

STAINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 20 May 2019 in Crosscrake School, Crosscrake at 7:30pm

(Held in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972)

Present: Councillors Julie Knowles (Chair), John Stott, Geoff Wilson and Ian Valentine; County Cllr. Brenda Gray; District Cllr. Brian Cooper (from 7.50pm); the Clerk and 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies were received from District Cllrs. Tom Harvey and Roger Bingham and 2 members of the public.

2. Minutes: It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2018 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. Presentation by Canal & River Trust

Mr. Nick Smith from the Trust gave a very informative presentation with regard to the work taking place on Stainton Aqueduct; the National Lottery Heritage Fund Towpath Trail project; and the proposed community engagement activities including living history events and nature walks. Funding had been secured by the Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership to complete the towpath. A question and answer session followed before the Chair thanked Mr. Smith for his presentation and for taking the time to give the parish this very useful information.

4. Chair's Report

Cllr. Julie Knowles presented her report with regard to the activities of the Parish Council during 2018/19. She thanked everyone who had supported her throughout the year including the Clerk, Malcolm Richardson, the Vice-Chair John Stott and the other councillors. She thanked Sarah Kitching and Mark Holmes for their time and commitment and the Council understood their resignations for family and work reasons. She welcomed Ian Valentine, who had been co-opted during the year, and announced that it would be proposed that Hilary Waterhouse be co-opted at the Parish Council meeting which followed this meeting. The council had £6045.48 in the bank at the end of the year compared to £5518.77 at the beginning; there had been many planning applications – some contentious and still ongoing; there had been progress in having potholes and other highways work completed; and progress had been made with regard to superfast broadband in the village. She thanked all who had helped in the annual litter pick; Tot Mason for his work every year on the Millennium Cross; and Bryan Knowles for all the grass cutting around the village. (A full copy of the report can be obtained from the Clerk).

5. Police Report: The Clerk read the report which had been received from the Kendal Neighbourhood Policing Team, which was that there had been little change in incidents and crimes from previous years with the focus still tending to be on theft of items from outbuildings and barns including quad bikes.

6. District Councillors' Report

District Cllr. Brian Cooper reported on behalf of the three district councillors on matters of interest including that South Lakeland District Council was committed to its Customer Connect programme; to increasing the amount of affordable homes and to improving flood defences.

7. County Councillor's Report

County Cllr. Brenda Gray reported that the County Council has continued to give the best service possible on all fronts with the funds available. The budget for 2019-2020 has been reduced again. With costs rising the County Council is on the way to being between the rock and the hard place. For Highways to be able to do everything that needs to be done in the coming year would require an extra £20m. However, the South Lakeland Local Committee has continued the programme to improve drainage across the district to reduce the flooding on roads but there is still much to do to deal with the prevention of flooding especially of homes and businesses. The South Lakeland share of the extra £12m for highway repairs which had to be used by 31st March 2019 was directed to schemes that were planned to be done in the future and were ready to go. The Local Committee continued its long term infrastructure planning aimed at improving the road and rail networks. Work is ongoing to improve the digitalisation of the County Council which will reduce running costs considerably. The County Council continues to support those activities concerned with public safety and healthy lifestyles and also fosters economic opportunities and apprenticeships.

8. Report from Crosscrake School

The Clerk read the report which had been received from Linda Fletcher, the Headteacher, with regard to the continued growth and development of the school. The curriculum continues to be dynamic and adapted to the needs of the children, who continue to enjoy learning and perform well. The school continued to benefit from the committed team of staff and governors and a fantastic church team who led worship on Tuesdays. The children had enjoyed a wide range of visits and had competed in many tournaments and other competitions with a remarkable number of medals in cross country and gymnastic events. (A full copy of the report can be obtained from the Clerk)

9. Report from Stainton Institute

The chair of the Institute committee gave a report on the progress made in 2018/19. Internal renovation and remedial flood prevention work had been carried out and a package waste treatment system is now planned as a trench arch waste drainage system is no longer permissible for a community building. Fund-raising events had raised £1,725 and grant funding of £34,500 and donations of £500 had been received. The committee would like to thank parishioners for their support and the Chair expressed his appreciation of the work done by the committee past and present.

10. Public Participation

There were no matters raised.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.