**LINDALE & NEWTON-IN-CARTMEL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Meeting of Parish Council of AGM/APM**

**in Lindale Village Hall at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 3rd May 2023**

## AGENDA - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**1921 Present:-** Cllr Maynard, Cllr Squire, Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Clarke, Cllr Wightman, Westmorland and Furness Councillor Boak.

**1922 Public** 2**. In attendance**- Clerk

**1923 Apologies: To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies received in writing, accepted and noted from Cllr Winder – Work Commitments, Cllr McClure illness.

**1924 Review of Minutes of Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 4th May 2022 –**circulated prior to meeting and noted, members confirmed which were approved at June meeting 2022.

**1925 Election of Chairman & Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**

One Nomination received for Cllr Maynard for Chair proposed by Cllr Clarke, Seconded by Cllr Wightman, all in favour. Cllr Maynard accepted the position and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and continued to Chair the meeting.

**1926 Election of Vice Chairman.**

One Nomination received for Cllr Squire for Vice Chair proposed by Cllr Wightman, Seconded by Cllr Clarke. All in favour. Cllr Squire accepted the position and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**1927 Election of Committees:**

1. Planning- All councillors to be “Planning representatives and minimum of 2 councillors to review each application and report to full council meeting to agree decision & comments to LDNPA.

Clerk to deal with applications under delegated powers as per adopted procedures if applicable.

Proposed Cllr Squire, Seconded Cllr Clarke. All in favour.

1. Finance – All councillors.

Proposed Cllr Squire, Seconded Cllr Clarke. All in favour.

**1928 Nominations to external bodies:**

1. Lindale Village Hall – Cllr McClure
2. Newton Village Hall – Cllr Wightman
3. Taylor Newton & Hibbert Charity – Cllr McClure and Cllr Marwood
4. Highways Liaison - Clerk
5. Parish Council Internal Auditor - Pamela Brown

Proposed by Cllr Squire, Seconded Cllr Wightman all in favour.

**1929 Meeting closed at 7.06**

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**At 7.15 pm**

**Introduction and Welcome by Chair 2022/23 - Cllr Ian Maynard**

Councillor Maynard welcomed all members of the public, also, Guest Speaker – Westmorland and Furness Councillor Jenny Boak to present an overview of Local Government reorganisation.

**Chair’s Annual Report of Parish Council activities for 2022/23 and plans for 2023/24**

See below for Chairs report in full.

**Introduction of Guest Speaker our Westmorland and Furness Councillor Jenny Boak who will explain about the new authority that replaces CCC and SLDC**

Cllr Boak addressed the meeting to present an overview of Local Government reorganisation and the implementation of 2 Unitary Authorities and what it means locally.

**Q & A - Parish Councillors and Westmorland and Furness Councillor**

Parish Council Members and Westmorland and Furness Councillor Boak answered a couple of questions from public and parish councillors.

***Following the AGM, refreshments were served.***

**Annual Report Lindale and Newton in Cartmel Parish Council for 2022/23**

**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**

Financially this has been a difficult year. For the last 10 years we have kept the amount we request from your council tax exactly the same despite the Retail Price Index rising 31% in that time. Our major expense is grounds maintenance. The hourly cost of this has increased and we have had to carry out significant amounts of work in the High Newton ornamental gardens, near the Lindale War Memorial and the Lindale playing field and skateboard park. Last year we were able to cover the increase in costs from our reserves but I’m sorry to say that this year we have had to increase the parish precept by 49%. Although this is a large figure in percentage terms it will only mean an increase of £25 per year for a typical village property in council tax band E.

Since the last AGM the Parish Council has considered 21 planning applications. We have also vigorously sought action by LDNPA on non-compliance at the new Lakeland Audi development but are still waiting to see results from this. The owners of the field where equipment is now stored near Brocka have appealed against their planning enforcement notice and all the necessary documentation was submitted by August 2022. Frequent visits to the Planning Inspectorate website to check on progress suggest it will be several months before a decision is made.

Despite the enthusiasm of the Lindale Community Trust they have been unable to overcome the inertia of the Diocesan Property Board so there has been no progress towards leasing Lindale Church. The diocese is now likely to put the building up for sale soon. You can find further information by searching for Lindale Community Trust online.

The bridge between the skateboard park and the playing field had been repaired with increasing frequency but we decided replacement was the only sensible option. The new galvanised steel bridge was built and installed by Robert Moorhouse and should last far longer than the old timber one. We are grateful to the Taylor Newton and Hibbert Charity for their generous contribution towards the cost of this work.

The Parish Council has organised and taken part in two litter picks in the parish in Autumn and Spring. Encouragingly the amount of litter seems to have fallen since its post Covid peak. We are grateful to the several residents who regularly pick litter around the Parish. We are also grateful to Ian Knowles for his work keeping the Wilkinson Monument area tidy and, especially, for the stylish gold paintwork on the monument itself. Three families from the village have paid for durable recycled plastic benches in memory of loved ones. They will be installed very soon and should last far longer than the decaying timber ones they will replace.

Finally, I’d like to thank my fellow councillors for the work they do to maintain and improve the environment of our Parish. I’d also like to thank our Clerk, Debbie, for her significant contribution to the work of the Council. Although we now have a full complement of Lindale councillors we still have a vacancy in the Newton ward. If you feel this role may suit you please speak to me after the meeting.

**Next meeting Tuesday 30th May 2023 in Newton Village Hall at 7.00 pm**