

**Claife Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Braithwaite Hall**  
**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**Attendees:** Parish Councillors A Brodie (Chair) S Hilton (Vice Chair), M Stanton & J Whitworth, Parish Clerk L Prescott, Unitary Councillor S Pender, representatives from United Utilities, National Trust & South Cumbria Rivers Trust and 10 members of the public.

027/2024 **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Parish Councillors S Denyer & K Keighley.

028/2024 **Requests for Dispensation**

None.

029/2024 **Declarations of Interest**

None received.

030/2024 **Minutes**

**Resolved** The Council approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

031/2024 **Public Participation**

a) Reports were received as follows:

i) Police

The Clerk reported that a theft at Ferry Landing was reported to the Police in February 2024.

ii) Unitary Councillor

Unitary Councillor Spender advised that there will be overnight closures on Hawkshead Hill for resurfacing. Potholes and road repairs are an ongoing issue and she can be contacted in relation to these. The Windermere Ferry service is due to be closed until 24 May for maintenance which will impact local businesses, she is also pushing for a review of the service. Destination Hawkshead has received funding from Westmorland & Furness Council in relation to the visitor offer, there are now some free parking spaces and 30 minute parking spaces. Hawkshead School has falling roll numbers which is linked to the housing situation and she is looking at the potential of social housing building. Three sites have been submitted for 'bathing water' status and an update is expected shortly. Councillor Brodie asked whether it was possible to identify the number of blue badge holders who travel for free on the ferry and Councillor Pender will investigate.

iii) National Trust

Laura Ruxton (General Manager) advised that following the consultation events in relation to Harrowslack they are now engaging with user groups including fishermen, residents and the community. Rangers are working on weekends at the site and will advise visitors in relation to behaviour. A security company will patrol in the evenings and the Police have agreed to work with them on targeted actions. The National Trust is supporting the Ash Landing ferry & bus which is due to start today and run until the end of September 2024. Hill Top visitors are guaranteed entry if they don't come by car, drivers still need to pre-book for the car park. They are looking at the Hill Top visitor travel, parking and entry.

Councillor Whitworth asked whether the Ferry Landing land could be compulsory purchased – Councillor Pender will investigate.

Councillors asked whether the bus stop at Ash Landing would be on Parish Council land and whether passengers would be dropped off on both sides of the road. They also asked for the branches deposited on Parish Council land to be removed. Laura will investigate the bus stop situation and arrange for the branches to be removed.

b) Members of the Public

A member of the public asked about the Planning Inspectorate decision to approve a boat house at Satter Knots (item 035/2024c). Councillor Brodie responded that the LDNPA had refused the application but it was approved by the Planning Inspectorate which may create a precedent in future.

032/2024 **United Utilities**

Kevin Sayers of United Utilities outlined the feasibility study undertaken in 2023 of a project similar to the Lake Annecy solution, with the intention that it would stop sewage from being deposited in Lake Windermere by installing 42 miles of piping alongside and across Lake Windermere, then pumping it to a new treatment plant at Grange-over-Sands. It could also include the 1,800 septic tanks, but only with owners' consent. Following treatment it would be discharged 3 miles out into Morecambe Bay. The estimate cost is £3.5 to £6.5 billion. United Utilities would only proceed if there was community support, funding was available and the appropriate legislation, planning permission and environmental challenges were satisfactorily addressed. This project would not address the land run off which represents 30 to 40% of the source of phosphorus. Septic tanks should be of a certain standard but this is not monitored or enforced. Exact information on septic tanks is not currently available.

Oliver Blakemore of United Utilities is lead on the Near Sawrey project where they are investigating solutions to deal with the excess foul and surface water capacity. Three options are being considered: Storage tank with return system; soakaway or true separation (of foul and surface water). They have been investigating the catchment, surveying the combined networks as to where they could be separated. If they can separate the surface water it could be discharged via the National Trust car park soakaway into the Post Office field. They have been liaising with the National Trust who own land which could be affected. They are modelling the various solutions to see whether they would achieve the required reduction. Their survey areas has been extended and the next steps are to check the permeability of the field (Section 168 notice in place) and the soakaway in the National Trust car park. The treatment works also need upgrading. They are looking at costs to establish the Best Value Model. Councillors and members of the public asked whether the problem is solely due to the excess surface water (yes), where is the preferred discharge of surface water (Esthwaite), are they looking at Far Sawrey (no), does less rainwater increase the treatment speed (no). Kevin Sayers and Oliver Blakemore will send copies of their presentations to the Clerk for distribution.

032/2024 **Councillor Matters**  
None

033/2024 **Updates on Ongoing Issues and Actions**

- a) Windermere Ferry  
Councillor Brodie attended the Ferry meeting, together with representatives from Cumbria Tourism, Westmorland & Furness Council, Mountain Goat, Windermere Lake Cruises and the National Trust. She reported that the completion of the ferry maintenance on schedule (15<sup>th</sup> April to 24<sup>th</sup> May) is dependent upon calm weather. Traffic has increased on surrounding roads due to the ferry not operating and feedback on the impact would be helpful. The Ferry crew are to visit local businesses during the break in operations to improve their knowledge of the local area to advise visitors. The free ferry passage for blue badge holders was discussed, a consultation would be required to amend this. The Windermere Lake Cruises pedestrian ferry is now operating, meeting the Mountain Goat minibus service at Ash Landing jetty by the Parish Council land and this needs to be monitored.
- b) Road gritting/snow ploughing arrangements  
Councillor Brodie advised that currently the Unitary Council will not provide access to grit for Parish Council contractors to spread on untreated roads. The Clerk has submitted an enquiry to the Unitary Council regarding the cost and availability of the required LANTRA training courses for contractors and is awaiting a response.
- c) Council Land  
Councillor Brodie advised she would arrange a walk through with Richard Tanner in relation to ash dieback on the Parish Council land prior to the next meeting.
- d) Environmental & Water Quality  
Councillor Brodie advised that if the proposed development at Pearsall House is approved then the sewage tank would require daily emptying and this should be monitored by the Parish Council. Rebecca Houston of the South Cumbria Rivers Trust advised that the SCRT are undertaking a 12 month monitoring programme of the water quality at 6 locations along Wilfin Beck, with samples being collected by local volunteers and analysis being undertaken by SCRT staff. The plan was for volunteers to undertake the analysis but this has not been possible, so funding is needed to enable SCRT staff to undertake this work.
- e) Improving Footpath Signage  
Councillor Brodie reported that visitors are walking on the road and not the footpath at Near Sawrey due to the unclear signage. The National Trust are to put a black and white sign with an arrow by the defibrillator.
- f) CALC training courses  
The Clerk reported that she has not had any further responses from other Parish Councils regarding the CALC planning training, however due to the current elections it would be sensible to arrange training once all new Councillors are in post. Councillor Brodie advised that LDNPA Planners are willing to provide a free planning training event.  
**Resolved** To contact Catherine Campbell of LDNPA Planning Department to arrange planning training.
- g) Registering Parish Council Land  
The Clerk reported that she has collated the relevant documentation for the registering/transfer and register amendments and contacted Napthens solicitors outlining the situation for each piece of land in relation to this process. They have advised that they would make a charge of £1,500 plus VAT, plus disbursements (eg land registry fees) for all the works. Once submitted the Land Registration would take an estimated 2 years to complete the process. Councillor Brodie advised that the National Trust have further information in relation to the land at Ash Landing.  
**Resolved** To proceed with the Land Registration process via Napthens as outlined.
- h) Council Emergency Plan  
Councillors Hilton & Stanton are yet to arrange a meeting to consider the Emergency Plan, which should include how to communicate with vulnerable people during power cuts.

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### New Agenda items

- a) Pearsall House Development Control Committee Site Inspection (Planning Application 7/2023/5255)  
Councillor Brodie attended the site inspection. She reported that work has been undertaken on the site prior to any permission being granted including laying hardcore, removing an outbuilding and tree damage (in breach of Tree Protection Orders). The LDNPA will be issuing an enforcement order requiring the reinstatement of grounds, tree protection, retaining wall reinforcement and landscaping. The Planning Application is still in place but is being dealt with by the DCC due to the breaches and a record of the site inspection will be placed on the planning file.  
**Resolved** To write to LDNPA supporting that any approval by the DCC is dependent on compliance with the Enforcement Notice and that conditions in relation to surface water separation and protection of potable water supplies from contamination be guaranteed.
- b) Ash Landing Jetty – Windermere Lake Cruises  
Referred to in item 031/2024 iii)
- c) Westmorland & Furness Bus Service Improvement Plan Consultation  
Councillor Brodie attended the event, however it was not particularly enlightening.  
**Resolved** To support the proposed earlier 505 services and also the Mountain Goat Bus Service from Ferry Landing to Hawkshead.
- d) Westmorland & Furness Council's Biodiversity & Nature Recovery Event  
The Clerk reported that she attended this event, however the items were not directly applicable.
- e) Westmorland & Furness Council's Community Power Workshop  
No report.
- f) Cumbria Sustainability Network Big Green Week 8<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June  
No report.

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### Planning Applications

- a) The following Planning Applications were considered:
- i) 7/2024/5157. High Wray Bank, High Wray, Ambleside LA22 0JD. Proposed earthworks, associated drainage and landscaping/ecological enhancements.  
**Resolved** No objections.
- ii) 7/2024/5180. The Bield, Cunsey, Ambleside, LA22 0LT. Demolition of existing boathouse, construction of a replacement boathouse and jetty, localised dredging and associated site works.  
**Resolved** To respond as follows:  
The application is an improvement on the previous applications as the size has been substantially reduced and it no longer has a dayroom with associated facilities.  
The boathouse is not a replacement but a new boathouse with a new jetty. The area is one of quiet woodland on the western side of the Lake and this should be maintained. Dredging will be required on a regular basis due to the location to provide access to the jetty. If permission is granted as there is no vehicular access there should be a condition that it is only for the use of the owners of The Bield. The materials for any construction should be delivered via the Lake as there is no vehicular access.
- iii) T/2024/0065. Howe End Cottage, Far Sawrey, Hawkshead, LA22 0LQ. Fell – evergreen (possibly yew) tree due to branches overlapping entrance driveway. Fell – small ash tree that has been identified as having Ash die back.  
**Resolved** To object to the felling of the yew tree but support cutting it back eg crown lift. No objections to the felling of the tree with ash dieback.
- b) The following Planning Decisions were noted:
- i) 7/2024/5020. 1 Crabtree Cottages, Cunsey, Ambleside, LA22 0LX. Extension to form home office and covered dining area. Approved with conditions relating to plans and tree protection.
- ii) T/2024/0009. Wilfin Cottage, Far Sawrey, Ambleside, LA22 0LQ. 2 x Holly trees – reduce and reshape. Apple tree – reduce and reshape. No objection.
- c) The following Planning Appeal Decision by the Planning Inspectorate was noted:
- i) 7/2022/5797. Satter Knotts, Far Sawrey, Ambleside LA22 0LW. Construction of boat house to provide wet dock, storage and ancillary accommodation, all in connection with using lake for recreation and water-based transport following withdrawal of 7/2022/5138. Grante dwith conditions relating to plans, construction method statement, wildlife, flood risk, drainage and energy efficiency.

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### Financial Matters

- a) Bank Balance  
Noted that the bank balance at 31 March 2024 was £17,737.02
- b) Quarterly Financial Report  
**Resolved** To approve the Financial Report.
- c) Payment of Accounts  
**Resolved** To authorise payment of the following accounts:
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|--|---------|
| Clerk's Salary (1/1/2024-31/3/2024)                                    | £697.58 |
| Clerk's Travel (23/1/2024 & 5/3/2024) @ NJC rates                      | £29.25  |
| Information Commissioner Office (Data Protection Registration 2024/25) | £40.00  |
| Alistair Irvine (Lake Bank Path repairs)                               | £330.00 |

d) Grant Application

An application was considered from the South Cumbria Rivers Trust for Wilfin Beck Water Sampling Analysis.

**Resolved** To award a grant of £600.

037/2024 **Highways**

a) Highways items to be reported

None.

b) Highways items reported

Cumbria Highways Reported Faults			
Date	Reference	Details	Response
01/11/2021	EI/23846	Road junction markings faded / washed out . Junction of Stones Lane, Near Sawrey with B5285	Assigned to Highways Team
01/11/2021	EI/23831	White lines at road junctions on B5285 in Near and Far Sawrey are faded / washed away and need replacing.	Assigned to Highways Team
07/07/2022	EI/70844	White lines faded at junction with B5285, half way up the ferry hill road.	Assigned to Highways Team
30/01/2023	EI/119690	Blocked grid near High Wray Farm	Assigned to Highways Team
09/03/2023	EI/131782	Drain blocked with debris.B5285 at Far Sawrey	Assigned to Highways Team
27/04/2023	EI/147748	Edge of road and potholes B5285 between Near and Far Sawrey	Temporary Repair
03/05/2023	EI/148768	Grit bin requested for Near Sawrey	Refused
10/06/2023	EI/156272	A pipe has been installed by a resident which discharges directly onto the B5285 Road.	Householder contacted
12/07/2023	EI/161952	Spoil from Brant Howe dumped on B5285 ferry hill	Assigned to Highways Team
31/07/2023	EI/164653	Deep culvert on B5285 by water trough on right hand side of road if traveling from Near Sawrey .	Closed but further works required
19/08/2023	EI/166424	Fence alongside the road has collapsed due to the posts being rotten adjacent to Chapel Cottage, LA220LQ.	Assigned to Highways Team
20/11/2023	EI/176550	A large slab of rock has fallen from rock face on B5285 near Ash Landing.	Assigned to Highways Team
04/12/2023	EI/178712	Grit heap requested for road from Near Sawrey down to bottom of Esthwaite.	Refused
17/01/2024	EI/185625	Grit bin requested for Stones Lane, Near Sawrey	Refused
31/01/2024	EI/188656	Edge of road is being eroded due to flow of water coming down bridleway behind Cuckoo Brow Inn	Assigned to Highways Team
31/01/2024	EI/188672	3 interconnecting drains blocked with grit and leaves at Near Sawrey.	Assigned to Highways Team
31/01/2024	EI/188695	Drains blocked near Far Sawrey Post Box	Assigned to Highways Team
05/02/2024	EI/189694	Side of road disintegrating and extended pothole developing near West Vale.	Completed
05/02/2024	EI/189699	Road surface breaking up. Water leaking from under road surface betweenWest Vale/Cuckoo Brow Lane.	Completed
07/02/2024	E/190183	nNear Sawrey - Edge of road washed out. 2 and half metre stretch.	Completed
19/02/2024	EI/192508	Stone Wall between B5235 and Lake Windermere collapsed in several places.	Assigned to Highways Team
20/02/2024	EI/193143	Directional road sign to Hawkshead pointing the wrong way and obscuring the Windermere via Ferry sign.	Assigned to Highways Team

038/2024 **Correspondence (for information only)**

The circulated correspondence was noted.

039/2024 **Date of Next Meeting**

Noted that the next meetings will take place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at High Wray Village Hall: 7pm Annual Parish Meeting, 7.30 pm Annual General Meeting, followed by the regular Parish Council meeting.

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Signed & Approved by (Chair)

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Date