**Lindale and Newton in Cartmel Parish Council**

**Annual Report**

**2021/22**

**The Parish Council – An Overview**

## The Parish Council is a statutory local authority set up under the Local Government Act 1972. It operates in the area of a defined civil parish or group of parishes. In Cumbria there are three types of local authority - the County Council, the District or Borough Councils and the Town or Parish Councils.

Parishes are the smallest areas of civil administration in England. Parish Councils provide the statutory tier of local government closest to the people. (Civil parishes should not be confused with ecclesiastical parishes and their Parochial Church Councils.) Parish Councils are seen as an essential part of the structure of local democracy and have a vital role in acting on behalf of the communities they represent.

They:

* Give views, on behalf of the community, on planning applications and other proposals that affect the parish.
* Undertake projects and schemes that benefit local residents.
* Work in partnership with other bodies to achieve benefits for the parish.
* Alert relevant authorities to problems that arise or work that needs to be undertaken.
* Help the other tiers of local government keep in touch with their local communities.

The council is made up of councillors elected by the electors of the parish although if the number of candidates does not exceed the number of seats there will not be an election. Every year the council elects one of them to be the Chair of the council. The council has a paid officer who organises meetings and helps to carry out and implement the council's decisions, it is a dual role which also covers the financial management of the council’s budget and finances in the capacity as the Responsible Financial Officer of the council - this officer is called the Clerk. The Clerk does not vote or make decisions; that is the role of the councillors.

Parish Councils have a range of powers and duties which essentially relate to local matters, such as looking after open spaces, play areas, street lighting, bus shelters, and much more. They also have the power to raise money through the council tax.

All meetings of the council and its committees are open to the general public and the press, except in very exceptional circumstances. However, the Covid pandemic meant that meetings have had to take place over Zoom this year. The time and place of meetings is advertised beforehand, on the parish notice board and website, and if the meeting is on Zoom the login details will also be available. You cannot speak while the normal business of the meeting is being conducted. However, some time is allowed at the meeting when members of the public may address the council on an issue that concerns them.

The council minutes are held by the council's Clerk and are available for public inspection. It is best to make arrangements in advance to see them. The Agendas for each meeting are placed on the Parish Council Notice boards by the Post Office in Lindale and the Village Hall in High Newton. Meeting agendas and approved minutes are also posted on the Parish Council’s website.

The Parish Council is consulted by the relevant Planning Authority (which is the National Park Authority) on all planning applications. Any views expressed by the Parish Council will be taken into account by the Planning Authority before a decision is made, providing the points made are relevant to the determination of a planning application. The final decision is made by the Planning Authority, **not** the Parish Council.

**Parish Council Responsibilities**

The Parish Council is responsible for the following areas within the Parish:

**Lindale**

* The Recreation Ground, play equipment, including the Skateboard area and the bridge over the stream.
* The two bus shelters.
* Wilkinson Monument.
* Coronation Tree Area.
* Yew Tree Green.
* The War Memorial.
* Benches around the village.
* Waterfall area (verge near roadside)
* Cattle trough.
* Windermere Road
* Toilets in Recreation ground

**High & Low Newton**

* Ornamental Gardens.
* Bus shelter.
* Benches in ornamental gardens and 2 others in village.

**Chair’s Statement by Councillor Ian Maynard**

Although official COVID restrictions on public meetings were lifted in February this year we had no public AGM last year and council meetings in person only restarted last summer. Many people in the parish have been ill with COVID and it has delayed several things we would have liked to do.

Throughout the year the Parish Council have responded to a number of consultations and surveys from CCC, SLDC, LDNPA and considered 18 planning applications. We have also vigorously sought action by LDNPA on non-compliance at the new Lakeland Audi development and the illegal work on the field near Brocka. In September 2021 we received the good news that the appealed application for 12 houses opposite Burnbank Farm had been rejected. We are very grateful for the number of people who wrote to the LDNPA objecting to this application.

Another problem we are trying to solve is the increase in on road parking up the hill from the roundabout.

The Parish Council is not allowed to raise money by any form of commercial activity so all our finance is raised through the precept process which is charged as part of your local SLDC Council Tax. For 2021/22 the precept was £17,395, this represented a 0% increase on the previous year. This has contributed towards the upkeep of the Parish Areas and other running costs. The parish council has been able to operate within this annual budget, with a surplus of unallocated/unspent funds at the year end. For 2022/23 members of the Parish Council agreed an annual budget of £17,395 so that for the tenth year running there will be no increase in the precept.

The parish maintenance work is unfortunately not immune to the effect of increases in fuel, labour and material costs. We have had to make savings but have tried to do so without reducing the standards of the service we provide. Councillors are unpaid volunteers, but we rely on the paid services of our Clerk for much of the clerical work which is involved; she looks after the finances, provides valuable guidance and advice, deals with correspondence, prepares papers for our meetings and keeps the minutes. There are also additional costs in respect of the Parish Council’s responsibility for the public toilets in the recreation ground. During COVID they have stayed closed but will be open this summer. COVID has delayed the proposed improvements but they should start this year. We are grateful to the organisers of the bonus ball for their contribution to costs. Sadly, the closure of the village shop means the bonus ball has finished but we are grateful for almost £5000 raised since it started supporting the toilets.

The Parish Council usually organises and takes part in two litter picks in the parish in Autumn and Spring but COVID guidelines meant that only the Autumn one took place last year. Sadly, increased travel since COVID has meant littering has increased. We are very grateful to the several residents who regularly pick litter around the Parish.

Sadly, there has been very little further progress towards leasing Lindale Church despite the dogged efforts of the Lindale Community Trust. Further information can be found on the Lindale Community Trust website at

https://www.lindalecommunitytrust.org.uk/

Finally, I’d like to thank my fellow councillors for their dedication to maintaining and improving the environment of our Parish, and to our Clerk, Debbie, for her significant contribution to the work of the Council. We were pleased to welcome back Cllr Armstrong in May 2021. We still have a vacancy in the Newton ward, and it would be very satisfying to restore a full complement, in the interests of local democracy. Please volunteer if you have an interest in local affairs.

**Councillor Ian Maynard May 2022**

1. **Parish Councillors**

**Lindale Ward:-**Cllr Maynard (Chair 2021/22) Cllr Squire (Vice 2021/22)

Cllr Marwood, Cllr Winder, Cllr McClure, Cllr Clarke, Cllr Marwood.

**Newton Ward:** Cllr Wightman ( 1 vacancy )