

LPC

LAZONBY PARISH COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL OPEN PARISH MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

held on Wednesday 7th May 2014, starting at 7 p.m.
in the Jubilee Rooms, Lazonby Village Hall.

Present: Chair Councillor Virginia Minihan.

Councillors Christine Hill, John Judson, Christine West, Tim Cutting
Gordon Nicolson, Christine Chamberlain, Penny Clay and Peter Minihan

Also in attendance: 4 parishioners, Brian Smythe, County Councillor Hilary Carrick,
Treasurer Chris Hoy and the Parish Council Clerk Rebecca Wyatt.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tim Cutting.

ITEM / MINUTE No.	ITEM	BUSINESS
1.	Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 1st May 2013.	The Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 1st May 2013 were considered.
		RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 1st May 2013 be approved and signed as a true record of those proceedings.
2.	Matters arising from the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 2nd May 2012.	Any matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 1st May 2013 were considered.
		RESOLVED that it be noted that there were no matters arising as all matters were dealt with at the following meetings of the Parish Council after the May 2013 meeting of the Parish Council.
3.	Chair's Report for the period May 2013 - May 2014. Welcome to the Annual Lazonby Parish Council meeting. Thank you for attending this evening and I look forward to hearing your comments in the open session following my report. I have enjoyed my year as Chair and would like to thank all those parishioners who have contributed towards the running of the Parish Council. Your comments have ensured that we maintain high standards of governance and accountability, and I hope you will continue to support the Parish Council in the coming year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Rebecca Wyatt and Chris Hoy for their tireless work and dedication, ensuring the smooth running, financial security and effectiveness of Lazonby Parish Council over the past year and making my job as Chair easier than it may otherwise have been. I would also like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their hard work and willingness to give up their free time to take on projects for the benefit on the Parish. I am very grateful for their common sense, objectivity, dedication and support throughout the year. Thanks also go to District Councillor Gordon Nicolson and County Councillor Hilary Carrick for the	

time they spend on Parish matters, Geoff Bennett for his work on the LPC website, Don Woodman for delivering the newsletters to the school, the school staff and children for delivering the newsletters to the village, Geoff and Jennifer Wilson's upkeep of the recycling centre and the grass cutting volunteers who keep the village looking tidy.

Sadly, Annie Coutts resigned from the Parish Council in October, but I would like to express my thanks to her for her hard work and sensible advice throughout her time on the Council. However, we are very happy to welcome Christine Chamberlain, Penny Clay and Peter Minihan onto the Council, which means that we are only one member short of having a full council again.

The main item to dominate the work of the Parish Council this year has been Story Homes' wish to build 48 homes on land adjacent to Scaur Lane. Despite a very intense campaign to stop or at least modify the development, Story Homes were given approval to build after they appealed against the decision made by Eden District Council's Planning Committee. The one good thing to come out of this event was to see the way villagers and the Parish Council worked positively together to achieve a common goal. I hope that the same dedication and enthusiasm will continue as we work towards establishing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish, which should give us greater powers over future proposed developments.

The other big issue this past year has been the decision to return the Will Pool area into somewhere pleasant for villagers to visit. The project started last October with councillors spending a Saturday morning cutting the grass and clearing the weeds that were blocking the stream that feeds the pond. Subsequently, a plan has been put forward to include wheelchair friendly surfaces, hard standing for picnic benches and a table, a pontoon out across the pond to allow children to view the pond life, an information board and a wildfowl warning sign to alert motorists to the likelihood of ducks being in the area. A grant application is currently underway and we should hopefully be able to start work on the project at the beginning of July.

In December, a number of Parish Councillors took two members of the Cumbria Highways team on a walk around the village to point out the work that needs doing to correct uneven pavements, blocked drains and pot holes, to replace the worn double yellow lines throughout the village and to ask for their suggested solutions to the parking issues in various parts of the village. We are currently waiting to find out how far we are down on their list of works. More success has been had with the progress of Superfast Broadband as we now have two BT cabinets in the village, which should allow anyone within 1 km of a cabinet to receive broadband speeds of up to 70Mbps. The next step is to improve the speed for the rest of the Parish and our thanks go to Brian Smythe for his work on this project.

Some of the other issues that the Parish Council have been devoting time to this year involve trying to resolve the problem of the lack of street lighting. This problem arose after Electricity North West demanded that lights were removed from their poles, leaving Eden District Council with a financial problem, which has meant that other broken lights are not being replaced. EDC are now working on a backlog of repairs so hopefully our streets will be better lit by the time the darker nights arrive. We have also been in discussion with Kirkoswald about the possibility of a footpath to join the two villages. We have the room to construct a footpath on our side of the bridge but KO have to obtain land from a local landowner on their side, which is causing some delay. The tree outside Croglin Toys has been cut back to ensure that it meets the legal requirements above the road and footpath, and the dead wood has been cut out of the Will Pool tree making them both safer for villagers. The barriers at the bottom of Station Road have finally been replaced and the permanent traffic lights on Eden Bridge are now in place and a success.

Despite being determined not to increase the Parish Precept for 2014 to 2015, we have still managed to award grants totalling £1,304.60 to the following organisations that benefit our Parish:-

- The Great North Air Ambulance
- St Nicholas Parish Church
- The Fellrunner Bus Service
- Lazonby Swimming Pool

- 2nd Eden Valley Scouts
- Lazonby Primary School

Finally, we have now been given space on the community noticeboard in the Co-op. This will allow us to keep everyone informed as to what is going on in the Parish as well as providing a central point to publicise planning applications on which we are asked to give an opinion. Please do keep an eye on the notice board as we can only represent the people of the parish if we know your views. Meanwhile everyone is very welcome to our meetings that are held on the first Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall or you can keep up-to-date by reading the web-site.

Virginia Minihan
Chair, Lazonby Parish Council

<p>4.</p>	<p>Treasurer's Financial Report.</p>	<p>The Treasurer presented the Financial Statement, which was issued to all those present after which questions were invited.</p> <p>The Finances of the Parish Council will be presented in two parts, the first will be the review of the previous financial year 2013/2014, and the second will be an update of the new financial year in the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council. The total amount of reserves at the 1st April 2014 were £17,544.75. The NatWest Bond matured in July 2013 at 3% and was redeemed, no renewal was undertaken at the rates were considered too low to be of any benefit. However, this is under constant review. The precept shows an income form 2012/2013 Of £813, this was an administration error of misinterpreting the precept claim form but this has been corrected for the new financial year with the precept retuning to £10,350..</p> <p>The Parish also benefits from other income sources like fishing permits and recycling credits. However, fishing permits were down £158, and recycling credits were down £84. VAT recovery was up £368 due to a new laptop for the Clerk, the Jubilee seat and the maintenance of the playground, which was in arrears for two years. Grants received partly covered the purchase of the Jubilee seat.</p> <p>Miscellaneous Income was down to £1001, this was an agreement with the Community Playground Committee who paid the costs of the first years maintenance of the playground but then found themselves about £50 short and so the Parish Council met the shortfall banking their cheque before taking over the maintenance finances as agreed at a previous Parish Council meeting. Also bank interest was up £148 due to the benefits of the Bond and higher interest rates.</p> <p>Expenditure showed staff salaries up £56 due to a pay increase of 1% the first for many years, and staff expenses were down by £216. Grants were down-£3421, due partly to changes in grant application criteria, and also in 2012/2013 the Village Hall and WI were given grants to cover projects for the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations in the village. Maintenance was up by £2717 due to the Parish Council taking over the maintenance costs of the community playground, but these are VAT reclaimable. Operating costs were up £823 due to the purchase of a new laptop and software for the Clerk to maintain her important duties for the parish. However, no projects were undertaken last year. Miscellaneous Expenditure was down £1188, as reported earlier regarding the first years costs of the playground maintenance.</p> <p>Therefore reserves at 31st March 2014 were £18,360.47 up</p>
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		<p>£815.72, which can be attributed to the error made in the precept allocation overpayment of £813..</p> <p>RESOLVED that the printed Financial statement submitted by the Treasurer be noted and approved, and that the Treasurer be thanked for his report.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Open Forum – Parishioners’ Questions & Suggestions.</p>	<p>The Chairman opened the Meeting to the floor and invited those present for their contributions for debate.</p> <p>A parishioner asked on behalf of another parishioner if anything could be done by the Parish Council regarding the refuse collection in School Lane, after several residents had not had their rubbish bags collected. Councillor Gordon-Nicolson explained that Eden District Council liked the bags to be visible and in a place that was easily collected from the roadside but he would enquire about what has happened..</p> <p>A parishioner, and resident of the Lofts, expressed his dislike of the white lines and new parking spaces near his home, as he believed it caused more problems than it solved. He urged their removal and for the area to return to the original layout because it was putting pressure on existing parking spaces which in turn could have an effect on the Co-op's custom; that the white lines were not enforceable anyway; and that it may have been the reason why his house had been damaged, as they suspected a lorry turning into the main street from Station Road. Other parishioners had also complained about the white lines. The Parish Council explained that it had been part of a 6 month trial of the new layout to see if it would work.</p> <p>There were no further contributions from the parishioners present.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Councillor Nicolson would ask Eden District Council what the problems were regarding rubbish collection in School Lane, and how any problems could be resolved.</p> <p>ALSO RESOLVED that the Parish Council, through County Councillor Hilary Carrick, would inform Cumbria Highways that the 6 months trial of the white lines and new parking spaces near the Co-op and the Lofts be removed and go back to the original layout as it was not working.</p>
<p>There being no further items raised for discussion the Chair concluded the Meeting by thanking all Parishioners for their attendance and closed the meeting at approximately 7.25 pm.</p>		