

**LANDOWNERS OF CROSTHWAITE & LYTH
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT
THE ARGLES MEMORIAL HALL, CROSTHWAITE
ON WEDNESDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 7:00pm**

Present: 24 Landowners were present
Mr J E Lambton of Carter Jonas was in attendance

17/2012 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Colin Park, Alastair Mutch, Gordon Pitt, Daniel Dobson, Rodney Sale, Margaret Sale, Ewan Sale and Peter Hensman

18/2012 **Chairman's Opening Remarks**

Mr Casson welcomed everybody to the meeting. He advised that he had visited the former Chairman, Tony Schofield in hospital, and everybody offered him their very best wishes.

19/2012 **Minutes of Previous AGM**

These were not read as they had been available for inspection at the Crosthwaite Exchange and on the website.

It was proposed by Matthew Dobson and seconded by Penny Mutch that they should be adopted as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

20/2012 **Matters Arising**

The Chairman advised that an approach had been made to Mr Martin Argles regarding his land leased to the Forestry Commission. Mr Argles had subsequently died, and the matter was not progressed. However Martin Argles Executors are aware of the Landowner's interest, and the matter may be resurrected at an appropriate time.

21/2012 **Accounts to the 31st October 2011**

These were presented by Mr Peter Sherratt who advised that net income had increased by about £2,000 to £13,908. Expenditure had also increased substantially, even though charitable giving was much lower, due mainly to the cost of the replacement windows at Whitbarrow Cottage. £1,000 had been placed into a building reserve as a protection against future maintenance costs at the Cottage (for example the roof). The unrealised loss in the value of investments was £1,201. There was overall

reduction in the total value of the Landowners assets from £111,590 to £109,487

22/2012 **Reports from Trustees' Meetings**

There had been five Trustees' Meetings throughout the year, plus an informal exterior meeting/walk.

There was concern about horses using Township Allotment unofficially (there is no bridle path). It was suggested that access should be occasionally denied, by locking gates, to avoid rights being acquired, and appropriate signage erected. Whilst the existing usage is not a matter of great concern, it was agreed that any escalation should be prevented, as this may encourage even more users.

The long process of Land Registration was still proceeding, and the Agent advised that it warranted the cost as it secured ownership, and was protection against adverse possession. As it was being done voluntarily, the Land Registry fees were reduced.

Tony Marshall has been taken on as an unpaid volunteer to assist with work normally done by Colin Park, and this was welcomed.

It was noted that various conservation projects were underway, including Butterfly conservation, collection of cowslip seeds, propagation and planting, however the activities of Butterfly Conservation should be properly controlled to prevent local people's interests being adversely affected.

There is much enthusiasm from the School for their use of Fellside Plantation.

There are still issues to resolve on the Turner Road regarding access and ownership, but these are being actively pursued.

There was a mid-summer walk on 21 June with Rob Petley-Jones which was well attended despite torrential rain.

The Landowners' Trustees had made representations regarding the Internal Drainage Board proposals. They were not in favour of the creation of an IDB and a general precept being levied over the whole area as their land was not directly affected, and it would mean that charitable funds were eroded over the years.

23/2012 **Charitable Donations**

Donations had been made to the Crosthwaite Christmas Party (£150), Crosthwaite Flower Festival (£500), Crosthwaite School (£79 for the Fellside Wood Fire Pit).

New donations include about £400 towards a new school gate (but not for the canopy) and £300 towards planting a community wood on the Bowling Green Field.

The Chairman asked for any further ideas for donations. First Responders were suggested, the Chairman confirmed that this would be considered if an application was made.

- 24/2012 **Lease Renewals and Rent Reviews**
- The Agent advised that Whitbarrow Cottage rent had increased partly by inflation, and partly due to the replacement windows. The tenants had commissioned a new Oak front door, to be supplied and installed at their own expense.
- 25/2012 **Woodlands**
- John Sceal and John Walker are jointly looking after Fellside Plantation.
- Butterfly Conservation have funds to spend before the end of March, and will be carrying out some scalloping.
- The EWGS is still awaited.
- Tony Marshall suggested that any management plan should be coordinated with management policy for the area south of Township Plantation.
- 26/2012 **Spring Walk**
- This will be publicised in the Magazine and on the website, and will probably take place at White Scar Quarry. Date to be decided.
- 27/2012 **Election of Trustees**
- Nominations had been invited previously (publicised in the Parish Magazine). There had been none. Jim Bownass proposed and Vicky Barratt seconded that the existing Trustees should be re-elected without change, and this was agreed unanimously.
- 28/2012 **Appointment of Agent/Secretary**
- It was proposed by Oliver Barratt and seconded by Claire Hensman that Mr Lambton of Carter Jonas continue in this role for a further year.
- 29/2012 **Appointment of Auditors**
- It was proposed by Robert Sykes and seconded by Matthew Dobson that Messrs Mutch and Sherratt should continue in this role for another year.
- 30/2012 **Appointment of Representative to Recreational Field Trust**
- It was proposed by Peter Sherratt and seconded by John Walker that Mr Bruce Worsley should continue in this role for a further year.
- 31/2012 **Appointment of Representative to the Village Hall Committee**
- It was proposed by Jim Bownass and seconded by Oliver Barratt that Mr Gordon Pitt should continue in this role for another year.

32/2012 **Any Other Business**

It was noted that the AGM announcement was not in the Parish Magazine due to an oversight, which will be corrected next year.

The timing of the AGM was discussed, and it was agreed to leave it a 7pm.

The Chairman wished to record his thanks to the Trustees and The Agent for their work throughout the year.

33/2012 **Date of Next Meeting**

Date of next AGM, Wednesday 6 February 2013 at 7pm in the Crosthwaite Village Hall

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8:05pm.

Signed Date

(Chairman)