

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council held on 13 May 2013

Present: Mary Harkness (Chairman), Chris Smith, Bruce Worsley, Matthew Dobson, Martin Casson, Jim Bownass

In Attendance: Cllr Jim Bland (CCC), Kim Kearney(Clerk)

1	ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR 2013/14 Mary Harkness was elected as Chairman. Her Declaration of Acceptance of Office was received.	
2	ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN Chris Smith was elected as Vice Chairman for 2012/13.	
3	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE John Holmes who was on holiday.	
4	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the parish council held on 8 May 2012 were approved. The minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2013 were approved.	
5	REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS None	
6	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None	
7	REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER BODIES The parish council agreed that it should continue to belong to the following bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumbria Association of Local Councils • Society of Local Council Clerks • Cumbria Playing Fields Association 	
8	REVIEW OF CONTRACTS The following contracts were approved to continue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass cutting by Marcus Knipe • South Westmorland Village Maintenance Association. 	
9	REVIEW OF FIXED ASSETS The Fixed Assets register was agreed by the parish council. It was noted that the parish council will no longer be able to insure the snooker table as it is owned by the snooker club.	
10	REVIEW & CONFIRMATION OF INSURANCE COVER The current policy arranged through AON is due for renewal on 26 May. The premium is £717.16. The clerk is obtaining an alternative quote from Zurich. The parish council authorised the clerk to accept the lowest quote.	Clerk
11	APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES These were deferred until the next meeting.	Clerk

12	<p>APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO WORKING GROUPS Highways - Martin Casson was re-appointed</p>	
13	<p>OPEN SESSION The chairman reported that she had received about 30 complaints, 4 of them written, about tree & verge maintenance in the parish. They fell mainly into two categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting back the undergrowth on the verges and the remaining brash • Tree felling along the Ulverston road to Bowland Bridge. <p>Jim Bland responded to the complaints about the verges. He said that lack of money had meant that the undergrowth had not been cut as often as it should and had become a safety issue. The verges did look unsightly after cutting back and the late spring meant that this wasn't being masked by re-growth very quickly. However, he said that for every complaint about the way it looked, he had received ten expressions of thanks for dealing with the safety issue.</p> <p>The landowner responsible for the tree felling along the Ulverston road said that the Forestry Commission had given him permission. In response to a question from a member, he replied that he did not think there were any timescales for undertaking the work specified on the felling licence. He said that he had a legal responsibility to ensure that the trees were safe and that they were not damaging the walls. The landowner asked that anyone wanting to ask about the felling to speak to him as he was unhappy that people assisting him had been subject to abusive language. He also questioned whether there was any point in the parish council setting a policy in this matter as they had no powers to enforce it.</p> <p>The clerk was asked to respond to the letters sent to the chairman.</p> <p>An elector of the parish expressed his thanks to the parish council for the work that they do in representing the parish. This was echoed by other electors in attendance.</p>	Clerk
14	<p>COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Jim Bland reported that there was a meeting on 23 May regarding the extension at the school. He also reported that following the recent elections, the county council would be led by a Liberal/Labour coalition.</p>	
15	<p>PARISH CLERK'S REPORT The parish council asked that the item regarding the leases be carried forward to the next meeting.</p>	Clerk
16 16.1	<p>PARISH ROOM The parish council received a proposal from the working group for the maintenance work to be undertaken by the snooker club. It was agreed that the snooker club may hire the room rent-free during the five years as the administration to collect and record a rental of £1 pa would cost more than £1. Subject to this change, the following recommendations in the paper were accepted by the parish council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The requirement for the clerk to obtain three estimates is waived as the proposal demonstrates value for money for the parish. 2. The costs for the works to be undertaken by the snooker club were approved. 3. The rental terms for the snooker club were approved 	

	The chairman of the snooker club was asked to speak to his members and confirm that they were happy to accept the proposal.	
16.2	ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO THE PARISH ROOM The parish council to decide whether to contract for Brown or Renewable electricity. Carried forward to next meeting.	Clerk
17	UPDATE FROM LAP MEETING Mary Harkness provided a brief update from the latest LAP meeting and it was agreed that a fuller discussion should take place at the next meeting	Clerk
18 18.1	PLANNING New Planning Applications New Agriculture Building near Savin Hill Road (For information only) 7/2013/5184 – Variation to windows & rooflights, Tarnside Farm 7/2013/5207 – Division of building into two homes, Durham Bridge Farm The parish council had no comments on these applications.	
19	PARKING ON THE VILLAGE GREEN Deferred until the next meeting.	Clerk
20	COMMUNITY PLAN Mary Harkness remarked that it was important that the plan was updated as the information it contains is used by a number of decision making bodies. However, it is a significant amount of work and will require volunteers to help. The clerk was asked to include a request for volunteers in the updates she sends out.	Clerk
21	CARE OF VERGES The parish council recognised that there was a balance to be struck between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The responsibilities of the landowners and farmers in ensuring the safety of trees and protecting their field boundaries • The conservation of nature and protecting the look of the countryside. 	
22	CRIME & DISORDER A report was received from PCSO Mark Hutchinson during the Annual Parish meeting which took place immediately before this meeting. This is a low crime area and there has been a reduction of 20% from the previous year (from 10 to 8 incidents). The focus for the rural community team is metal & fuel thefts and theft of machinery and livestock from farms. He reminded the parish to call 101 to report suspicious vehicles or people, of for any other non-urgent matters. A member of the PCSO team plans to attend the Exchange regularly.	
23	Finance	

23.1	<p>Income & Expenditure 2013/14 The Parish Council approved the following expenditure and noted the following receipts:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="288 248 1193 517"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="288 248 772 322">Item</th> <th data-bbox="772 248 1011 322">Expenditure £</th> <th data-bbox="1011 248 1193 322">Income £</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="288 322 772 360">Eon Electricity bill 17 April</td> <td data-bbox="772 322 1011 360">73.37</td> <td data-bbox="1011 322 1193 360"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="288 360 772 398">Precept</td> <td data-bbox="772 360 1011 398"></td> <td data-bbox="1011 360 1193 398">3890.83</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="288 398 772 472">Cumbria Playing Fields Association</td> <td data-bbox="772 398 1011 472">20</td> <td data-bbox="1011 398 1193 472"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="288 472 772 517">CALC Annual subscription</td> <td data-bbox="772 472 1011 517">167</td> <td data-bbox="1011 472 1193 517"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Item	Expenditure £	Income £	Eon Electricity bill 17 April	73.37		Precept		3890.83	Cumbria Playing Fields Association	20		CALC Annual subscription	167		
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24	<p>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED Bruce Worsley agreed to respond to SLDC's consultation on Homelessness.</p>	Bruce Worsley															
25	<p>PARISH COUNCIL SURGERY There was nothing to report from the Surgery at the Exchange. Jim Bownass will attend in June.</p>	Jim Bownass															
26	<p>COMMUNICATIONS The clerk was asked to communicate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About the Annual Parish Meeting • Agreement on the parish room with the snooker club • Request for a deputy webmaster • Volunteers to help update the community plan 	Clerk															
27	<p>MEETINGS The date of the next parish council meeting is 6 June 2013 in the Memorial hall (as the parish room will be closed for refurbishment during the summer).</p>																

Kim Kearney
18 May 2013