute (written report) reported:
The meetings have included visits to Café Ambio, Pam Mellor's (to view a WI Pantomime video) and Cartmel Agricultural Show). Talks have included the topics of Olympic Volunteering. Romanian Shoe Boxes, the Westmorland County Show, Crown Jewels and flower arranging. Members have also contributed entries for Westmorland, Cartmel and Holker Garden Festival and taken part in a variety entertainment in Kendal Town Hall. The Club meet the first Wednesday in the month at 7.30 pm.
- g) Ruth Airey of Flookburgh Opera reported that the Opera has been operating for over 60 years and has had a good year and put on a very successful show – Stepping Out. New members are always welcome, particularly men.
- h) Gill Gardner of Flookburgh & District Recreational Charity Trust reported:
The committee has been reorganised and are ready to take the project forward to the next phase, which will be installation of the first equipment later this year or earlier next year. Concerns have been raised in relation to road safety on route to or at the site and we are working with Cumbria County Council on the best options for this.
- i) Tim Owen of Furness Line Community Rail Partnership (written report) reported:
Cark Station waiting room has been refurbished, the station has been painted and flower beds created. The waiting room was declared open on 25th October 2014 by Lord Cavendish and the Royal Train visited with the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh on 14th November 2014 on a private visit to Holker Hall. A new timetable provides a more regular service on weekdays, with only 1 non-stopping train each way each day. A meeting arranged by MP John Woodcock in January 2014 agreed to arrange an economic study of the Furness Line by consultants in order to produce a proposition for train services on the line to be submitted to the Department of Transport franchise consultation process. The required £30,000 for the study has been raised and the study is due to be completed in June 2014.

9 Councillor Trevor Wilson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and providing reports and commented that the community is full of excellent organisations.

The meeting was closed at 8.30 pm