

21 May 2018 - Annual Parish Meeting
CROSBY RAVENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL – WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY

www.crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk

Clerk to the Council: Christian Barnes, West House, Tenter Row, Crosby Ravensworth, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 3HY. t. 07584 251 448, e. clerk@crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk.

Notes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting of Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council held on the 21st May 2018 in Crosby Ravensworth Village Hall at 7:00pm

Cllr D Graham (Chairman), Cllr D Hewitt, Cllr J Raine, Cllr V Holroyd, Cllr A Beatham, Cllr A Robinson, C Barnes (Clerk); and 2 members of the community were present.

Apologies Cllr N Hughes (CCC)

The meeting had been reconvened from the previous week on the 14th following the cancellation of that night's meetings owing to a medical emergency occurring during public participation.

This meeting and the following Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and a further Ordinary meeting had been called the following day to complete the council's business to a statutory timetable at minimum notice.

The Chairman's report (Appendix 1) had been spoken to on the 14th May. It was attached to the minutes but as everyone present had heard it on the 14th it was not read out again. The meeting opened with a statement from the Chairman regarding last week's events. It was agreed that the council would send flowers and a card to the couple concerned with its best wishes for a positive recovery. It was agreed by all councillors present that the activity of Crosby Ravensworth's First Responders had been superb. It had been noted that the North West Ambulance service had withdrawn their pager service and that emergency callouts were now by mobile phone. In relation to the emergency a single first responder had been in signal and was able to respond. First Responders had been discussing the purchase of alternative mobile phones that was able send and receive calls in the area. The Chairman proposed and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would provide £300 towards the cost of improved communications for the team and that further grant requests would be considered.

Public Participation

A representative of the Crosby Ravensworth play group spoke to a report given as Appendix 1.

It had been decided to wind up the play group.

It was proposed that the play group hand over their remaining funds to the Parish Council to hold as 'earmarked' for play group use in the parish until there were sufficient children in the village to merit restarting the group.

Crosby Ravensworth Village Hall was to be asked whether it could continue to hold the toys stored at the Village Hall or whether it would like to see them sold.

A waste bin was requested for the Brackenslack area at the road side of the bridge. It was noted that this area was currently congested with construction traffic.

There had been a report of fly tipping including a fridge which would be reported to EDC.

It was agreed to raise the issue of the number of beer bottles recovered from the Shap to Crosby Ravensworth road verges during the litter pick with police.

Meeting ends <19:20>

Appendix 1

Chairman's Report. Cllr D. Graham.

14 May 2018

The Parish Council held 12 meetings over the 2017/18 year all of which were scheduled in advance and mostly held on the first Monday of the month. In all 36 members of the public have attended during the year.

The Council has over the year arranged a number of presentations / speakers
Including

1) Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Chair; Carl Lis – this provided a real opportunity for the Parish to develop a relationship with the Park Authority at the highest level. Carl discussed some of the issues affecting the Park area and suggested ways for our Parish to better integrate and access funding.

2) David Evans of Friends of the Lake District gave a presentation on the Westmorland Dales 'Hidden Landscapes' Heritage Project. This 4-year project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and "aims to unlock and reveal the hidden heritage of the Westmorland Dales, enabling more people to connect with, and enjoy and benefit from this inspirational landscape". The Council had responded with various proposals for inclusion in the project.

3) Sonia Hutchinson from Cumbria Association of Local Councils – CALC is supporting Parishes in the Eden District with the devolution of services from Eden District Council. In our Parish Council case; footway lighting and the play park.

Planning

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications in the Parish. Twelve planning applications have been considered over the year, down from 18 and 21 over the preceding two years. Of the 12 applications; 7 were from Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and 5 from Eden District Council. The Council has supported 7 of the applications, objected to a further 3 and supported 2 applications which were amended resubmissions.

Generally, the PC's focus on new housing has been to promote local occupancy / affordable housing and this has also been heavily promoted with the Park Authority as a key priority in their Park Management Plan which is currently being refreshed.

Finances

The Council had £16,693 of income against a budget of £14,882. Expenditure in the year was £14,722 down £1,202 on budget. Overall, we have made some savings with the budget underspent by £1,971 at year end. There are some works outstanding

which could not be completed during the year and these will be carried forward into the 2018 - 2019 year.

Following banking issues, the Council had moved its banking facilities from Natwest to Barclays.

The Parish Council Precept for 2018/19 had been set at £21.98 per chargeable household as compared to the previous year at £20.92. This equates to an increase of £1.06 or 5% and provides the Parish Council with £9,300 of income.

The Council

As a taster some of the key issues discussed and actioned over the last 12 months include

Crosby Ravensworth Primary School – The headmaster Duncan Priestley, had attended a meeting to update councillors on the schools successes and flag up concerns over the declining roll at the school. The viability of the school, if the roll continued to decline, was a major concern to all as were the shortfalls in income associated with the declining roll. All Councillors agreed their support for the school and as an example have been working to influence priorities through the YDNPA management plan consultation.

Footpaths – Considerable work had been undertaken by Councillor Holroyd working with YDNPA to prioritise footpaths and bridleways in the Parish in need of improvement.

Work has also been undertaken on developing interpretative signage / maps to be erected at the bus shelters in both Crosby Ravensworth and Maulds Meaburn. A grant application was made to the YNNPA Sustainable Development Fund and £5,950 was awarded to the project. The grant also covers the preparation and printing of a footpath leaflet which includes 6 local walks. The Council would like to thank the group involved Jill Winder, Gail Gravett, Mark Fallon, Annie Kindleysides, Betsy Bell, Steve Holroyd, Gordon Bowness and Councillor Holroyd along with all the volunteers who tested the walks. The work is progressing well.

YDNPA Management Plan – The Council had responded to the YDNPA's consultation exercise on the next 5 year Management Plan, 2018-2023, flagging up our key objectives of affordable housing to support the local school, businesses and community sustainability, starter business units, improved accessibility; footpath and road signage, along with facilities for visitors and locals with mobility issues.

Emergency Planning – With the County and District Council cutting back on service provision and the emergency services coming under increasing pressure during severe weather events the Council felt it important to make our community more selfreliant and prepared. The Council had therefore commenced work on a Parish

Emergency Plan and had been successful in obtaining a small grant from ACT to support the work. Apart from the Plan the key focus over the next 9 months will be to provide information and guidance through The Lyvennet Link aimed at ensuring our community is more self-reliant.

Emergency phone – The Council had worked with Maulds Meaburn Village Institute to install an external emergency phone available for the public.

Maud Syke and Stepping Stones – Works to clear Maud Syke and re-instate stepping stones across the Lyvennet in Maulds Meaburn following Storm Desmond were planned and the necessary Environment Agency Permit obtained. The works could not however be completed during 2017 as a crayfish rescue plan and further permit were needed and the Council could not get this organised before the end of the working window. This work is planned for 2018.

Administration - The administration of the Council was improved and updated with key policies developed including Equal Opportunities, Health + Safety, Freedom of Information and Data protection. The Council had also registered with the Information Commissioners Office.

Population of the website has continued and improved security introduced following a hacking incident.

Work had commenced on ensuring the Council is fully compliant with the new General Data Protection Regulations which will shortly come into force.

Devolution of Services – With Eden District Council working to devolve footway lighting and the playground to our Council substantial time had been spent over the year considering the costs and liabilities as well as attempting to reach agreement with EDC on transfer conditions. Of the 10 footway lights the Council has resolved, with community input, to retain 4. Cumbria Association of Local Councils are supporting Parishes in the process. I can report that after a further year of dialogue we are no nearer reaching a conclusion that is acceptable to the Council. We have referred the devolution of services to Eden Member Services and requested a full Scrutiny review of the process.

Annual Parish Litter Pick – Keith Golding once again arranged this worthwhile project with 30 parishioners, young and old, attending and over 50 bags of rubbish removed from our local roads. The Council funded the bacon butty and coffee/tea at the Butchers Arms and EDC provided the equipment.

Flass - Ongoing vandalism, trespass and theft at Flass – PC Theole from Cumbria Constabulary attended and reported that a number of arrests and successful prosecutions had been made. The Officer had been able to confirm ongoing involvement and support for the owner.

Parish benches – The Parish now has an ongoing maintenance plan for these assets thanks to Mark Fallon and Andrew Woodward who have taken over the repair and general upkeep on behalf of the Parish. Their work and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Finally, I am standing down as Chairman and would like to thank Councillors and Clerk for their support over the year.

Appendix 2
Report from Lyvennet Nursery Committee

(Precis)

In June 2017 there was an extraordinary meeting held in school for Lyvennet nursery. Most of the committee resigned, Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary. We put our heads together and formed a skeleton committee to keep the Lyvennet nursery running. But since then the numbers of children have dwindled. This meant we have had to raise more money. We raised over £4,000 in the last 12 months to fund the nursery. It became such a struggle with the costs of a redundancy looming. We sought advice from the PSLA (Preschool learning alliance) who said, 'without the influx of children we are only delaying the inevitable and we should not get into monetary arrears', as this would make the committee liable. It was decided to hold an extraordinary meeting on the 22 February 2018, where a unanimous decision to close the nursery was taken. Due to us being a charity with PSLA, it was a legal requirement to only give our assets to another charitable nursery or sell them. We asked the school if they would like to buy them for a reasonable amount (They said they had no funds to do this) or could they meet 3 criteria requested by PSLA. The school never got back to us. We had no alternative but to disperse the assets accordingly. We would have loved the school to benefit from the assets'
