

**Minutes of the Claife Annual Parish Meeting
held at The Braithwaite Hall on Tuesday 14th May 2019 at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllr J Mallett (Chair)
Cllrs A Brodie, R Bonham, S Hilton, C Lewis & P Lennon
Clerk – J Heather

In attendance: 1 member of the public

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

The council approved the minutes of the prior year meeting.

3. Chair's Report

Jimmy Mallett - Chair

The Chair gave thanks to the previous Chair, Dr Chris Lane, who retired in 2018 after many years of dedicated service; he is Claife PC's longest serving chairman. The Chair also thanked the Councillors for their hard work and dedication noting that the work they do is purely voluntary, and costs them time and money on telephone calls and travelling expenses. Further thanks were given to the Clerk who started in 2018 and was somewhat thrown in at the deep end, but has proved very capable of the position.

The Chair noted that this year, for the first time in many years, the precept has had to be increased to cover the costs of a lengthsman, snowplough and gritting work. The lengthsman will be employed for 1 day/month, with initial priorities to clear saplings and drains in the parish. Costs for snowploughing depend on the winter weather, but any surplus funds will be allocated at the end of the year either towards funds set aside for future severe winters or additional lengthsman work.

The Chair noted that one frustration in a challenging year has been that LDNPA planning applications are now sent online rather than in paper form. The council has applied for, and received, a grant for projection equipment to enable more informed discussions at council meetings. On more than one occasion the council has not received notification of planning applications by e-mail, and when discovered it has been too late to respond which is most frustrating. The Esthwaite Trout Fishery alcohol and entertainment licence application has been the most controversial in the last 12 months, attracting numerous objections, however the application was granted, and the council will continue to monitor the situation. The Windermere Ferry continues to take up much discussion and time, it was out of service for 5 months last year due to the fire; and a further month in March for the 5 yearly inspection. The recent increase in fares has also caused concern, we have been promised that the Ferry Advisory Committee will be reinstated and hope to have a Claife PC representative on the committee.

The Chair commented that The National Trust (NT) visitors' attractions at Hill Top and Wray Castle remain popular and the council continues to monitor the ensuing traffic and parking problems while working with the NT to find solutions. Finally, an opportunity has arisen for the council to pilot a scheme to build some local housing. A housing sub-committee has been formed of the Chair, Cllr Bonham and Cllr Lewis although negotiations are still in the early stages, and there is a lot of work to be done to bring it to fruition.

4. Representative Reports

Chairman Mallett (Braithwaite Hall Trust)

The Chair reported that the Braithwaite Hall is in a healthy and vibrant position with refurbishment work continuing: the kitchen is now complete with more fitted cupboards and a new and safer hot water system for tea making. The next project is to renew the shower units and the committee have decided to install CCTV cameras after incidents of fly tipping and a vehicle damaged the gate beyond repair. The dedicated committee continue to work hard for the upkeep of the hall, keeping the grounds and general maintenance in good order, and thank the Parish Council for their support.

Cllr Hilton (Hawkshead Market Hall Trust)

Cllr Hilton explained that unfortunately the last Market Hall meeting had been held in October and the next meeting is tomorrow night. The Trust has agreed a flat fee of £900 with the Stage Society for the next production but there are a number of small issues to work out before it can go ahead. The October minutes stated that the cottage was refurbished on time and on budget, but there has been limited communication since then, believed to be partly due to the Secretary's resignation 3 months ago. Cllr Hilton apologised that he could not attend the meeting on the following night and asked if another Cllr could go in his place. The Chair indicated it was important for the council to have a representative at the meeting, and Cllrs Brodie and Bonham volunteered to attend. Cllr Brodie stated that she had been made aware that the Market Hall was not issuing invoices in a timely manner, that this was causing cashflow problems for small local businesses, and that this needed to be raised with the Market Hall Committee.

Anne Brodie (Community Led Plan)

Cllr Brodie reported that parking and traffic problems at Near Sawrey and Hill Top were being captured in the log managed by Cllr Lewis. Sightlines have been improved by removing trees next to the pedestrian exit from Hill Top, and the NT have agreed to make further improvements later in the year. Written procedures for the snowplough and the lengthsman are being led by the Chair and the Clerk and Cllr Hilton is liaising with BT Openreach for broadband development in the parish.

Cllr Bonham (Hawkshead Grammar School Foundation)

Cllr Bonham reported that after a couple of years of little activity, the Governors have engaged a new Clerk and a new Curator who have a lot of ideas and energy for improvements. New office equipment and broadband has been ordered for the museum with the intent of refreshing the displays and improving marketing. One possible project is developing a digital catalogue for the library and online access to rare books through a subscription website. All the rental properties are occupied and the new Clerk is organising a backlog of maintenance work. Discussions with the Pre-school committee regarding conversion of the barn for pre-school use are ongoing: the Pre-School Committee have developed draft specifications: these need to be considered in light of additional cost and ensuring the converted barn remains multi-functional.

Cllr Lennon (High Wray Village Hall)

Cllr Lennon thanked the council for the donation last year, which went towards the heating. The High Wray Committee have raised £10,000 for a new kitchen, carpark refurbishment and new curtain tracks.

5. Public Participation

No issues raised by the public.

Chairman Mallett thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. The meeting closed at 7.26pm.

Signed by Chair: _____ Dated _____