

**LANDOWNERS OF CROSTHWAITE & LYTH
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT
THE ARGLES MEMORIAL HALL, CROSTHWAITE
ON WEDNESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7:00pm**

Present: 47 Landowners were present
Mr J E Lambton of Carter Jonas was in attendance

19/2016 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Claire Hensman, Penny and Alastair Mutch and Robert Sykes.

20/2016 **Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and advised that this was the 199th AGM, despite celebrating the 200th Anniversary in 2015, on account of two world wars.

The Chairman paid tribute to Penny Mutch who had indicated her wish to resign from the Board of Trustees, with the Chairman saying that the thoughts and prayers of all were with Penny and Alastair. The Chairman informed the meeting that Penny had been the first lady Trustee in the history of the Landowners, welcomed onto the Committee on 2 February 2005. Far from Penny becoming a Trustee "to the make the tea" as had jokingly been suggested by the then Chairman, Tony Schofield, Penny had in fact given a huge commitment to the Landowners during the ensuing 11 years. Penny has become a great friend to many in the village, working hard on the publication of Cameos of Crosthwaite and Lyth and she had expended inordinate amounts of time on transcribing previous minutes of the Landowners between 1857 and 1910, all of which are now on the Landowners website. Penny made valuable contributions to the Trustee's business, and contributed significantly to the 200th Anniversary celebrations, providing innovative photographic icing on the celebratory cake.

Penny has been fighting her illness most valiantly, but her reasons for resigning were fully understood and her presence on the Committee will be greatly missed. There was a vote of thanks and a round of applause for Penny's immense contribution to the Landowners.

The Chairman gave his thanks to all of the Trustees, for their work in attending meetings and other matters, and was pleased to report that he had received praise from others for the actions of the Trustees and the donations they have voted for.

The Chairman also thanked Alastair Mutch for his preparation of the annual accounts and Peter Sherratt or his work as Auditor.

Finally thanks were mentioned for Geraldine Wilson's magnificent 200th Anniversary cake and to Steven Brierley for kindly donating his own delicious beer for the anniversary picnic, which was eagerly consumed by many.

21/2016 **Minutes of Previous AGM**

These had been available on the website prior to the meeting. Nevertheless J Lambton summarised the minutes and they were signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

22/2016 **Matters Arising**

None.

23/2016 **Accounts to the 31st October 2015**

These were again presented by Peter Sherratt, the Auditor, as Alastair Mutch was not able to be at the meeting. He explained that income had increased by £7.4k during the year ending 31 October 2015, expenditure had decreased by approximately £3.7k due to a decrease in donations. There was a profit of nearly £9k, compared with a loss of about £2k the previous year. Investments had increased in value by approximately £1.9k.

The accounts had been signed by the Chairman and the Auditor and were commended to the meeting.

J Lambton is to supply details with the Annual Charity Commission return.

24/2016 **Reports from Trustees' Meetings**

J Lambton provided a summary of Trustees meetings held throughout the year. There had been three Trustee's meetings held on 10 March, 15 October 2015 and 27 January 2016. In March the Trustees had debated the payment of Trustees for contractual services; there was a report on Capital Works Grants for woodlands; donations had been reviewed revealing over £63,000 of donations since the Landowners became a charity; donations to the Bowling Club and the school car park were discussed; there was debate concerning repairs to the Turner Road and Whitbarrow Cottage water pipe, and Turner Road ownership issues; a report regarding the Fellside new footpath and theft of firewood; arrangements for the 200th Anniversary were discussed along with the copying of archives; R Sykes had volunteered to talk to the Parish Council; bike racks are to be provided for the village hall and Messrs Park and l'anson have been licenced and insured to cull deer.

In October there were further discussions regarding the Turner Road, Howfell Cottage; agreed to give £1000 to the Young family; Woodland grants had been applied for, wall gaps repaired, one dormouse found, discussions about ash die back, revised prices for coppice plots and larch trees agreed, White Scar old quarry hut demolished. Motorcycling in Township Plantation was debated with the agreement that this should cease for the time being. The agent was requested to visit Whitbarrow

Cottage to discuss rent, pigs, repairs and buildings; a presentation was made by Harriet Fraser regarding the Sycamore Tree Project which the Trustees politely declined.

At the January meeting the annual accounts were presented and approved; the investments and cash deposits were reviewed; the charity's insurance cover was reviewed and there was agreement to extend it to include legal expenses insurance; two additional fees were agreed for the agent; the possibility of donations to Crosthwaite School in respect of additional accommodation and the insurance of their minibus was discussed, with the suggestion that the previous offer to assist with the biomass boiler should be withdrawn; there were reports regarding the decline in butterfly numbers, coppice plots, possible theft of butterfly eggs, numbers of grey squirrels shot and the decision to participate in a facilitator funding group regarding habitat management. The summer picnic and walk were reviewed and rated very successful indeed; additional coppicing was underway in Fellside plantation; a question of motor biking in Gillbirks Quarry was debated and agreed that a sub-committee should be set up; it was emphasised that there should be no deviation from the rule that no memorials should be allowed on Landowners property; it was reported that the Landowners would assist with the restoration of the Court Rolls; Penny Mutch's decision to resign was recorded; the agent reported on revised rent and other matters agreed in respect of Whitbarrow Cottage.

25/2016

Charitable Donations

The Chairman summarised the current situation, namely that £10,000 had been pledged to the school for extended accommodation towards their appeal target of £100k. It was mentioned that the school was a very important institution in the village, as was the church, and it was felt appropriate that they should be treated similarly.

The Trustees had agreed to fund the additional insurance for the school minibus up to £500 to allow it to be used by others for a year, thereafter hoping that it would be self-financing.

The offer to fund the bike rack at the Memorial Hall was noted with the cost now being approximately £60.

Donations have been made to the Robbie Young Appeal £1000 and previously towards the Bowling Club machinery and the school car park.

It was noted that a request for the funding of improved kitchen facilities at the Memorial Hall was anticipated and the Trustees have already indicated in principal that they would support it.

26/2016

Lease Renewals and Rent Reviews

J Lambton reported the agreement of new terms for Whitbarrow Allotment with Bill Sharp and Whitbarrow Cottage with Matthew and Stephanie Park.

27/2016

Woodlands Management

Tony Marshall gave a report on the management of Township Plantation. Four further plots had been taken and the Forestry Commission grant funded several management activities. With the assistance of the firewood

cutters, Butterfly Conservation volunteers and others, over £3,000 was saved from the grant, leaving that available for the Landowners use. EU rules have caused some of the FC grant to be withdrawn. BC carried out some bracken bashing and improvements to the top path. Laura Sivell completed her 20th butterfly transect which sadly will not be funded by the FC next year, and so is at risk. Unfortunately many species have declined in line with other sites in this area, but it was pleasing to see that some of the rarer species were still present on Township, albeit in much lower numbers, unlike other sites where they have been lost completely. Township remains an important site for the Duke of Burgundy, although it is thought that some eggs from this species have been stolen. With this in mind considerable efforts have been made to minimise publicity for this area, in order to keep visitors to a manageable number. Grey squirrel control has been a priority and it is sincerely hoped that red squirrels will eventually return to the area. So far there is no sign of ash die back, although it is not far away, and is likely to arrive in 2016 although the change is likely to be gradual. Rob Petley-Jones enthusiastically led a party during the 200th birthday celebration and a rather cold moth evening was better supported by local people than moths.

At White Scar there has been little management apart from litter picking and removal of an old shed by the Mallinsons, which has received approval locally.

At Fellside Plantation one coppice plot has been taken. J Sceal is making the "north circular" path to complement the "south circular". It was hoped there would be a bird survey in spring 2016. Currently the school do not appear to be using Fellside Plantation, although this may change with the arrival of the new minibus.

28/2016 **Township Allotment**

Bill Sharp reported a new gate has been installed at the bottom of the Square. There are now no sheep on the allotment and they must have a minimum of 16 cows. He thought that currently the allotment was slightly understocked.

The Chairman mentioned the plaque to "Skippy" and advised the Trustees do not think that such memorials are appropriate and this stance is supported by LDNPA. The sensitivity of the matter was recognised, but it was noted that the memorial would be removed in due course.

The condition of Toby Tarn was discussed in view of the slightly adverse effect of puddling from cattle. However it was agreed that fencing was inappropriate and that there is little active management that can be put in place without creating other problems. This is an essential water supply for livestock as there is insufficient pressure to get mains water up on to the allotment.

29/2016 **200th Anniversary**

The Chairman thanked everyone who had helped with the celebrations. Approximately 70 people attended the picnic and walk and Jim Bownass has made a 15 minute video which it was suggested should be shown at the next Annual Parish Meeting.

30/2016 **Election of Trustees**

It was noted there was a vacancy due to the resignation of Penny Mutch. Hartley Trotter had been nominated as a new Trustee and was proposed by Stephen Walling and seconded by Bill Sharp. It was proposed by Peter Sherratt and seconded by Jim Bownass that the new Trustees, namely M Casson, M Dobson, J Sceal, D Stott, J Park, C Hensman, T Marshall, P Sykes and H Trotter should be elected en block and there being no opinions against this, it was duly carried by the meeting.

H Trotter thanked the meeting for his re-election onto the Trustees after an interval of 17 years and looked forward to serving the charity to the best of his ability.

31/2016 **Election of Treasurer**

It was proposed by Jim Bownass and seconded by Judy Goodland that Alastair Mutch should be re-elected, all in favour.

32/2016 **Appointment of Agent/Secretary**

It was proposed by Martin Casson and seconded by Matthew Dobson that J. Lambton should continue in this role, all in favour.

33/2016 **Appointment of Auditors**

It was proposed by John Sceal and seconded by Ann Smith that P Sherratt should continue as Auditor, all in favour.

34/2016 **Appointment of Representative to Recreational Field Trust**

It was proposed by P Sherratt and seconded by Charlie Johnson that Mr James Park should continue in this role, all in favour.

35/2016 **Appointment of Representative to the Village Hall Committee**

It was proposed by David Stott and seconded by Chris Smith that Mr Gordon Pitt should continue his role, all in favour.

36/2016 **Any Other Business**

Judy Goodland enquired about arrangements for the Queen's 90th birthday, whether there would be a beacon on the allotment and whether this would take place in April or June. J Lambton advised he had heard that other parishes were lighting beacons on 21 April 2016, which is Her Majesty's actual birthday. Further enquiries to be made.

Gary Parsons spoke about motorbike trialling on the allotment, wishing to lay fears to rest, speaking about the long established tradition of this activity and the fact that the land was very well suited to this. He hoped the Landowners would allow it to continue and for the activity to be worked in with those who manage the woods for conservation, emphasising that the trials were not about speed and noise, but agility and skill with low impact

and few spectators. The Chairman suggested that Gary Parsons could contribute to the sub-committee shortly to be formed to discuss this matter.

Hartley Trotter spoke to the meeting about his long association with Township, the things he used to do as a youngster, the changes that have occurred over the years and how he felt that such activities and changes were not necessarily detrimental to the conservation interests of the area, sometimes the reverse. He urged the Trustees to consider a compromise arrangement allowing youngsters to use motorbikes on the Township and was supported in this view by many at the meeting. Hartley Trotter would be willing to join the sub-committee. Both Jim Bownass and Gordon Pitt supported motorbike trialling in controlled areas on Whitbarrow, noting that most of the people at the meeting were relatively senior in age and that consideration should be given to the younger age group. The Chairman advised that the Trustees supported the annual motorbike trial, and had done so for many years, but recognised there were other issues to consider with regard to additional motor-biking activity on the Township and these need to be carefully debated in the context of the statutory restrictions that exist on Landowners property.

37/2016

Date of Next Meeting

The next AGM, Wednesday 1 February 2017.

The Chairman expressed appreciation for the tea and biscuits, but disappointment that Desmond Holmes, whose suggestion it was, was not there to enjoy them.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.17pm.

Signed Date
(Chairman)