

**LANDOWNERS OF CROSTHWAITE & LYTH  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD AT CROSTHWAITE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL  
ON TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 6.00PM**

**Present:** 27 Landowners were present.  
Mr J E Lambton and Miss D Lund of Carter Jonas were in attendance

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17/2023 **Apologies**

Apologies received from J Waldren, R Sykes, E Cartmell.

18/2023 **Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman gave his report, welcoming attendees to the 206<sup>th</sup> AGM and thanking Crosthwaite School for the venue. The Chairman thanked the Trustees for their involvement, support and wisdom throughout the year, and in particular Tony Marshall assisted by his wife Heather, for the phenomenal amount of work involved in obtaining a new ten year Countryside Stewardship Scheme. In this regard he included Theresa Morris at Natural England for her involvement.

In contrast the Land Registry had still not recorded the land purchase of High Allotment, more than twelve months after the event.

The Chairman also thanked Alistair Mutch, Ian Tomlinson and Carter Jonas for their respective roles as Treasurer, Auditor and land management expertise.

The Chairman reported that £28,000 had been received from the Crosthwaite and Lyth Trust following the winding up of that charity.

The Chairman reminded the meeting of the Celebratory Jubilee Picnic on the 4 June in honour of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth as well as use of Fellside Plantation for a Woodlands for Wilderness Therapy Project.

The Chairman reported on the theft of young Yew trees from Whitbarrow, and urged vigilance. He also urged anybody interested in conservation to get involved with work parties on the High Allotment and to consider becoming a Trustee of the Charity.

19/2023 **Minutes of Previous AGM**

This was held on the 2 February 2022. It was noted that the minutes had been available on the parish website for some time, and were taken as read, although J Lambton referred to a number of items.

20/2023 **Matters Arising**

None.

21/2023 **Accounts to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022**

The accounts were displayed for the meeting on the projector and were reviewed by A Mutch and advised a reduction in income due to the use of funds for the purchase of land, but income from rents had increased due to the revised cottage rent. Income from grants had increased from nil to about £6,000. Management fees had increased due to extra fees relating to the land purchase. A Mutch pointed out the £28,000 inherited from the Village Trust, and advised that the Trustees have decided to reinvest £30,000 in stages over a period of time, with only £5,000 showing in this financial year. Investment showed an unrealised loss of about £6,000 due to the situation in Ukraine, but since the end of October have recovered about £2,000 of that loss. The assets recorded on the balance sheet were much increased due to the land purchase.

22/2023 **Reports from Trustee's Meetings**

J Lambton summarised extracts from Trustees Meetings held on the 22 February 2022, 7 July 2022 and 17 January 2023 noting, amongst other matters, developments at Whitbarrow Cottage, alterations to Carter Jonas fees, a request for funding from the Tennis Club, ongoing issues regarding High Allotment such as a permissive path, environmental stewardship and other sources of funds.

Fewer Butterfly Transects were being carried out by the Marshalls due to very high tick numbers, and the question of deer control was highlighted as an ongoing issue. The future status of the Charity was raised both in terms of its identity, and its principal purposes.

23/2023 **Charitable Donations**

It was noted that the Tennis Club had already raised £30,000, and that the Trustees had agreed to increase their contribution from £5,000 to £6,000. It was noted that the extra amount may not be required after all.

24/2023 **Lease Renewals and Rent Reviews**

J Lambton advised that the Township Allotment rent was renewable from April 2024, if Notice served prior to April 2023, but it was agreed to leave things as they were. The new arrangements at Whitbarrow Cottage were also reported, with Matthew and Stephanie Park being offered a new agreement for ten years at an increased rent.

25/2023 **Woodland**

T Marshall gave his annual report. There were a good number of firewood cutters active on the site helping towards the objectives under the Woodland Improvement Grant, and there had been two Butterfly Conservation work parties, similarly helpful. Storm Arwen (November 2021) had felled a number of trees, mostly away from footpaths, but further storms in January and February 2022 caused more damage. Some of these are being left to increase deadwood habitat. Some grey squirrel control has taken place, although progress towards a deer control strategy has stalled.

Butterfly numbers were generally down on previous years, although Township Plantation still hosted several species that are elsewhere in serious decline. Some species had shown increases on previous years, such as the Gate Keeper.

T Marshall illustrated his talk with photographs and graphics which were appreciated by the meeting.

On the newly acquired High Allotment approximately thirty-three trees are to be planted to create woodland pasture, and a managed grazing regime is envisaged which will be beneficial for cowslip numbers. Edward Sharps Ling cattle will be used for this purpose.

A Boon Day for High Allotment is planned for the Autumn.

26/2023 **Township Allotment**

B Sharp reported that things are much the same on Township, but that the elimination of sheep grazing was allowing many more thorns to grow also some young Larch. He has currently fifteen to twenty Ling cattle on the allotment, and these will be joined by their calves in due course.

27/2023 **Status of Charity**

J Lambton reported on thoughts from the Trustees Meetings that the Landowners of Crosthwaite and Lyth could convert from a Registered Charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). P Hensman explained the advantages of the conversion, having recently arranged this for the Westmorland Damson Association, namely a limited liability for the Trustees, the ability to employ Trustees, and a reduction in bureaucracy. This might require changing the Charities objectives, and it was thought that the best time for a change would be the end of a financial year. The AGM indicated their approval for the Trustees to investigate this matter further.

28/2023 **Election of Trustees**

It was proposed by R Smith and seconded by R Worsley that the current Trustees should be re-elected on block, there being no nominations for any other Trustees, and all the current Trustees indicating their willingness to continue for another year.

29/2023 **Election to Treasurer**

It was proposed by M Casson and seconded by D Stott that A Mutch should continue for another year in this role.

30/2023 **Appointment of Agent/Secretary**

It was proposed by M Casson and seconded by J Goodland that Carter Jonas, should continue in this role for another year.

31/2023 **Appointment of Auditor**

It was proposed by C Hensman and seconded by P Mallinson that I Tomlinson should continue in this role for another year.

32/2023 **Appointment of Representative to Recreational Field Trust**

It was proposed by E Sale and seconded by D Stott that M Casson would continue in this role for another year.

33/2023 **Appointment of Representative to Village Hall Committee**

It was proposed by I Tomlinson and seconded by J Goodland that J Sceal should continue in this role for another year.

34/2023

**Any Other Business**

The question of deer control was raised. J Lambton had discussed this with Steve Radcliffe at LDNPA who is trying to convene a pan-Park Deer Control Policy. P Hensman advised that this was driven by the World Heritage Site status, as reducing sheep numbers on the fells was increasing the amount of deer grazing, this destroying the old hefts which runs against one of the WHS objectives.

35/2023

**Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 6 February 2024. Venue to be advised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Signed .....

Date .....

(Chairman)