

**LANDOWNERS OF CROSTHWAITE & LYTH
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD BY ZOOM
(due to lockdown provisions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic)
ON TUESDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.00PM**

Present: C & P Hensman, M & D Casson, B & R Worsley, I Tomlinson, D Stott, P & J Mallinson, J Sceal, H Trotter, M Zobole, E Sharp, J Frost, S Patterson, J Park, T & H Marshall.
Mr J E Lambton and Miss D Lund of Carter Jonas were in attendance

20/2022 **Apologies**

Apologies received from O Barratt, W Sharp, R Sykes, M Dobson (as unable to connect), R and A Smith.

21/2022 **Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all those attending the 205th Landowners AGM, with the following report:

Welcome to the 205th AGM. Last year I had hoped we were conducting the meeting by ZOOM for the first and last time but here we are again.

Can I first of all thank all the Trustees for their continued enthusiastic support throughout the year and special mention should be made of John Sceal and Hartley Trotter who have both maintained a positive input despite difficult and very sad personal circumstances. I am sure that I echo all our sentiments when I say that we are all here for you both.

Thanks also to Alastair Mutch as Treasurer and Ian Tomlinson as Auditor of our accounts. Perhaps this evening Alastair is thinking he would rather be at the meeting than bobbing about on a Hurtigruten boat along the Norwegian Coast in search of the Northern Lights.

Julian Lambton and Debs Lund of Carter Jonas have also, again, played an important part in our activities which neatly leads into our most significant action this year and our thanks are due for this.

I can report that following a decision at our one and only face to face Trustee meeting this year we took the unanimous decision to reallocate some of our invested funds, in The Cumberland and COIF, to the purchase of approximately 30 acres of land – The High Allotment. This is the prominent block of land on the northern end of Whitbarrow, seen by all the Village. The land runs from our existing ownership at Fellside Plantation around Whitbarrow Road towards the limekiln above Broad Oak, directly abutting Township allotment on its southern boundary. This acquisition, from Roland Handley, secures for the community the prominent, biodiverse land for conservation management and protects an important part of our heritage.

Most of you will know the land as it is one of the most used access points for walks onto Whitbarrow from the Village and as part of a joint Jubilee event with the Parish Council we will be introducing it to those joining in a Village

Picnic to be held in 'The Square' at The Row on Saturday 4th June when we will walk along Whitbarrow Road. Further details will be published in due course.

Regarding charitable donations this year the accounts show a further £5000 being given to the School – this was a contribution towards the substantial cost of an enterprising project to bring into use the remaining inaccessible roof space, providing much needed accommodation for the increased numbers attending the School and maximising the useable space on the existing building footprint.

We also invested £5000 in B4RN to facilitate the community not for profit scheme in the introduction of hyperfast fibre broadband to our Parish. This investment is locked in for three years from purchase at which time, should we wish to reclaim it, the shares can be sold back to B4RN.

Generally other activities have been business as usual as you will hear from the following reports. The recent extreme weather events saw relatively little damage from Storm Arwen but the two storms of last weekend brought down a number of trees in Township Plantation.

22/2022 **Minutes of Previous AGM**

These had been available on the website for some time. The Chairman reviewed them briefly and it was proposed by J Sceal and seconded by D Stott that they should be accepted as an accurate record, with all in favour, and that the Chairman should duly sign the minutes.

23/2022 **Matters Arising (if not on the Agenda)**

The Chairman has spoken to Mike Berners-Lee who in principle is willing to address the Trustees. Despite frustration with Barclays Bank, the Landowners still maintain an account with Barclays, but have now secured electronic access. The rent review of Whitbarrow Cottage has been completed.

24/2022 **Accounts to the 31st October 2021**

I Tomlinson (Auditor) in the absence of A Mutch confirmed that he had reviewed the accounts and was happy with the presentation and balances, advising that they were very similar to last year, and showed a very healthy gain on investments.

25/2022 **Reports from Trustee's Meetings**

J Lambton read extracts from the two Trustees Meetings held on the 30 July 2021 and the 9 February 2022. The first was exclusively to deal with the possibility of purchasing land with the resulting resolution of the Trustees to proceed with a purchase of nearly 30 acres of land on Whitbarrow at a price of £82,500. The February meeting covered a number of issues in addition including management proposals for the new land, the Queen's Green Canopy, proposals for a Jubilee Picnic, use of the BOAT, woodlands management, Carter Jonas fees, new arrangements for Whitbarrow Cottage and procedure for Trustees nominations.

It was noted that the minutes report that £1,000 per annum was payable to the Recreation Field. This is incorrect and should state £500 per annum.

26/2022

Charitable Donations

The Chairman reviewed this matter noting that the school had not made further requests for funding, but had made good use of previous donations to provide an additional area within the roof space. The Tennis Club require a new surface for the tennis court so an application for funds for this purpose was anticipated.

27/2022

Lease Renewals and Rent Reviews

J Lambton reported that the tenancy of the Township Allotment could be reviewed as from April 2023, subject to Notice being served prior to April 2022, although he indicated that this was not recommended at the current time.

J Lambton had met with Matthew and Stephanie Park at Whitbarrow Cottage and reviewed their arrangements, resulting in an increased rent being payable from the 1 March 2022 and the offer of a new Farm Business Tenancy for 10 years from that date with 3 yearly rent reviews, and permission to build a lean-to to the rear of an existing building and possibly erect two further temporary storage cabins, subject to further details being provided. It was noted that no further contributions to interior works would be made by the Trustees, apart from the provision of new and improved insulation, subject to this being installed by the tenants.

J Lambton advised that this property was in good hands, well maintained by the tenants and in good condition following the substantial investments made by the Trustees in recent years.

28/2022

Woodland

2021 has been a more normal year after the trials and tribulations of 2020.

Covid restrictions reduced some activities but continued to inspire more local people to use the area for exercise.

With chainsaw insurance sorted out during winter 20/21 six firewood cutters were active on site and there are five people cutting wood so far in the 2021/22 season. This is helping towards the management we are obliged to do for our Woodland Improvement Grant. After no Butterfly Conservation work parties during winter 20/21 we have had two well supported work parties on Township Plantation in late 2021 during which a good butterfly ride was opened up. This is a major improvement for the site.

Public and informal footpaths were checked regularly, particularly after gales. Fortunately Storm Arwen left much of our Plantations unscathed but several trees were blown over on the north side of the larch plantation on Township Plantation, fortunately away from the path, and a few over paths elsewhere on the site. Grateful thanks are given to those who helped to get the paths safe and clear again with a few days.

We still expect a meeting with Forestry Commission to discuss deer management on site and grey squirrel control has taken place during the year.

Butterfly numbers were generally up on 2020 but below the numbers recorded in 2019. The Duke of Burgundy numbers were slightly up but not sufficiently to allow the Back on Our Map project to take any caterpillars for rearing in captivity and release on other sites. Hopefully 2022 will be a better

year. Most of our key species appeared in average numbers which is better than they fared on many other sites.

Sadly the storms of the last week have resulted in several more trees being lost on our sites and work is on-going to clear paths and drop dangerously hanging trees. Where blown trees present no risk to people they are being left to increase the deadwood habitat on the sites because that is considered to be deficient at present.

29/2022

Township Allotment

E Sharp said that little had changed from last year, except that their HLS Agreement is due to expire in April 2023. It has now been 9 years since sheep were taken off, and T Marshall said that the improvement in habitat and condition was very noticeable as a result, and complimented the Sharps on their management. E Sharp said that there may be an extension to the HLS pending the new environmental scheme being announced.

30/2022

Election of Trustees

The Chairman advised that the need for continuity at this stage was essential and had noted that all of the current Trustees were willing to be re-elected on block. It was proposed by P Hensman and seconded by B Worsley that this should take place, with all in favour.

31/2022

Election to Treasurer

It was proposed by M Casson and seconded by D Stott that A Mutch would continue for another year as Treasurer, with all in favour.

The Chairman explained that under the new electronic banking arrangements two "signatures" are required, these being his and A Mutch.

32/2022

Appointment of Agent/Secretary

It was proposed by M Casson and seconded by C Hensman that J Lambton and D Lund of Carter Jonas, should continue as agents for a further year, all in favour.

33/2022

Appointment of Auditor

It was proposed by J Sceal and seconded by M Casson that I Tomlinson should continue in this role for a further year, all in favour.

34/2022

Appointment of Representative to Recreational Field Trust

It was proposed by H Trotter and seconded by P Hensman that M Casson would continue in this role for a further year, all in favour.

35/2022

Appointment of Representative to Village Hall Committee

It was proposed by M Casson and seconded by C Hensman that J Sceal should continue in this role for a further year, all in favour.

36/2022

Any Other Business

None.

37/2022

Date of Next Meeting

To be agreed.

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 7.47pm.

Signed Date
(Chairman)