

**18 May 2016**

**CROSBY RAVENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL – WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY**

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**Notes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting of Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council held on the 18th May 2016 in Maulds Meaburn Village Institute at 7:30pm**

**All Councillors and 12 members of the community were present.**

**The meeting received a Chairman's report and a presentation from Cllr Mike Archer on Flooding.**

**Iwan Lawton of the Environment Agency and Anthony Metcalfe of Eden District Council were present to answer questions.**

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**David Hewitt, Chairman's Report 18 May 2016**

**David Hewitt, Chairman's report. Annual Parish Meeting. 18 May 2016**

During the year starting in April 2015 Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council held a total of thirteen meetings of which six were scheduled in advance. The council turned over about £15,000 and continues to hold assets of £330,000. The year-end figures will be published after our meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May if everything is in order!

**About the Council**

Current Councillors were elected unopposed as follows in last year's elections: Joan Raine, Gavin Wilkinson, Myself, John Wood, Alison Robinson.

We later welcomed Mike Archer and Andy Beatham as co-opted members.

Sadly for personal reasons John Wood found it necessary to resign and we wish him and Tim well.

I'd like to thank all of them for the contribution they have made during the year.

The Council elected a new Chairman, Gavin Wilkinson at its Annual Meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2015 (proposed by me) who has subsequently resigned from the Chairmanship and the Council immediately before its meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> January having found himself very much opposed by some councillors over the issue of whether or not we should discuss windfarms.

After a petition of 10 members of the Parish was submitted to the Returning Officer we welcomed two new councillors who were elected unopposed to replace Gavin and John. Ginny Holroyd and David Graham who joined us from the 7<sup>th</sup> March.

In order for the council to be able to fulfil its duties I took on the role of Chairman on a caretaker basis from the 7<sup>th</sup> March. It is my intention to stand down as Chairman at our Annual Meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May to allow a new Chairman to be elected.

There was another change in the council as after 35 years of service on the council, Gordon Bowness, did not stand for re-election in 2015. In recognition of his service Gavin planted a tree next to the place where the Old Chestnut stood on Maulds Meaburn Village Green. Fortunately for us on a voluntary basis Gordon continues to look after and advise us on trees.

## **Planning**

The council considered and commented on a total of 21 planning applications and applications for tree works over the year. A figure which is likely to be lowered as the Stoneworks Garth is eventually built out and we enter the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The Parish was granted Neighbourhood planning status and has made financial provision to begin the process of developing a Neighbourhood plan in this coming year.

We were surprised by the suddenness of the decision regarding the extension of the National Park.

Our feedback to the consultation on it is that we didn't want to be in a National Park we wanted to be an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty but if we were designated we wanted the boundary of the park to be the Parish Boundary.

This unfortunately hasn't happened so from the 1<sup>st</sup> August we will be acting as a statutory consultee to two planning authorities. Although they will at first be working to the same plan. Over time the changes will become apparent and how this will work with a Neighbourhood plan in place is not known.

## **Flooding**

In November the council was looking into the issue of flooding led by Mike Archer developing a report and proposals with a plan to hold a special meeting on flooding. It's fair to say that we were overtaken by events on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of December with no fewer than 11 houses being flooded in Maulds Meaburn and 4 in Crosby Ravensworth after unprecedented rainfall.

I'm pleased to say that tonight we can continue that discussion.

The council is looking into clearing material from the watercourses and hopes to commission that work in the Summer.

Councillor Archer will be making a presentation and Iwan Lawton of the Environment Agency is here to listen and to answer questions as is Anthony Metcalfe of Eden District Council.

<end> (copy of presentation available).