

STANWIX RURAL PARISH

**ANNUAL PARISH
MEETING**

Wednesday 14th April 2021

[Virtual Meeting via Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 856 7914 3408 Passcode: 607031

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| Dial by your location: | +44 203 481 5240 |
| +44 203 901 7895 | +44 131 460 1196 |
| +44 203 051 2874 | +44 203 481 5237 |

7.15pm

Chair: C Nicholson, Chairman Stanwix Rural Parish Council

Agenda

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. To receive and agree the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th April 2019 - [attached](#)**
- 3. Chairman's report for 2020/21 - [attached](#)**
- 4. Discussion of any matters raised by electors of the Parish**

The meeting is open to all electors of the Parish

STANWIX RURAL PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th April 2019 in the Parish Hall, Crosby-on-Eden at 7:30 p.m.

1. Present

The Chairman, Mr C Nicholson (Chairman of Stanwix Rural Parish Council), 5 Parish Councillors, 4 Carlisle City Councillors, 2 Members of the Public & Mrs S Kyle, Clerk to the Parish Council.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th April 2018

Approved and signed by Mr C Nicholson

3. Chairman's Report 2018/19

During the year there have been 11 meetings and several meetings of working groups. The Council has commented or made recommendations on over 40 planning applications, some being major, and has engaged in various local and national consultations with outside agencies.

Precept

Due to the loss of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant, reductions in other funding streams and rising costs; the Council has been forced to increase precept in order to sustain and increase the Council's work. This is only the second increase since 2010, both arising within the last two years.

Houghton Summer Fair was again a successful event, held June in conjunction with Houghton C o E Primary School to celebrate the school's 60th anniversary on that site; Parish Clerk, Sarah Kyle co-ordinated the Council's efforts, with welcome support from local community groups. This year's Fair is again being coordinated by Sarah, as a member of a new Houghton Fair Committee. Plans are well advanced and of course we hope, as we always must in this area, for good weather.

The Summer Play Schemes in Houghton and Crosby were again well attended, and it is anticipated that this year's programme will also be well used. Without on-going funding from the Parish Council it is unlikely that the Play Days would be continued.

Parish Council's Community Grant Scheme attracts applications from a range of community groups and organisations and fortunately the council is usually able to meet, to a large degree, the majority of requests for financial assistance.

Crosby Flood Group the Council continues to support this group in its discussions with the Environment Agency and others, as it seeks to secure better defensive measures and resilience support for the communities of Crosby and Rickerby. Progress in these matters has always been frustratingly slow and it is hoped that a start date may now be calculated in months rather than years.

Brunstock Common Land has seen improvement work to the pond area taking place. This is an on-going process, the Council and residents working together to provide an interesting and attractive community space. Works will continue as weather and seasons allow.

City Ward Boundary Changes

Following a review by The Boundary Commission, which reduced the number of City Council wards and councillors, the Electoral Ward of Stanwix Rural is now consigned to history and is supplanted by Stanwix and Houghton Ward. This new ward, of which Stanwix Rural Parish Council area remains a part, now includes a large part of urban Stanwix and extends from Crosby on Eden and Wall Head, to the north bank of the River Eden between Austin Friars and Eden Bridge. The new ward is designated as an urban ward rather than a rural ward. These changes have led to our former long serving ward members moving to other wards and new ones will be elected.

As a result of the boundary changes mentioned above this is our final opportunity to thank Marilyn Bowman and James Bainbridge as our ward members, for their time, effort and support over the years. Although they and the Parish Council may not always have quite seen eye to eye, disagreements have been rare and, when they have occurred, have always been courteous and short lived. Warm and sincere thanks then to Marilyn and James, whose new electors will be fortunate indeed to have members of their knowledge and experience to serve them on the City Council.

Luckily for us, however, the County Council remained intact and thus we retain John Mallinson as our County Member. Thanks also to him for his continuing help, support and advice.

Retiring Members

Due to their moving out of the parish area Cllr. Mike Fox, who became a member of the Council in 2008, and Cllr Robert Gordon who became a member of the Council in 2011 have not sought re-election in May. Throughout their respective periods of service, both have made significant contributions to the Council and to the community. Robert Gordon's always clear and incisive advice, especially in respect of financial matters, has been of invaluable benefit to the Council; while Mike Fox has served as both Chairman and Vice-Chairman. In these roles he has always brought to the table a well-considered objectivity, particularly with regard to the potentially contentious or otherwise sensitive issues, that occasionally arise; his untiring work with the Crosby Flood Group has been much appreciated the community. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to both to work alongside them and to know them as friends. On behalf of the Council and the community; and with the deepest sincerity, I take this opportunity thank them both and wish them well.

Without a Parish Clerk the Council would, in an instant, cease to function, without a good one it would be even faster! So finally, and never by any stretch of the imagination least; profound gratitude to Sarah Kyle, for her always accurately informed support, advice and expertise. How she manages to remain so unendingly good natured, cheerful and patient with the rest of us I will never fathom. Sarah, on behalf of the entire parish – a huge thank you!

Craig Nicholson
Chairman SRPC

4. Open Forum

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

Signed
Chairman

14.04.2021

Chairman's Report April 2021

The impact of the Covid pandemic has meant that the Parish Council, like countless other organisations, has had to adapt to holding meetings online. Since May these have been held (not entirely without occasional technical problems) via Zoom. At the time of writing live 'face to face' meetings must resume from May 7 2021.

For the latest information on Parish Council meetings and updates on other council matters please visit the Parish Council's website at: www.stanwixrural.co.uk or Email the Parish Clerk at stanwixruralpc@gmail.com Tel: 01228 231 124

Activity

In common with other organisations much activity has been severely curtailed during the pandemic; Houghton Fair and the Summer Play Days being cancelled last year due to national restrictions. It is hoped that the Play Days, at least, will go ahead this year; funded as usual by the Parish Council. We will keep you informed via your local school.

Notwithstanding the impact of Covid planning applications continue to be received by the Parish Council in its role as a Statutory Consultee, although the overall number was significantly reduced last year, with only 40 applications being considered. This year, however, looks as though it will be much busier with around 12 applications already received, including proposals ranging from modest house extensions, to a holiday development at Eden Golf Club.

Precept

Being acutely aware of the enormous stress and uncertainty Covid has inflicted on many families and individuals, the Parish Council has taken the decision not to increase the Parish Precept for 2021/22. The precept will therefore remain at its 2019 level of £46,500 until at least 2023. This financial stability is enabled only through the Parish Council's continuing exercise of prudent budgetary control and monitoring procedures.

In conclusion it remains for me to thank members of the Parish Council for their continuing work in support of our communities. Thanks too to our City Ward Councillors, Elizabeth Mallinson, Fiona Robson and Paul Nedved and County Cllr John Mallinson for their highly valued and valuable help and support, including financial support, on a wide variety of matters.

Huge thanks are, of course, due to Sarah Kyle, our Parish Clerk and Proper Officer. Her always calm and good humoured demeanour, I know, hides a considerable amount of un-seen toil – like the proverbial swan, seen gliding serenely up stream while its legs work like pistons beneath the surface! A good Clerk, I've always stressed, is a Parish Council's greatest asset and Sarah is exceptional. As Chairman my warmest, most grateful, sincere and unstinted personal thanks to Sarah, for keeping me on track, up to speed and for putting up with me, in general!

Stay safe – stay well.

Craig Nicholson