

Hawkshead Parish Council

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council** held in the Lower Market House, Hawkshead on Tuesday 18th May 2021 commencing at 7.00pm.

Present

Councillors

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

Members of the public 4 members of the public

Apologies

None

Chairman's Report

The Chairman read out his report as follows:-

Due to the pandemic the past year has seen less activity both on the council and in the parish, but we have said goodbye to three councillors Mrs Charlotte Wood, Mr Ken Fordham and finally Mr Malcom McLennan, all of them were extremely good councillors and are greatly missed and I would like to thank them for all their work during their time on the parish council.

We have been fortunate to welcome two new councillors Mrs Evonne Bremner and Mrs Eileen Johnson and I feel that going forward we have a well balanced council and we will look forward to welcoming a new councillor in the near future.

Over the past months we have been holding meetings via Zoom and projects that are ongoing are the squares project with regards to the north of the village but its frustrating as we are still trying to secure the commitment from highways to proceed also we are liaising with Mrs Anne Brodie from Claife parish council with regards to the procurement of a new Windermere ferry.

We have been successful in receiving funding from Councillor Coward to replace the planter at the entrance to the police station car park with a contribution from Hawkshead parish council, councillor Bremner has liaised with Hawkshead Esthwaite primary school and the children are going to be involved with the planting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the councillors who have embraced the changes we have encountered and as always have shown commitment to the role they have on the council which at times can be challenging, we as a council are privileged to have our clerk Mrs Tracey Thornley who throughout these difficult months has operated in the most professional manner and she is an asset to us all.

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held 21st May 2019

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 21st May 2019 at 7 pm were signed by the Chair as a true record.

Reports from representatives

Recreation Ground Trust – due to the pandemic the last 12 months has not seen much happening. Finally got some surface chips on the car park waiting to get it rolled out. The Chair of the committee has been in talks with Lakeland Trails who want an event in August but will need to get whether everyone is happy with that.

Market House Trust – The Chair, Tom Macan, sent a report through which was read out by the Chair as follows:

The Market Hall has, as required by Government regulation, been closed for much of the year but was able to open for almost four months in the autumn when it was well-used by the Himalayan Bazaar and Lakeland Artisan, and by a few community groups. Rental from these users, from the cottage (let to a local couple) and generous emergency business support from SLDC have led to the Trust ending the year in a strong financial position. The Trust has carried out a number of improvements including an upgrade of kitchen equipment and 12 new tables, improved storage, refinishing of the Assembly Room floor and stage, and repainting the stage. Full external redecoration is scheduled for the coming summer, with major improvements to the Lower Room to follow later

Grammar School Trust – they are having their first face to face meeting on 27th it would have been 250th anniversary of Wordsworth death. Building work on both B&Bs and cottages (roofs windows etc) has been done. The Library has been surveyed and building checked for security and damp. Terry has been putting data online, where books can be viewed online for a small fee. Plans for the barn are still ongoing. All building work has been completed by local trades people. They have had a busy 12 months.

Flood Prevention Action Group – There isn't much to report, when it floods it is reported to the Environment Agency. Mesh from bottom of the lake has been removed which has resulted in the water running a bit better

Traders Association Business Forum - No meetings

Windermere Ferry Advisory Group – Cllr Anne Brodie, as the Representative for Hawkshead and Claife Parish Councils on the group read out the following report:-

The ferry advisory group has no power to make decisions, it can only advise. It usually meets in September and March. The members of the group are Cumbria County Council Highways and Transport Officers, County Councillors and District councillors from South Lakeland, a Councillor representing the Parishes of Claife and Hawkshead , and a Councillor representing Windermere and Bowness Town Council.

As a result of Covid 19 government restrictions we saw numerous changes in practice.

The Ferry Advisory Group meetings were held remotely on Microsoft Teams in September 2020 and March 2021 rather than face to face and this did limit the effectiveness of the group as members struggled to access the meetings due to technical and digital issues.

To meet the health and safety challenges, new systems of passenger management and ticketing procedures were adopted such as contactless payments only, mask wearing, and social distancing for pedestrians and cyclists. Access to the pedestrian undercover area was much missed in wet weather when it became reserved for staff access only.

Unfortunately, due to adjustments being made to service practice in the first Covid 19 lockdown and various mechanical breakdowns the ferry was out of service on numerous occasions over the year.

Cumbria County Council support the procurement of a new ferry and assert that a technical expert will be appointed to support the Council throughout the process. I look forward to hearing that such a critical appointment has been made to avert concerns over the competence of Cumbria County Council to make the right decisions about design and build of a marine asset. To date no one has been appointed.

Positive developments lobbied for by your representative are that new electronic signs are to be put in place which will offer alternative route information when the ferry is out of service. Also, emergency service vehicles will no longer be required to be acting in emergency, and showing blue lights , in order to get free passage on the ferry. This should shorten journey times, and cut costs, for ambulances transporting patients with non urgent conditions to and from hospitals, and police patrol cars from Bowness and Windermere if they are needed to supplement the service out of Ulverston.

Public Participation

None

The meeting ended at 7.15 pm