

# STANWIX RURAL PARISH

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in St John's Church Hall, Houghton at 7:20 p.m.**

## **1. Present**

The Chairman, Cllr M Fox (Chairman of Stanwix Rural Parish Council), 5 Parish Councillors, 1 City Councillor & Mrs S Kyle, Clerk to the Parish Council.

## **2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Approved and signed by Mr M Fox.

## **3. Chairman's Report**

During the past year, Hamish Phillips, the Vice Chairman resigned for business reasons. During his time with the Council, Hamish was instrumental in re-establishing the Houghton Fair, working on the footpath project and working with Craig Nicholson in the production of the Houghton Echo. He will be missed for the range of his work and his expertise. The Council was fortunate in being able to make a co-opted appointment with Tony Coles joining the Council. Tony has had experience with another parish council and had moved to the area. He has settled in very well.

A year ago, I reported that Julie Telford had resigned from the Council. Very sadly within months of the report, she had passed away from illness.

## **Precept**

For the past year, the level of funding raised through the Council Tax was held at previous year's level of £40,540. For the coming year, the level will again not increase.

## **Activities of the Council**

The Houghton Summer Fair was held again and was positive considering the poor weather on the morning of the day. With support from members of the local community and the Parish Council the Fair was a success with a good community response. This year's Fair is being coordinated by Sarah Kyle, the Clerk to the Council and already she has plans well laid. We hope for better weather. The Fair is funded through sponsorship, grants and the Council's income.

The Summer Play Schemes in Houghton and Crosby ran again with funding from the Council. Attendances were down slightly on previous years. There is still support from the community and another programme will run this year.

The Council's grant scheme attracted a range of applications, slightly lower than in the previous year and it was possible to support all eligible applications. These included the 1st Houghton Rainbows and Guides, Crosby Parish Hall, Linstock WI Hall and Carlisle Centurions FC to name only a few. We also funded investigation into the motorway noise problem being experienced in Linstock, Brunstock and Houghton; the report is awaited.

## **Work within the Council**

Over the year there were 11 meetings of the Parish Council and additional meetings of its working groups.

The Council has continued to support the Crosby Flood Group in its response to the Flood Reports and the Groups response to better provision for the community. Progress with the leading agencies has been slow and a consultation on options is due in the early summer. A survey of the number of properties flooded is being undertaken and there is an agreement with the Parochial Church Council that the Church can be used as a reception centre in the event of a flood. A revised emergency plan will be produced.

During the year a new Community Plan was produced and circulated. The plan will run from 2017 to 2021. The plan was produced following responses to a community questionnaire and 4 public meetings held at venues in the Parish. To achieve progress the Council wishes to work with a range of Agencies and Council. It also wishes to work with local communities to deliver projects for your area. This is particularly important at a time of pressure on finance. If you wish to offer your skills and expertise, please let us know.

## **Planning applications**

Two major projects have engaged the Council in the last 12 months. The outline application in Brunstock was revised, reduced in size to 9 units and reconsidered. There remained objections from the residents and the Parish Council. Very recently, the scheme was approved by the Local Planning Authority.

There was another outline application for a significant development on the Hadrian's Camp site for over 200 houses. The Parish Council held a meeting in Houghton for local residents to give the Council the opportunity to hear their views. The meeting was helpful and informative in enabling the Parish Council to put forward a substantial objection. The application was withdrawn before the Local Planning Authority considered it. This will be one to watch over the coming months.

Finally thanks to fellow councillors for their effort and support over the last year. The Council's thanks are due to District Councillors, Marilyn Bowman and James Bainbridge and County Councillor John Mallinson for their advice, support and funding to the Council.

Finally and not least thanks to Sarah Kyle, the Clerk to the Parish Council for her support and advice on the Council's business..

Following the report Cllr Nicholson noted that the precept was last increased on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

It was also noted that the planning application for Brunstock as mentioned had been approved at Committee, however notification of the decision had yet to be sent to the Council.

#### **5. Trustees of Crosby Parish Hall**

Mr M Fox appointed as Parish Council representative.

#### **6. Open Forum**

No matters for discussion were raised and the Chairman closed the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Signed  
Chairman

Date