

**LOWER HOLKER PARISH
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**
By Skype at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 5th May 2021

MINUTES

Present

Parish Councillors R Airey, B Dawson, J Ryland & T Wilson, Parish Clerk L Prescott & 4 members of the public.

1 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies from Parish Councillors Keith & Wilson, PCSO H Firth, Paul Jenkison (Lower Holker Village Hall) & Katie Wood (Flookburgh & District Recreational Charity) were received and accepted.

2 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2019 was proposed by Councillor Airey, Seconded by Councillor Ryland, agreed unanimously and will be signed by the Chairman in due course.

3 **Annual Parish Council Report**

The Chairman presented the following Annual 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).

Meetings

Lower Holker Parish Council usually meets on the first Wednesday of every month, with the exception of August, alternating between Lower Holker and Flookburgh Village Hall, however since March 2020 meetings have been held remotely by video and telephone. 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 attended the following:
Cartmel Old Grammar Foundation
Flookburgh & District Recreational Charity meetings
Cumbria Association of Local Councils – District meetings
Grange and Peninsula (GAP) Wellbeing Group meetings

Finances

The Parish Precept for 2020-21 was set at £15,781.63 and other income was received from Grants, VAT repayment, Community Infrastructure Levy and Bank Interest, so total receipts were £30,718.99. Over the year £15,237.17 was spent, leaving a Bank balance at the end of the year of £43,220.16 (Receipts & Payments Account attached). The funds spent were less than planned as some projects have been delayed due to the Covid restrictions and will proceed as regulations allow.

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, Policies and Procedures and financial details of the Parish Council. The website has been assessed for accessibility in line with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 and amendments made as required to ensure accessibility for users. The visitors to the website are mainly from UK but include USA, Portugal, Germany and Russia. The Parish Council Facebook page was launched in 2012 and includes local information and news items and currently has 320 likes. The Parish Council also published a page in the monthly Parish Link newsletter until October 2020 and has since then published reports in Grange Now and Flookburgh Today. Agendas and Minutes are displayed in the Cark Noticeboard and the new Flookburgh Noticeboard (installed in 2021).

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. During the first lockdown the cleaning company staff were on furlough and the Parish Clerk undertook the cleaning so they could remain open for essential workers and delivery drivers. The cleaning company is now employed to clean the toilets more frequently during the present Covid situation.
- The Parish Council continue to pay for street lighting and emptying 4 of the litter bins (including 2 in the Playground).
- A Speed Indication Device has been installed on Moor Lane near to the Playground to remind drivers of the 30 mph speed limit.
- Volunteers used the Speed Gun to monitor traffic within the Parish prior to the first lockdown and will resume this activity in due course.
- Defibrillators have been installed at Ravenstown Club and Cark Toilets, defibrillator training was arranged and roadside notices installed to indicate the location of the nearest defibrillator.
- Two cycle racks have been installed by Cark Toilets.
- The Parish Council is supporting the Cartmel Peninsula Greening Campaign.
- The Parish Council has worked with the District Council to install 2 new litter bins and new street signs.

Planning Applications

Planning Applications via South Lakeland District within the Parish have been considered and responses submitted, relating to domestic and commercial use.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The Parish Council is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office as a Data Controller and information is only used of in line with these regulations and disposed on when no longer required.

Highways

Reports of potholes, drainage problems, street light faults and other defects are regularly reported to the County Council Highways department using the HIMs reporting system.

Flookburgh Community Playground

The new playground on Moor Lane was closed for several months during early 2020 in line with Government guidance. It re-opened in July 2020 following a risk assessment, installation of new signage, hand sanitiser and an equipment cleaning regime. The Parish Council and Flookburgh & District Recreational Charity oversee the operation and maintenance of the Playground.

Public Participation

Several members of the public have contacted the Parish Council and also attended to speak at or observe Parish Council meetings.

Lower Holker Parish Council					
Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2021					
Previous Year		2020/21	Previous Year		2020/21
	Receipts			Payments	
£15,449.82	Precept	£15,781.63	£4,559.50	Clerk's Salary	£4,693.00
£892.18	Council Tax Support Grant	£891.37	£160.00	Clerk's Telephone	£160.00
£500.00	Flookburgh & District Recreational Charity Grant re Playground	£500.00	£736.18	Administration	£644.62
£0.00	Small Business Grant (Government grant)	£10,000.00	£0.00	Training	£20.00
£380.92	SLDC Community Infrastructure Levy	£2,291.84	£100.00	Grants (Sec 137)	£550.00
£3,346.20	VAT Refund	£1,253.13	£600.00	Grants	£1,940.00
£5.25	Bank Interest	£1.02	£867.67	Street Lighting Expenses	£507.19
			£1,494.30	Insurance	£751.52
			£1,253.13	VAT	£844.53
			£200.00	Newsletter	£0.00
			£29.99	Website	£29.99
			£3,425.10	Toilet Running Expenses	£2,928.44
			£2,377.79	Public Safety and Environment	£1,027.63
			£1,180.07	Flookburgh Community Playground	£1,100.25
			£40.00	GDPR	£40.00
£20,574.37		£30,718.99	£17,023.73		£15,237.17

4 **Report from Public Watering Place Charity**

The Clerk reported that during the last financial year the Income received totalled £1,124.66 (£279.66 from Share Dividends and £845.00 from field rents). Grants were paid to 6 students totalling £900. The Charity Account balance on 1st April 2020 was £13,103.87 and on 31st March 2021 was £13,328.53.

5 **Report from County Councillor**

No report has been received.

6 **Report from District Councillors**

No report has been received.

7 **Reports from local Organisations**

a) Tony Entwistle of the Local Holker WhatsApp Community Support Group reported:

In March 2020 it became apparent that the impending Covid-19 pandemic was about to hit us hard, and it was clear that the most affected, by the necessary measures taken to slow down the spread of the virus, would be the most vulnerable in our community. It was at that point I began to formulate the idea of introducing a community support WhatsApp group to help us connect with those people who needed help and support. After speaking with the local parish council, the south lakes support organisation various food banks and friends in the community we produced the introductory leaflets which were then delivered to every property in the area. I have to say the mobilisation effort was outstanding with many people involved and this initial phase was a credit to the members of the Lower Holker Community.

What we have achieved

The group reached a total of 135 participants who joined to ask for help or to offer support to those requiring assistance, some of the activities included.

- Distributing free bread provided by John at Fat Flour to those shielding
- Taking dogs for walks
- Doing shopping for others on a regular basis
- Organising 1-1 chats with the elderly and vulnerable
- Providing up to date information on the pandemic
- Helping with small tasks such as gardening
- Providing links to emergency tradesmen
- Re-distributing the government Covid support boxes to those who did not require them
- Offering un-required items to others

In addition, the group chat provided a space for those who just needed some contact with others to chat about local and national topics, this was a key part of the purpose of the group as the most mundane chats would help others struggling with isolation and their mental health.

During the last few months, it has become clear that the support group chat dynamic is changing and whilst this is not unexpected, I feel that it has served its purpose as a hub where those vulnerable people can reach out. My observation is that it has not become more of a social media site where opinions are sought and given. As we all know there will always be two opinion's and in this age of social media those opinions will often be entrenched thus creating distinct views which people then comment upon depending on their own view. This behaviour will often cause upset and concern and this has certainly been reflective of late with people leaving the site, (there are now 119 participants). To be clear my decision to step down as an admin for this site was not wholly down to this change in the usefulness of the site, I am also now very busy with my business which needs more of my attention. Going forward I would suggest a re-launch of the site with clear guidelines on what the site is for and what is acceptable in terms of content for the site, I still believe it is a valuable community asset, but it needs to evolve. The Councillors agreed to consider further at the June Parish Council meeting.

b) Paul Jenkison, Chair of Lower Holker Village Hall was absent and provided a written report:

Lower Holker Village Hall has 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 the hiring of the rooms, grants from outside bodies, fund raising activities and the letting of the bowling green to Lower Holker Bowling Club.

Since our last report we have had a number of changes to the Trustees (committee members); Arthur Wilson (a long standing committee member) unfortunately passed away. The trustees have since renamed the main hall 'The Arthur Wilson Room' and a slate plaque donated by Burlington Stone is presently being engraved and will be put in place soon. Charlie Croft, Mark Trotter and Laura Harrison stood down from the committee due to other commitments, thank you for all your contributions. I would also like to thank all present committee members for all their hard work especially during this difficult time with Covid 19, it has been quite a challenge trying to conduct our meetings via Zoom. We are always looking for new members of the community to consider becoming a trustee to ensure the hall remains open. All that is required is attendance at our monthly meetings and assistance at fund raising events. Since our last report everyone has had to endure a Covid 19 pandemic and this has also had an effect on the running and upkeep of Lower Holker Village Hall. Unfortunately, all activities and events had to be cancelled and the hall remained closed for a long period of time. This resulted in no incoming income to maintain the building and grounds. Thanks to Government, Local Council and Parish Council Grants we have come through a very difficult period and hopefully we are now seeing the green shoots of recovery. The dance school and Lower Holker Bowling Club have resumed their activities this month (following government Covid 19 guide lines) and there are plans for Badminton, Tai Chi, Sewing Club and other groups to return by the end of May 2021. We can then hopefully plan for further events including 'Jazz in the Village' which is planned for November this year and possibly a stage presentation by the end of the year. As with all old buildings we have had to continue with the upkeep and maintenance of the building. The hall emergency lighting is being upgraded to new LED lights, which will reduce our electricity usage considerably. Amongst several ideas, we have plans for upgrading the stage area and improvements for disabled access. These improvements would not be possible if it wasn't for the additional grants that we have received over the last 12 months, which we are deeply grateful for. The Village Hall is well used and I believe essential to the community in providing a low cost venue for many activities. I ask all the community to make as much use of the hall as possible to ensure its continued existence. During the year concerted efforts are made to promote the facilities, we ask the community to please consider making more use of them. Many thanks to all who have supported us in the past and going forward into the future.

c) Barry Dawson, Secretary of Flookburgh Village Hall reported:

The Village Hall has been closed due to the Covid situation and the first meeting to be held there will be the AGM. Barry will be retiring his current role but staying on as events organiser. Until the AGM has taken place further decisions will not be taken. There have been problems with the financial information not being passed to the new Treasurer. Work has been done during lockdown including creating a new Library. The Hall will open as soon as possible.

d) Tim Owen of Furness Line Community Rail Partnership reported:

The Furness Line Community Rail Partnership has continued to be active during the last year although the three lock downs have curtailed some of the activities. Of particular note has been the progress towards preparing a formal study to improve access to platform three at Ulverston which is currently only accessible by steps. Community Rail in Cumbria was very successful at the virtual Annual Community Rail Awards ceremony in December. Working with Morecambe Bay Partnership, ten wayfinding panels have been installed at all ten stations along the line and these received second place in the 'Tourism and Heritage' category. A skills swap session for South Cumbria station adopters held in Lower Holker Village Hall received third place in the 'Best Community Engagement Project' category. Friends of Cark Station continue to meet on Thursday

mornings to maintain and improve the station environs and this year received a silver in the 'It's your Station' category at the Community Rail Awards.

e) Jeni McConnel of Flookburgh Community Food Club and PEAT (Peninsula Environmental Action Together) reported:

The Food Club started in May 2020. It receives about 275Kg of food each week from FareShare, a food interception and redistribution charity who cover the whole of Cumbria and Lancashire from their Preston base. There are many independent food clubs in this area, including Cartmel, Allithwaite, Grange, Witherslack and further afield in Ulverston and Kendal - many do more than just weekly food clubs too! Cartmel, Allithwaite and Flookburgh work closely together and also help to run and support the successful Cartmel Peninsula Holiday Food Box scheme. Cartmel also has a 24x7 food shed for anyone to use, pay as you feel - 6 Pitt Garth Haggs Lane Cartmel LA11 6PH. At Flookburgh Food Club we have 40 members who pay £5 to join and then £3 weekly. The money we collect is used to run and support the club, the food is free. The club is run by its members, we have a small committee and a fantastic team of helper members who run it each Monday from Flookburgh Village Hall (not on Bank Holidays). Payment is not enforced for any members where money is difficult and we have supported the Parish Hall with donations and contributed with money and time to run the school holiday food box project, which has been fantastically successful for the area. If food waste were a country, it would be the world's third largest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitter after China and the USA. In the UK 1.9 million tonnes of surplus food is wasted by the food industry every year and of that 250,000 tonnes is still edible - that's enough for 650 million meals!

PEAT (Peninsula Environmental Action Together) is a growing group of people who live in the nine parishes of Cartmel peninsula and its peaty edgelands who are passionate about finding ways to work together and to support everyone in our local area as we hear more about our carbon-challenging future in this ever changing world. The name PEAT was formally adopted in autumn 2020 as we became a constituted group. The individual title words and the name were chosen intentionally to help us express what the group is about. This area is surrounded by peat from the marshy waters' edges to the upland fells. Peat stores twice as much carbon as all the world's forests. In the Lake District peatlands there is 22.9 million tonnes of carbon stored - equivalent to 84 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. When we read all this we knew our new name made perfect sense! We are sometimes viewed with slight suspicion, as 'greenies', or maybe even as 'bunny huggers', but our focus is truly about starting and growing connections to help make things happen that are good for local people and the planet, working together, without exclusion. PEAT Membership for 2021 is £5 per person. Everyone is welcome to join the group to enjoy the monthly members' talks (currently on Zoom). Members can also get involved and be more active in our projects and group if they'd like to, but it's certainly not expected! We have 2 exciting projects we are running in 2021:

Seedlings

A project to get as many people over the peninsula area having a go at growing their own food - whether they are trying for the first time, or their fiftieth! The project is funded by the generosity of PEAT members, Light Up Lives and SLDC Climate Action project fund. We started with 24,000 organic veg, salad, herb and companion flower seeds which have been shared with nearly 500 people over the whole area, including 90 Lower Holker residents so far taking part. The project strapline SOW-GROW-SHARE-REPEAT focusses our aim to get everyone sharing ideas, tricks, tips and eventually seedlings and food gluts and keep on doing it. We have an online Facebook group and are scheduling Zoom talks, which are also available through our website - the most recent was and really well received was from Amy Beach, who talked about soil with the catchy title - Gardeners know all the dirt!. The talks will be available through our website and Facebook group soon. This is a growing project for everyone, irrespective of knowledge and skills - we just want to grow connections and so far it's working wonderfully.

Greening Cartmel Peninsula

Supported by Lower Holker Parish Council. The Greening Campaign has been running in UK communities for over ten years. PEAT first became aware of it in 2020 and felt it would be a lovely way to start a conversation with people about the small actions we can all try at home to save money and carbon and raise our awareness of the impact that will have. The project is financially supported by SLDC, CCC and town and parish councils as well as PEAT members who are giving their time and energy to make it happen. We are working together; households, community,

council, businesses, schools, groups and individuals - it's a lovely encompassing project to include everyone in a fun and celebratory way and it would be great if every household would get involved. There are short video links on our website to explain more about the project, including a lovely introduction by Sister Margaret at Boarbank Hall. By mid May we'll be asking who'd like to have fun making scarecrows for a competition in July, with a trail in August. September will find everyone with something to celebrate as we count up the households who have taken part to accumulate our total carbon and money savings - maybe the food growing Seedlings project will have some food for a big community meal!

9

Close

Chairman Trevor thanked everyone for their reports and attendance at the meeting.