

Hawkshead Parish Council

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council** held in the Lower Market House, Hawkshead on Tuesday 21st May 2018 commencing at 7.00pm.

Present

Councillors

Cllr Woodhouse (Chair) Cllr Forham, Brown, Wood, Spedding
Clerk – Tracey Thornley.

Members of the public 5 members of the public

Apologies

Cllr Moulton

Chairman's Report

The Chairman read out his report as follows:-

I can report another busy year for the Parish Council with all the councillors the same as 2018. I would like to start by thanking them all for their commitment and time, its not always an easy role and it can be all consuming and at times very testing, but I feel we are serving the parish very well.

This year has seen the renewal of the fence around the Police station car park, the National Trust has carried out work to several trees in turn this has improved the look of the car park.

A meeting was organised by the council to discuss the ferry and the affects it has had on the village during the time it was out of service this was well attended by 17 members of the public, the outcome of this was the need for permanent signage to direct people to Hawkshead using an alternate route. There was also concern with regard to the future as the ferry is due to be replaced in the future.

In November we held a meeting with Highways with regard to improvements to the northern end of the village this is an ongoing project.

Councillor Fordham organised the memorial service which was held on the Recreation ground to commemorate 100 years since the end of the 1st World War, this was led by Rev. John Dixon and was well attended with the pupils from the school also joining us, poems were read and a tree was planted by Diana Mathews.

We have appointed a new Lengthsman, Tim Brown he is a local man with a wealth of knowledge and already improvements are evident. Councillor Coward's locality budget was secured and used to pick litter from around the village and remove the saplings from Vicarage Lane.

Working with Claife Parish Council a meeting was held with the Enviroment Agency with regards to flooding at Poole Bridge the relevant contacts were made available to both Councils so these can be used in the event of flooding. We have appointed a new contractor to cut the grass around the village and also the hedge on the Police station car park, to date they are doing an excellent job.

A grant for £500 has been secured from LDNPA Communities fund, this is to be used to generate a leaflet to promote Hawkshead.

Finally I would like to thank our Clerk Tracey, she continues to be professional and efficient and always approachable.

Reports from representatives

Recreation Ground Trust - Cllr Fordham reported that the Committee has met on regular basis, bonfire night was a very wet night and they just about covered the costs. The Hawkshead trails proved successful, the village benefitted greatly from it. Windermere Marathon doesn't benefit the village. The Recreation committee has been using the same Contractor as currently being used in the village, the grounds are looking good. Lack of litter bins on LDNPA car park has been

causing issues re their policy encouraging the public to take your litter home, people walk across to put their litter in the bins in the park. Trying to find ways to rectify this, the Lake District National Park Authority have been approached to help with emptying of these bins. There hasn't been a meeting for a while but a meeting is due soon. In order to get any grants there needs to be a scheme in hand, the committee could start thinking about improving the play equipment for young children.

Market House Trust – Cllr representative not present

Grammar School Trust – Cllr representative not present

Flood Prevention Action Group – Nothing to report.

Broadband Pioneer – Cllr Fordham reported that there had been no calling of meetings as there haven't been any issues. BT Openreach are currently putting direct Fibre into houses in the outlying areas.

Traders Association Business Forum - Cllr Wood reported that no meetings had been held, she had been in touch with the Christmas Fair Committee who are putting a brochure together promoting Hawkshead. It was also suggested that maybe the Parish Council would take over the Hawkshead website as nobody is doing anything with it at present. There is money to finance the PC to do this. Cllrs to think about it but felt that it is something which needs to be done.

National Trust – *John Moffat sent a report, the Chair read this out as follows:-*

National Trust update, May 2019

As we prepare for the half term week, I think we're in a fairly 'normal' position as things stand. The Beatrix Potter Gallery remains open every day, as is our shop, and so far we've had a good season, up on last year and budget. Obviously as of this weekend we will be one year on from the ferry being off so year on year comparisons become much harder, but all of our data and info is that we're in for a busy season and summer, hopefully the whole of the village will see the visitor numbers strong. Hill Top and Wray Castle are also generally doing well vs. last year; we continue to operate our 'no coaches' policy at Hill Top – this has definitely led to some now stopping in the village and spending time there either before or after visiting Hill Top – some are also now walking rather than using minibuses.

There are currently no empty properties in the parish – there has been a bit of change in the last year. Not aware of any coming up, any that do will be advertised on RightMove as usual.

The off road path between Hawkshead and Near Sawrey is definitely seeing more use – helped by the good weather; indeed, it is one of the most visited pages on our website. We'll continue to work with Claife PC to see if that can be extended, but now reliant on other landowners. In general, our outdoor sites are seeing more visitors – which does lead to some challenges: the amount of rubbish we collected from along the lakeshores after Easter was ridiculous.

Going forward, I'd be keen to know from the Parish Council what your big priorities for the coming year will be and what we can do to help deliver them. What are your asks of us at the moment, (assuming there are some!)

As always, get in touch if there are questions, things you want to more about etc.

The meeting ended at 19.11 pm
