**Lindale and Newton in Cartmel Parish Council**

**Chair’s Statement by Councillor Ian Maynard May 2024**

I am glad to say that, as cost of living increases have slowed so has the pressure on our finances. However, to maintain and improve the standard of the open spaces in the parish we have had to increase our Parish Precept by 10.5% this year, we would prefer not to do so but the increase is only £5 per year for a typical village property in council tax band E.

Although they cost us more we are very grateful to our contractors as they have noticeably improved several areas. We are also grateful to the volunteers who do an excellent job of keeping some areas tidy that would otherwise become neglected.

Earlier in the year a storm brought down a large tree in the playing field that was at least 70 years old. An even bigger and older tree at the war memorial had become unsafe so had to be cut down. We planted a tree to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth but it will be beyond our lifetimes before it is as impressive as these two trees we have lost.

Since the last AGM the Parish Council has considered 15 planning applications. We have been very frustrated by the non-compliance at the Lakeland Audi development on the old Lindale Inn site. The field where equipment is now stored near Brocka is another source of frustration. The owner’s appeal was rejected in May 2023 but work to restore the site to farmland has not started. We sent a letter to the Planning Authority expressing our frustration at the lack of any enforcement action at either of these locations but their reply suggested no action was imminent due to under staffing. We will continue to seek action from the Planning Authority.

Sadly there is no good news on the former Lindale Church. The Lindale Community Trust have had to admit defeat in their efforts to turn the church into a valuable community asset. The Diocesan Property Board will put the building up for sale but have given no indication of when. You can find further information by searching for Lindale Community Trust online. The unused portion of almost £17,000 they raised will be available for the support of other projects in the village.

The Parish Council has organised and taken part in a litter pick in the parish in Autumn. There seems to be even less litter in the parish so a spring litter pick was not needed. We are grateful to the several residents who regularly pick litter around the Parish. We are also grateful to Ian Knowles for his continuing work maintaining the Wilkinson Monument area and Lishman family for keeping the bus shelters clean and tidy. I would like to publicly thank Elspeth Jones, Susan Jamison and the Marwood family who have paid for durable recycled plastic benches in memory of loved ones. These have now been installed around Lindale. The rotten picnic table in the children’s playground has been replaced with a durable plastic equivalent.

This year we were sorry to lose Dave Marwood as a councillor due to the work commitments of his thriving business. We are grateful for his ideas and support. His departure leaves us short of one councillor in the Lindale ward and we still have a vacancy in the Newton ward. If you feel one of these roles may suit you please speak to me after the meeting.

I’d like to thank my fellow councillors for their support and 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.

Finally, as I leave Lindale and the Council, I would like to thank the residents of the parish, and particularly my former customers, for their friendship and support and for the part they each play in making Lindale and Newton in Cartmel Parish such a delightful place to live.