

Ennerdale & Kinniside Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting

Held on 28th May 2024 at 6.30pm in The Gather, Ennerdale Bridge

Chair: Cllr J Thursz

Clerk: J Coltman

The meeting was attended by 26 people, plus the chair and clerk.

Meeting commenced at 18:30

Minute Number	Item	Action
11/PM/24	<p>To Approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 18th April 2023</p> <p>Resolved to approve the minutes.</p>	
12/PM/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Parish Council Chairman's Report</p> <p>The full report is available on the Council's website. Key points were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Chair welcomed those in attendance and thanked the guest speakers for attending. 2. He asked members of the Parish Council to make themselves known and thanked those that had stood for election in May 2023, but had been unsuccessful. He also thanked those that had served on the Council up until the election, but had not retained their seat. 3. He introduced the Clerk who explained the rules and procedures for the meeting, when and how people could participate. This was considered necessary due to the events at recent Council meetings. 4. The precept had been reduced by 5.4%. Unfortunately not all grant requests could be met. The Council's first ever VAT reclaim had been submitted which would raise nearly £2300, an additional 18% of the budget. 5. Grants had been given to Lamplugh Sports Committee and the Church. 6. Hedges had been cut. 7. A new speed indicator device (SID) was due to be delivered shortly. 8. A defibrillator had been installed in Croasdale and he gave thanks to Mrs Greggain for hosting the device, the Vickers family for their donation towards it, and Cllr Nancy Rowson for overseeing the project. 9. Thanks were also given to the Shepherd's Arms for hosting the Council's other defibrillator, and to the vicar for his help in checking them both. People should be aware that there are also defibrillators at The Gather and Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre. 10. He reminded people that the Council meetings were held bi-monthly, on the third Tuesday in The Gather. Extraordinary Meetings had been avoided this year, thus saving money, however it had been necessary to pay for extra staff time dealing with FOIA requests and complaints. There had been 	

	<p>about a dozen complaints and half a dozen FOIA requests (half of which were all from one household), at a cost of about £600, 5% of the annual budget.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. New policies had been adopted, including an Unacceptable Behaviour Policy, to cope with how a minority challenged the smooth conduct of the Council's business. Review of policies had taken up an excessive amount of Council time. 12. Procedure had been introduced so that the Council can respond to planning consultations between meetings. Residents were welcome to give their views on applications to the Council at their meetings. There is concern that the LDNPA do not always take the Council's objections into account, and he was writing to them to express this. 13. The Community Led Plan had expired and needed to be renewed. He invited members of the public to contact Cllr Steve Parker if they could assist with this. 14. He recognised that there were a lot of community activities that took place that were driven by individuals. As well as the summer and Christmas gatherings that were organised by Diana Stewart, there were litter pickers, gardeners, hedge trimmers, bramble hackers, carol singers and bird feeders who turned out to help clear and improve the parish. An anonymous person had also recently sponsored the re-planting of the village planters. 15. The Council had challenged Forestry England on the parking charges at Bowness Knott. 16. United Utilities had carried out some repairs on the road to Bleach Green, but the Council hoped that the road would be adopted by Cumberland Council. 17. The Council sought to continue to rekindle and foster relationships with neighbours including the National Park and Wild Ennerdale. He hoped that people had been able to attend the United Utilities talk on the future of the weir. 18. The benches had been installed on the Jubilee way and the National Park were going to fund another bench. 	
13/PM/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Fibrus Network Ltd</p> <p>Paul Cretney spoke about the progress for the Hyperfast GB connectivity. There were 192 premises in the area and they were going to be able to supply to at least 153 of those. This would be fibre optic into the home. They were currently in the design and survey stage. Viberoptix were part of the same company and they would be doing the digging of roads etc. They had a deadline of the end of 2026 for completion, but this area would probably be completed later in 2025. People can check the status of their premises at https://hyperfastgb.com/</p> <p>Mr Cretney invited questions from the public.</p>	

	<p>Questions arising:</p> <p>Q. What negotiation would take place regarding wayleave agreements?</p> <p>A. They would discuss which route they could take. Payments would be at the agreed rate. Ultimately if permission wasn't granted, they may not be able to supply to the premises.</p> <p>Q. Would connection be phased or all switched at once?</p> <p>A. Most likely a phased connection.</p> <p>Q. Which areas would not be connecting?</p> <p>A. He doesn't know all of them of the top of his head, but they could check on the website.</p> <p>Q. Is there an alternative to checking on the website?</p> <p>A. He would be happy to share information with the Council or possibly put something in the newsletter.</p> <p>Q. Might they run out of time before everywhere was connected and the contract ended?</p> <p>A. The contract was to connect the properties. All those agreed must be connected or they would receive financial penalties.</p>	
14/PM/24	<p style="text-align: center;">Coast to Coast Upgrade</p> <p>Jo Wilmott, Sharon Hodgson and Adam Phillips were in attendance from the Lake District National Park.</p> <p>Jo Wilmott said that they were holding a drop-in session in the community room for the next two days where people could ask any questions.</p> <p>This was part of a £5.6m project. There would be an opening ceremony in early 2026.</p> <p>Some of the work included recording sections which had not been previously.</p> <p>The path would be split around the lake, offering a choice of routes.</p> <p>Accessibility was being improved, non-stepped and wider bridges included where possible.</p> <p>The path at Blacksail Hut was now correctly identified.</p> <p>Repairs were carried out to a number of paths and bridges.</p> <p>Fix the Fells were carrying out work in a few areas, including replacing stepping stones and building steps into a steep descent.</p> <p>New signs were being installed which would be to a template so that they would be uniform throughout the country.</p> <p>Accessibility consultants had looked at the Jubilee Trail and as a result of their input there was an area of hard-standing at the side of the benches, so that those in wheelchairs could sit next to their friends sitting on the benches.</p> <p>Sharon Hodgson spoke of accessibility. She said that efforts were being concentrated around the lake shore as higher paths were unrealistic. Three main areas were the step bridges, slate cross drains, and the Bowness Knott incline.</p> <p>Q. Was the removal of the weir by UU going ahead?</p> <p>A. They didn't know, that would be a UU decision.</p> <p>Q. Could landowners be asked to provide land so that the path could be moved back from the lake shore?</p>	

	<p>A. There was a limited timescale and budget so this would be unlikely. They would take the suggestion back.</p> <p>Sharon continued. There would be protection to the tree routes in the area where the path regularly washed out and there would be a sealed surface.</p> <p>There would be kickboards at the sides of the bridges to help the visually impaired negotiate them.</p> <p>They would also be looking at troubleshooting some problematic culverts and remedy some land drain issues.</p> <p>The path had been repaired in 2008, 2013 and 2017, and was just as bad, which is why they were looking to move to a sealed surface in this area.</p> <p>The invitation to tenders was out and would be a 2-3 month contract commencing July.</p> <p>Q. July was the peak walking season. What mitigation was in place?</p> <p>A. Mitigation measures had been asked for as part of the tender process.</p> <p>Q. Would Fibrus be digging up the path to install cables?</p> <p>A. They have not been in direct contact with them.</p> <p>Q. What would the incline be on the Bowness Knott path?</p> <p>A. They were aiming for one in ten. There would be passing/resting places along the path.</p> <p>Q. Could an advisory note be sent to landowners where there was flooding caused by their land?</p> <p>A. They could consider that but can't promise.</p> <p>Information on the work can be found here: https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/caringfor/projects/upgrade-of-wainwrights-coast-to-coast-to-national-trail</p>	
15/PM/24	No other speakers attended.	
16/PM/24	Public Forum No questions from members of the public.	

Meeting closed at 20:02

Chairman's signature.....

Date.....