

# LPC

## LAZONBY PARISH COUNCIL

### THE ANNUAL OPEN PARISH MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL

#### Minutes

held on Wednesday 20th May 2015, starting at 7 p.m, in the Jubilee Rooms,  
Lazonby Village Hall.

**Present:** Chair Councillor Chris West.

Councillors Christine Hill, John Judson, Gordon Nicolson and Christine Chamberlain.

Also in attendance: 1 parishioner, Treasurer Chris Hoy and the Parish Council Clerk Rebecca Wyatt.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor s Virginia Minihan and Peter Minihan.

ITEM / MINUTE No.	ITEM	BUSINESS
1.	<b>Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 7th May 2014.</b>	<p>The Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 7th May 2014 were considered.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the funding awarded to the Village Hall, mentioned in the Chairs Report for 2013- 2014, be omitted from the Minutes as they did not receive funding in financial year 2014 - 2015.</p> <p><b>ALSO RESOLVED</b> that subject to the above changes the Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 7th May 2014 be approved and signed as a true record of those proceedings.</p>
2.	<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 7th May 2014.</b>	<p>Any matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 7th May 2014.were considered.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that it be noted that all matters were dealt with at the following meetings of the Parish Council after the May 2014 meeting of the Parish Council, however the matter of the new parking spaces and white lines outside of the Lofts had still not been resolved so this is to be put on the July 2015 Parish Council agenda.</p>
3.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chair's Report for the period May 2014 - May 2015.</b></p> <p>Welcome to the Annual Lazonby Parish Council meeting. Thank you to Gordon Nicolson for reading out this report in my absence and to you for attending this evening. I have enjoyed my second 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.</p> <p>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</p>	

been. I would also like to thank Chris West the deputy chair and 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, 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, Penny Clay has left the Parish Council this year and Tim Cutting has decided not to stand for re-election. I would like to express my thanks to them both for their work and dedication to the Parish Council.

The main item to dominate the work of the Parish Council this year has been the decision to move forward with a Neighbourhood Plan. A Steering Group of villagers and Parish Councillors has been formed, and after an intensive few weeks of applying for funding and gaining the views of Parishioners through a questionnaire and Public meeting, the hard work has now started on drawing up the Draft Plan. This work is going to involve a lot of commitment and time from the members of the Steering Group and I hope that they will get the support they deserve from Parishioners when the final Neighbourhood Plan is put to the vote in a referendum later in the year. Reports are coming in from other parts of the country to show that having a Neighbourhood Plan in place is over-riding the demands of the big developers to build large housing estates in areas where they are inappropriate. We need this protection in place too, as well as the ability to protect our open spaces and rights of way and enhance the ethos of our Parish.

The other big issue this past year has been the refurbishment of Will Pool into somewhere pleasant for villagers to visit. The area now has a wheelchair and pushchair friendly path leading from the roadside to picnic benches and tables and onto the pontoon, which allows access over the water. There is now also an attractive information board and the old information stone has been given a new lease of life.

Meanwhile the Parish Council has also been active in trying to improve other parts of the village to make life easier for the parishioners. With the help of Councillor Hilary Carrick we now have a dropped kerb at Barton Dale and less blocked drains to cause problems during the winter and are also a step closer to getting Cumbria Highways to finance putting a footpath through to Eden Bridge. We also continue to remind them about the potholes that keep appearing in our roads, but we have to wait our turn in their list of jobs. We are in the process of finally sorting out the lack of signage at Barton Dale. Story Homes have offered to take over the project whilst putting in the road signs for their development. The on-going maintenance of land owned by the parish has involved tree pruning outside Croglin Toys and Designs and replacement of the gates at Bateman Lane. We are also encouraging volunteers to sow and maintain wild flower areas at Eden Bridge and Scaur Close as well as adopt and plant up the containers at the entrances to the village. It is hoped that the registration of Parish Land will finally be completed by the end of the summer – it has been a long and complicated process.

Projects for the future year involve the Parish Council taking over the ownership and maintenance of the Community Playground so that the children of the Parish continue to have somewhere safe in which to play; putting in a footpath to join the village with Will Pool and continuing to push for the footpath that will eventually safely join Lazonby to Kirkoswald.

This year the Parish Council awarded the following grants:-

- The Great North Air Ambulance = £200
- St Nicholas Parish Church = £200
- The Fellrunner Bus Service = £362
- Lazonby Primary School = £250
- Eden Valley Camera Club = £200

Finally, I would like to welcome all the people who have 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 anyone to join us on the Parish Council as we have three unfilled vacancies. Please continue to read the notices that are put up on the parish notice boards and keep up to date with

planning applications and other parish matters that are on our website, 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.

Councillor Virginia Minihan  
Chair, Lazonby Parish Council

4.	<b>Treasurer's Financial Report 2014 - 2015.</b>	<p>The Treasurer presented the Financial Statement, which was issued to all those present after which questions were invited.</p> <p>The Treasurer referred to the Parish Councils Receipts and Payments Accounts for 2014 - 2015.</p> <p>The amount of reserves held at year end were £26,045.97. The external auditing body strongly recommend that the maximum reserves should not exceed twice the precept amount. In the case of the Parish Council this would equate to a balance of £29,700.</p> <p>The surplus of £5346 can be attributed to a number of projects that have not been paid. Various grants were obtained:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. £4600 from Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust (CWMET) for the Will Pool project.</li> <li>2. £880 from Cumbria County Council for the Will Pool project.</li> <li>3. £5782 from the Community Development Fund for the first phase of the Neighbourhood Plan.</li> <li>4. £150 from ACT(Cumbria) for the first phase of the Neighbourhood Plan.</li> </ol> <p>The majority of the Will Pool project funding was paid with the exception of £2000 which has now been spent, however, the entire Neighbourhood Plan grants have remained unpaid until now. These transactions would have reduced the year end reserves for £18,264.</p> <p>The Parish Council is now on course to complete the land registration this year, expecting to cost £3000 plus VAT. This was budgeted previously and would have had the effect of further reducing reserves to £15,264.</p> <p>Below the year end reserves figure on the Treasurer's Report the Income shows a comparison between the last 2 years. Fishing permits were down £252 due to the late collection of proceeds from the Co-op, these would have brought the figures closer to parity. Recycling credits were up £12, with kerbside collections having greatly reduced the use of the recycling centre. This appears to have reached a plateau. Both fishing permits and recycling credits provide good revenue and it is promising that the income stream remain stable, although encouragement is advertised by the Council to increase the use of the recycling centre.</p> <p>VAT recovery will remain high with the various projects completed. Rents are up £113, which incorporates insurance costs incurred by the tenant at Croglin Designs. They paid an extra amount as the Parish Council adjusted their insurance premium renewal date to coincide with Council meetings and not during their summer recess as in the past.</p> <p>The interest accrued has reduced by £150 due to the low artificially created money market rates.</p>
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		<p>On expenditure, salaries increased by £21 due to an agreed government pay rise for employers of 2.2% back valued to January 1st 2015.</p> <p>Staff expenses increased by £140 mainly related to the extra workload for the Neighbourhood Plan and May Election. As well as travel expenses for the Clerk and other associated office cost (printer paper, stationary etc).</p> <p>Grants giving was down £1432 as fewer applicants applied.</p> <p>Maintenance reduced by £1253 as the Council has now paid the arrears from previous years, such as playground maintenance costs to Eden District Council.</p> <p>Operating costs have reduced by £505 as a new laptop computer had been acquired for the Clerk in the previous year.</p> <p>Capital/project expenditure was up £6614 (which includes VAT) due to the Will Pool Project and some disbursements for land registration.</p> <p>A quick look at the budget for 2015/2016 shows an expected deficit of £10,867.</p> <p>As an expense the Capital/Project expense incurred for £11600 will be the completion of the first phase of the Neighbourhood Plan, land registration and the remaining fees for the Will Pool project.</p> <p>This will see the project reserves at the end of March 2016 as being £15178, thus leaving adequate capital for any new projects during the financial year.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the Financial statement submitted by the Treasurer be noted and approved, and that the Treasurer be thanked for his report.</p>
5.	<p><b>Open Forum – Parishioners’ Questions &amp; Suggestions.</b></p>	<p>The Chairman opened the Meeting to the floor and invited those present for their contributions for debate.</p> <p>A parishioner said he wished to retire from cutting the verge adjacent to Scaur Close/Scaur Lane near his house in Scaur Lane for the last 40 years and would the Parish Council or Eden District Council take over the responsibility.</p> <p>There were no further contributions from the parishioners present.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the Parish Council would ask Eden District Council to add the verge adjacent to Scaur Close/Scaur Lane. to their grass cutting schedule.</p> <p><b>ALSO RESOLVED</b> that the parish Council thank parishioner Andrew Blair for cutting the verge for the last 40 years.</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 7.29 pm.</p>		