

KIRKBY THORE PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the proceedings of the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of Kirkby Thore Parish Council (KTPC) held on **Monday 13th of May 2019** at 19:00hrs in Kirkby Thore Memorial Hall.

Present

Chairman: Chris Meldrum (CM)

Councillors: Lorna Baker (LB), Malcolm Ridley (MR)

Clerk/RFO: Lindsay Nicholson

Also in attendance: District Councillor Henry Sawrey-Cookson.

Members of the Public: 6

2019/062 Election of Chairman

CM was proposed as Chairman by LB and this was seconded by MR. CM then signed the Acceptance of Office declaration.

Resolved: CM to act as Chairman

2019/063 Election of Vice Chairman

LB was proposed as Vice Chairman by CM and this was seconded by MR.

Resolved: LB to act as Vice Chairman

2019/064 Apologies

County Councillor David Whipp

2019/065 Requests for Dispensation

No requests for dispensation had been received since the previous meeting.

2019/066 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received in respect of items on the agenda.

2019/067 Minutes of the Last AGM Meeting

The minutes were confirmed as a correct record.

RESOLVED: to accept the minutes and recommendations contained therein.

2019/068 Matters Arising from the previous minutes

2019/068.1 Areas of Special Interest / Representatives to Outside Bodies

The clerk reported that advise had been sought from CALC and actioned on the parish council website accordingly.

Resolved: to receive the information

2019/069 Chairman's Report

CM presented the Chairman's report as per appendix 1 on page 3.

Resolved: to accept the Chairman's Report

2019/070 Areas of Special Interest / Representatives to Outside Bodies

It was agreed that special areas would not be assigned. Councillors to continue to support each other to ensure as many special areas and outside bodies are covered.

Resolved: to receive the information

2019/071 Approval of Council Policies

Councillors agreed to approve the council policies. Clerk to continue to bring recommended amendments to the council as they occur throughout the ensuring year.

Resolved: to approve the council policies for the ensuring year.

2019/072 Approval of HSBC as bankers

It was agreed that HSBC would continue as bankers for the ensuring year.

Resolved: to accept HSBC as Bankers

2019/073 Appointment of Internal Auditor

It was agreed that Dodd & Co would be asked to continue as Internal Auditor for the ensuring year.

Resolved: to receive the information

2019/074 Concerns raised either by Councillors' or members of the Parish

None

2019/075 Date of the next Annual General Meeting: Monday 11th of May 2020 at 19.00hrs in the Memorial Hall.

CM closed the meeting at 19:27hrs.

Please note: all Parish Council meetings are open to members of the public.

Appendix 1

2018-19 has been both interesting and challenging for the Parish Council however, this year we have had the benefit of having two additional councilors (Lorna Baker & Malcolm Ridley). Whilst this has enable us to share the workload across five councilors compared to only three in 2017/18; we could further benefit from more people joining the Parish Council (broaden opinion & increase resilience). So, whilst the council has expanded; sadly, I have to report that Frank Birkett decided not to stand for election for 2019/20. So, we shall have only four councilors for the coming year.

There have been many issues covered during the year and for the purpose of this report I have highlighted some of the key items of interest to the village:-

- **New Councillors:** - we are pleased to have had two new councilors join at the start of the year (Lorna Baker & Malcolm Ridley) which has allowed us to participate in a more focused manner, in support of the Parish. However, we still have further vacancies and would welcome participation from others, interested in supporting their Parish.
- **Devolution and Transfer of Assets:-** under the policy initiative run by Eden District the Parish Council has Council has taken ownership of footway lighting in the village (24 lights). As part of the transfer we shall receive annual funding (decreasing fund) from Eden District Council for four years; up to and including 2021/22. This year we were awarded 100% of the funding and this will reduce over 3 years to; 75%, 50% & 25% for the final year. In addition, a condition of the transfer included the upgrade of the twenty-four lights to LED which will be carried out during 2019/20. Whilst this is not an ideal situation the alternative of not accepting the assets would have resulted in the lights not being upgraded and ultimately being decommissioned as and when each light failed. Effectively our decision to take ownership enables us to extend the life-cycle of the lights however, we will need to find additional monies to maintain and operate the lights.
- **A66 Repairs:** - during the summer months urgent repair works were undertaken to the A66 carriageway at Kirkby Thore. The works were carried out over weekend periods and additional improvements made at specific sections between Penrith & Appleby during the closures. Whilst the works were disruptive and impacted both residents and local businesses; considering the challenges, Highways England delivered the project within the stated timelines. We trust that this will alleviate the need for further major repairs to the carriage way at Kirkby Thore for many years to come.
- **563 Bus Service:** - Whilst the service timetables are far from ideal, it is pleasing to report that Stagecoach have extended the operation of the 'off peak 563 bus service' that offers some opportunity for residents to travel along the A66 between Penrith and Appleby. However, the continued operation of the service is subject to the financial viability of the service.
- **Change of Headmaster:** - after nearly 22-years tenure at the village school, Christine Wilson retired at the end of December 2018; and I would like to that her for all the hard work, and dedication that she has made over the years. She has made significant contribution to the success and standing of the school; and will prove a tough act to follow. However, the new head Mr Neal Banner who started in the January term has settled in well and I am confident that he will ensure that our school will continue to go from strength to strength.
- **Signature Fund:** - I am pleased to report that the funding application that was prepared by the Memorial Hall Committee has successfully secured funding for the provision of new

playground equipment for the recreational field. Due to an over subscription in the applications Eden District decided to award applicants 75% of the requested funding. However, these monies along with match funding from other sources including; Frieda Scott Foundation, Parish Council and British Gypsum will enable the Memorial Hall Committee to make a positive impact to the recreational field. Whilst a number of people assisted with the application, I wanted to note special that's to Jessica McGenn who worked tirelessly on this funding application.

- **A66 Northern Trans-Penine Project:** - I am pleased to report that funding for Stage 2 of this project has been approved and Highways England have been preparing for the non-statutory public consultations that will run between 16th of May and 11th of July. Information will be made available on-line, drop-in events and deposit points including the village Post Office. Based on our understanding; six sections of single carriageway will be upgraded to dual including the section between Kirkby Thore and Appleby. However, at the time of writing the proposed routes for the village have not been confirmed. We would urge residents to share your views via the non-public consultation process and we shall provide updates via the monthly PC meetings as and when information is made available.

I would like to take this opportunity to again ask residents of the village to consider giving up some of their time to help ensure that the community continues to be effectively represented and is able to undertake the responsibilities of a modern Parish Council. We have several vacancies on the Parish Council and would welcome anyone who feels they have something to contribute to the community. The small group of residents who continue to offer their time to helping the community is slowly reducing in size and places greater responsibilities on the few that remain. Please consider offering some of your time to help the community.

Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to all Parish Councillors and our Clerk, Lindsay Nicholson, for their hard work and commitment this year. I would also like to extend my thanks for the continued support provided by Henry Sawrey-Cookson, Eden District Councillor and David Whipp, Cumbria County Councillor.

Finally, I would like to thank Frank Birkett for his hard work, dedication and commitment that he has given during his tenure as a Parish Councillor; I am sure he will be missed and trust that in the future he may decide to stand for election when circumstances permit.

Chris Meldrum – Kirkby Thore Parish Council