

Hawkshead Parish Council

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council** held in the Lower Market House, Hawkshead on Tuesday 24th May 2022 commencing at 7.00pm.

Present

Councillors

Cllr Woodhouse (Chair) Cllr Brown, Spedding, Moulton, Johnston, Bremner, Berry
Clerk – Tracey Thornley.

Members of the public 1 member of the public

Apologies

None

Chairman's Report

The Chairman read out his report as follows:-

The pandemic has once again impacted on our work at Parish Council. For a period of time our meetings were carried out via zoom and it has been good to be able to get back to face to face meetings, also with people working from home, it appears to have been difficult to push things along, hopefully going forwards all this will begin to improve.

We have finally been able to put the work at the north end of the village out to tender, hopefully the work will be completed in the coming year. The money received from councillor Coward has been used and the planter is now in situ at the entrance of the police station car park and hopefully will be all planted up in time for the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

Following on from the terrible storms we experienced earlier on in the year we have managed to secure funding from Councillor Troughton, Hawkshead Society for Benefit of the Community, Hawkshead Parish Council and Outgate Reading Room to allow the Parish Council to purchase a generator. So, any future power cuts there will be a place with light, heat and cooking facilities, this will be at the Market House in the square and accessible to all parishioners and hopefully going forward from this we will be able to get an emergency plan in place.

We have added an outdoor solar light to the police station car park, we will be adding more lighting to this space to benefit the users of this car park.

The acquisition of the new ferry appears to be going ahead, councillor Brodie is monitoring this and keeping us informed with any updates. Members of the public have raised their concerns about the lack of consultation from Highways.

I would like to give thanks to the late Mr J A Bond for his charitable legacy given to the parish council to enhance the appearance of the village.

We have welcomed a new councillor, Fran Berry who has done a first-class job in the past of monitoring the grid at the top of Flag Street and preventing village from flooding.

We have been in discussions with The Environment Agency, they will be carrying out some remedial building work around the grid and providing the Parish Council with rakes to allow us to keep the grid clear of debris and the river flowing as it should.

Finally, I would like to give a big thank you to all of the councillors for their hard work and commitment over the past year, I appreciate being on the council isn't always the easiest job. Once again, I would like to thank Tracey Thornley for the continued professionalism and hard work which she puts in to being a tremendous parish council clerk.

Reports from representatives

Recreation Ground Trust – Cllr Spedding reported that all is going well, the grass is being cut nicely, trying to do the bonfire again this year, funding is a bit short, some local businesses have donated towards the event but not all it would be nice to see better support for this. £10k in the account for new play equipment the Treasurer is looking for match funding.

Market House Trust – Cllr Johnston reported that the Market house has had a lot of work done to it £26k has been spent so far and the final bill should be under £30k. The main income comes from crafters/Himalayan rugs but it needs to be clear that if someone wants to hire the hall in the evenings to make sure they provide enough notice so the crafters can pack their equipment away. The Market Hall Cottage is coming up for rent in the summer.

Grammar School Trust – Cllr Moulton reported a busy time with the storms, grants went well with financial support going to 20 young people 12 at university, 6 at sixth form and 2 vocational course, 12 applicants from Hawkshead and Outgate. Finances should be able to keep the same level of funding for the next 4 years. After a disappointing 2021 with visitor numbers they have undergone a rethink and looked into what other local museums do. They have joined a multiticket scheme which allows visitors access to the museum as well as other local museums. The cataloguing of books is ongoing with a group of volunteers helping, 200 of 1600 books have been done, they will be running a refresher training course, anyone interested in old books can come along. In 2021 windows were replaced in museum cottage, roof repair and maintenance done on the School house. The barn has been let to a couple from Coniston who are busy tidying the area and will be running a business letting out tents, trailer tents, roof racks etc.

Hawkshead Flood defence group – Cllr Berry reported that they have now got 6 local volunteers who are helping to keep an eye on the beck in wet weather they have a Whatsapp group which is working well. Cllr Spedding will help with any issues when Cllr Berry is not available. It would be useful to have some kind of lighting up there.

Windermere Ferry Advisory Group – Cllr Brodie is our representative.

Public Participation

A member of the public wanted to ask what had happened to the expensive painting which had been moved into the south of the country as it was too expensive for the Market House to insure, it had a value of £18,000 + belongs to the Market House, if it is depreciating in value maybe its time to sell it. Cllr Johnston will bring up at the AGM, the concern was that it needs recording for generations to come to be aware of. It was felt it had come from the Institute donated to the Market House.

The meeting ended at 7.21 pm