



LAZONBY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

June 2023



Chair's Report for the Period May 2022 to May 2023

Welcome to Lazonby Parish Council's Annual Open Meeting. Thank you for your attendance and I look forward to your comments in the open session following my report.

It has been an interesting year which has had its challenges and successes. I would like to thank all those Parishioners who have contributed towards the running of the Parish Council and participated when we, as the Council have promoted events and keep an eye on the way we conduct the business to ensure we maintain a high standard of governance and accountability. I hope you will continue to support the Council and its members in the coming year. As volunteers all the member give of their time freely and have achieved good results for the Parishioners, more can always be done, but free time is not always available.

For the smooth running, and financial security and effectiveness of the Parish Council I would like to thank Beccy Wyatt and Chris Hoy who have worked with dedication which has made my job easier. I thank them for their professional and tireless efforts. I would also like to thank Tim for being the deputy chair and my fellow Councillors for their willingness to give up their time to take part in various projects to benefit the parish.

District Councillor Gordon Nicolson and County Councillor Hilary Carrick deserve a big thank you for the time they spend on parish matters. Other people that have worked exceedingly hard for us and deserve a thank you are: Shaun Bunting for his work on the Parish Council website, Geoff and Jennifer Wilson for their continuing work on the upkeep of the recycling centre, and for the work they do with Rob Simm on keeping the Village Green looking so good, the grass-cutting volunteers who keep the village looking tidy and the school staff and parents who deliver the newsletter.

Since my last report Councillor Phil Whitehead has returned from sabbatical but regrettably Councillor Steve Craig resigned and is a big miss to me as he was a good sounding board and had worked very hard to promote broadband for our village. Sadly, Councillor John Judson who has been on the Council for 40 years, as decided to hang his boots up. I would like to thank him for all the work he has done over the years. He has been Chair,

highways contact officer, grass-cutting and general maintenance guru. He was also a fountain of knowledge about the village and the history of parish projects. His shoes will be hard to fill. Two other members have also decided not to put themselves forward for election, Councillors Gordon Nicholson and Peter Foley. Both these members have been very instrumental in pushing the development of the Egg Packing Factory, and have agreed in principle to still be involved in the process by putting themselves forward for co-option back onto the Council in the near future. Councillor Gordon Nicholson has been a member of the Council for over 15 years and has been a tremendous help in navigating District and County Council Policies and help LPC understand the changes and procedures on many topics over the years. Councillor Peter Foley has been a member of the council for over four years and again because of his professional career and experience has helped the council on many issues. He again will be missed. With these Councillors not standing for election we now have 5 vacancies out of ten seats, and so the Parish Council is in much need of filling these seats in order not to lose the Parish Council and the vital role it plays making decisions and representing the local community at grass root level.

Every month there are issues which recur as they are general 'housekeeping' matters. Topics which continue to cause problems are traffic, dog fouling, dogs running freely in fields of sheep, general litter, weeds and people dumping inappropriate material at the recycling centre and in rural parts of the parish. I would like to thank all the Parishioners who have, on their daily exercise, collected litter and managed to keep our village looking tidy also those that regularly weed untidy areas and look after planted areas.

The traffic problem continues to be a big issue and although we have had consultations with the Highways Department and listened to villagers' concerns, there is a limited amount to what can be done. The traffic has also increased with the number of new houses and the construction of traffic to the new building sites.

You will all be aware that the footway between Lazonby & District swimming pool and Eden Bridge has been completed. It was a great effort on everyone part to fulfil this dream and make it a reality. The Council with the help of Councillors Hilary Carrick and Gordon Nicholson secured funding for the footpath to which the Parish Council had to fund match, thanks to the very generous contribution of the Parishioners, local business and a grant from Eden District Council we were able to raise the money needed. It has been well used by all group within the community and has enabled the School to have events they were unable to hold before it was completed. The Headmaster has thanked Council a number of times as they now have a

running group using the path weekly and they have had trips over the river to Lacy's Caves.

Councillor John Judson has continued to take responsibility for issues with the Highways and has succeeded to have repairs carried out in the village and surrounding roads when necessary. He has built up a good relationship with the Highways Department. This winter has been a very trying season for potholes and has been continually on our agenda. Councillor Hilary Carrick has been keeping up with the issues we have in the village and Councillor John Judson wrote an article for the 'Westmorland Herald' highlighting the problem.

The Egg Packing Housing factory site is still presenting the Council with a lot of work to see this Housing Development project through. Councillors Gordon Nicholson and Peter Foley have been tireless in their work to find ways to drive this forward. This is still an ongoing project. The big success is that we now have planning permission which has taken nearly a year to come through and we have a new partner with Coast and Castles Housing Association.

Councillor Phillip Whitehead is still keen to promote conservation in the Parish and is looking for projects.

As a Council, we have continued to support organisations in the Parish through the grants we award. The following amounts over the accounting Years 23/24 were distributed as follows:-

1. **The Eden Valley Players - £1200** towards the purchase of wireless microphone headsets and 1 handheld microphone for productions.
2. **The Lazonby Festive Donation Club - £50** towards the cost of purchasing a Christmas tree to place outside the Midland, decorations and additional lights to raise money by donating to Jigsaw Charity.

We derive some of our revenue from the recycling site and our fishing licences. Both of these have reduced over the last few years, but we are hoping the fishing licence revenue may increase with the either the ability to pay with your mobile phone which is something we are looking into or working in partnership with an angling club who will take this responsibility on. We also looking into visitors contributing to the parking/picnic area by the Recycling centre by voluntary contributing to parking there.

With other organisations in the Village we help organise a Village Event for the Coronation. This included the swimming pool doing a Coronation Breakfast, a special Church service, a tree planting courtesy of Bells of

Lazonby, children's sports, fancy dress, and bring your own picnic on the school field, while in the school hall there was a crown, cake decoration and bun decoration competition judged by the WI and Eden Court. The day was finished off with a Ceildh in the village Hall. It was a whole village event. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved for their hard-work.

Finally, I would like to welcome everyone who has moved into the Parish this year. We would welcome your input in helping the Parish Council to run a successful and happy parish and encourage you to join us on the Parish Council as there are several vacancies open. Please continue to read the notices that are put up on the parish notice boards and keep up to date with the planning applications and other parish matters through our website (www.lazonbyparishcouncil.org), as we can only represent the people of the parish if we know your views. Meanwhile, everyone is very welcome to attend our meetings, which are held on the first Wednesday each month at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, except January and August.

Chair, Councillor Chris West, May 2023.

Contact your Councillors....

Councillor Christine West - Chair

Tel: 01768 898425

Councillor Tim Wright - Vice-Chair

Tel: 01768 897104

Councillor Peter Foley

Tel: 01768 897143

Councillor Angie Miller

Tel: 01768 898149

Councillor Andrew Miller

Tel: 01768 897140

Councillor Andrew Bates

07713752603

Councillor Ruth Hookway

07910489204



Date of the Next Meeting...

The next Parish Council Meeting will be Wednesday 7th June 2023, in the Village hall at 7.30 pm. The following Meeting will be on 5th July 2023. *Please also see the Parish Council notice boards for meeting information & the Agenda which is usually posted up no later than the Friday before the Meeting date, or visit www.lazonbyparishcouncil.org for more information.* Copies of the Agenda or the Minutes of the Council are available by Email on request. Please contact the Clerk on 0843 2894416 (*Calls at local rate*); or Email: Lazonby PC@googlemail.com