

LPC

LAZONBY PARISH COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL OPEN PARISH MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

held on Wednesday 4th May 2016, starting at 7 p.m. in the Jubilee Rooms,
Lazonby Village Hall.

Present: Chair Councillor Virginia Minihan.

Councillors Christine Hill, John Judson, Peter Minihan, Gordon Nicolson and Tim Wright.

Also in attendance: 1 parishioner, Treasurer Chris Hoy and the Parish Council Clerk Rebecca Wyatt, County Councillor Hilary Carrick and Broad band Champion Brian Smythe.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chris West and Christine Chamberlain.

ITEM / MINUTE No.	ITEM	BUSINESS
1.	Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 20th May 2015.	<p>The Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 20th May 2015 were considered.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 20th May 2015 be approved and signed as a true record of those proceedings.</p>
2.	Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 20th May 2015.	<p>Any matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on the 20th May 2015 were considered.</p> <p>RESOLVED that it be noted that all matters were dealt with at the following meetings of the Parish Council after the May 2015 meeting of the Parish Council.</p>
3.	<p>Chair's Report for the period May 2015 - May 2016</p> <p>Welcome to the Annual Lazonby Parish Council meeting. Thank you for your attendance and I look forward to your comments in the open session following my report.</p> <p>I have thoroughly enjoyed my three years as Chair, but feel that it is now time to step aside to allow someone else to take on this very rewarding role. I will continue as a Parish Councillor representing the outskirts of the parish, but I will not be standing for re-election as Chair. I 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 new Chair and the other Councillors in the coming year.</p> <p>I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Beccy 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 might otherwise have</p>	

been. I would also like to thank Councillor 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 of 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, Brian Smythe for his contribution to achieving super-fast broadband in the village, Geoff Wilson and Rob Sim for their work on horticultural matters, 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.

I am also very pleased to welcome Councillor Tim Wright to the Parish Council. Despite having only been with us for a few months, his help and advice have already been invaluable.

This year seems to have been one of 'putting our house in order'. After considerable discussion with Eden District Council and Cumbria County Council, it has been determined that Coronation Gardens is the property of the County Council and, as such, they will fund the grass cutting and the maintenance of the swings, rather than the Parish Council. Likewise, the Community Play Park has transferred into the ownership of Lazonby & District Swimming Pool Committee, which makes sense as they own the land and are the accountable body for the former Community Playground Management Committee. The Parish Council has agreed to help out with the finance of the upkeep of the Play Park going forward through an annual ex-gratia payment. This and local fundraising will become increasingly necessary as the play equipment gets older and needs to be repaired.

The registration of parish land is still in progress and, although the Sports Field has now been officially registered as belonging to the parish, the rest of the parish land is taking longer to register as we have not been able to locate definitive paperwork showing ownership. We have therefore had to submit a Statutory Declaration made by Councillor John Judson confirming ownership. Meanwhile Geoff Wilson and Rob Sim have been improving the triangle at the end of Scaur Close that belongs to the Parish by removing the older trees that were causing some problems, creating a wildflower area and repairing the stone walling. Our thanks go to them for taking on such a major project in their spare time for the benefit of the village, with the area now being called Scaur Close Green and being protected by designating it as a Village Green and an amenity asset.

The Parish Council continues to take a close interest in the planning applications in the parish. In September we hosted an Eden District Council '*Training Event on the Planning Process*' which was very well attended by other local Parish Councillors and Clerks and gave us all a useful insight into how the planning process works and how we can contribute to it. As a result of strong local opposition to the planning application at land to the rear of 'The Lilacs', we put in an objection to the development and, although consent was granted on appeal, we will continue to monitor the position to ensure that any conditions attached to the planning consent are adhered to. This is also happening at the Story Homes 'The Meadows' development and at the Tarmac quarry site at Low Plains. As the resources of both the County Council and District Council become strained, it will be increasingly important for the local population to monitor the position.

Discussions have been re-opened with Eden District Council about the dangerous state of the wall that borders the Croglin Toys land and the old egg packing site. No progress seems to have been made since initial discussions in August 2012 when it was agreed between both party's solicitors that the wall was the responsibility of the Laces, and not the Parish Council. The need to repair the wall has become even more urgent following the wet winter we have just had and the Parish Council will be pressing for something to be done in order to protect the safety of those who use the footpath.

Thanks to the perseverance of Councillor Gordon Nicolson, we have finally got a light on the corner of the Village Hall. The Parish Council has financed this, but it is hoped that Eden District Council will contribute to the installation, with the Parish Council paying the electricity costs. We have also been questioning the removal of the plastics recycling cage at the Eden Bridge Recycling Site, but have been told that it is not economical for the District Council to employ a

contractor to collect plastics from the site as kerbside collections now take place. I urge you to keep using the Recycling Site for paper and glass as we receive revenue from it, but not to leave plastics or fly-tipping at the site as it could result in us being unable to continue to provide any recycling at this site.

Despite all the general ‘housekeeping’, the main item to dominate the work of the Parish Council this year has been the completion of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. There are five Parish Councillors working alongside four villagers on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and, after a lot of hard work and consultation, the final draft plan is nearing completion. This is despite the sad loss in January of Liz Howe who, as an experienced and trained planner, was an integral and leading member of the Steering Group. I personally believe that it would be appropriate to dedicate the completed Lazonby Neighbourhood Development Plan to her in memory of her life and involvement in the local community. It is hoped that, when the final Neighbourhood Plan is put to the vote in a referendum later in the year, it will get the support it deserves from all parishioners. Reports are coming in throughout the country to show that having a neighbourhood plan in place is overriding the proposals of developers wanting to build large housing estates in areas where current residents feel they are inappropriate. We too need this protection in place as soon as possible, which will also give us the ability to protect our open spaces and rights of way. Despite not raising the Parish precept for this year, the Parish Council was still able to award a total of £3,425 in grant funding to organisations that benefit the parish:-

- The Great North Air Ambulance = £200 towards the purchase of two portable scanners
- St Nicholas Parish Church = £200 towards the on-going costs of maintaining the graveyard
- The Fellrunner Bus Service = £445 towards providing a scheduled bus service for the parish
- Lazonby Primary School = £250 towards purchasing a sand pit for their playground
- Lazonby & District Swimming Pool Association = £250 towards providing subsidised water based activities for local children
- Eden Valley Camera Club = £100 towards buying photographic equipment for use by all members
- Lazonby Village Hall Management Committee = £1500 towards the cost of the installation of insulation in the Hall and £250 specifically to buy specialised sound equipment requested by Lazonby’s Got talent but to be available to all Hall users
- Lazonby Bowling Club = £230 towards repairing the wall that borders the B6412

Future Parish Council activities for the coming year include working towards establishing super-fast broadband for the rest of the parish, considering a permanent solution to the ever-present problem of weeds and dog fouling in the parish and finding ways of making the Sports Field more accessible to the children of the parish for recreational activities. This, along with closer links with the Primary School, will strengthen our claim to be a Child Friendly Village.

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 we currently have two 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 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 of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Councillor Virginia Minihan
Chair, Lazonby Parish Council

4.	Treasurer’s Financial Report 2015 - 2016.	<p>The Treasurer presented the Financial Statement, which was issued to all those present after which questions were invited.</p> <p>The amount of reserves held at end of year were £20,655.98. the external auditing body strongly recommend that the maximum</p>
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		<p>reserves should not exceed twice the precept amount. In the case of the Parish Council that would equate to a balance of £23,700. Therefore, indicating a safe threshold of £3000 below that unofficial, yet suggested requirement.</p> <p>The original projection from the accounts of 2014/2015 determines an expected reserve balance of £15,178 as at the end of March 2016. The difference between the actual year end £20,655.98 and the projected £15,178, being £5,477.98 can be attributed in main the following factors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The precept increase of £1500 to provide a contribution towards the construction of a public footpath from the Lazonby & District swimming pool to Eden Bridge. However, the huge financial implications have prevented any further progress and therefore the funds remain unspent. 2) An outstanding fee for the Land Registry remains at approximately £1200 out of an original budget of £3000. 3) The street lighting project has almost reached completion, with just £2000 available from a budget of £3000. 4) The unspent grant for the Neighbourhood Plan – Phase 2, being £1580 is to be repaid. <p>Over the last two years the Income shows that the Parish Precept was increased by £1500 to contribute to costs for the already mentioned footpath between Eden Bridge and the swimming pool. Fishing permits were up £220 due to the inclusion of the previously uncollected payments from 2014/2015. Recycling credits were up £54 despite the removal of the plastic recycling cage from Eden Bridge recycling centre. VAT recovery was up £1138 due to the Will Pool project and Phase 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan expenditure. Rents were down £43 as the annual Insurance renewal has been adjusted to a full year's calendar with a new maturity date later in the year to coincide with the autumn meeting. Grants received were down £9408, the Will project and Phase 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan grants were fully utilized. The grant of £1854 acquired for Phase 2 of the Neighbourhood Plan was not spent in full with the remaining £1580 to be returned to the funders.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Financial statement submitted by the Treasurer be noted and approved, and that the Treasurer be thanked for his report.</p>
5.	Open Forum – Parishioners' Questions & Suggestions.	<p>The Chair opened the Meeting to the floor and invited those present for their contributions for debate.</p> <p>RESOLVED that it be noted that there were no comments made or questions asked by parishioners.</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 7.21 pm.</p>		

Please Note:

Amendments to these Minutes have been made in red following approval at the Annual Open Parish Meeting on the 10th May 2017.