

**LAKES PARISH**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**AND ANNUAL REPORT**

**2008/9**



## **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF LAKES 2009.**

Held in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 21, Part 3, in the Main Hall, Kelsick Centre, St Mary's Lane, Ambleside, on Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 7pm.

**Chairman of the meeting - Cllr. Leslie Johnson.**

### **AGENDA.**

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Lakes held at The Kelsick Centre, Ambleside, on Wednesday May 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008 (see below).
3. Matters arising from the minutes (if any).
4. Chairman's address.
5. Guest Speaker – John Askew – Digital UK – Television switchover
6. Statements (generally 5-10 minutes duration) by representatives of local organisations and by individual residents of Lakes Parish, including:-
  - (i) Ambleside Civic Trust.
  - (ii) Grasmere Village Society.
  - (iii) Lakes Parish Task Group representatives
  - (iv) Armit Museum
  - (v) Ambleside Oral History
  - (vi) The Police.
  - (vii) Others.

**Questions and answers will be permitted.**

7. Any other relevant Business
8. Chairmans concluding remarks

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF LAKES 2008.**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Kelsick Centre, St Mary's Lane, Ambleside on Wednesday 14th May 2008 at 7pm

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. L. Johnson (Chairman), W. H. Allen, E.S. Bradshaw Mrs E.M. Braithwaite, Ms M.M. Colquhoun, A. Green, Mrs F.M. Sparrow, D. Welch, Mrs S Ogden, P Thompson, Margaret Lewis, Jane Renouf, C/Supt P Kennedy, PC D Buxton, 22 members of the public/ local organisations and the Press

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. Mrs V Rees, N. Martin, J. Smith, Mrs E Wilson, J.R. Westmoreland, Bill Smith and Paul Holdsworth SLDT,

### **1. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held at St. Martin's College (Ambleside Campus) on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2007 were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman accordingly.

### **2. MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

### **3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman welcomed those attending, reported on the activities of the Parish Council and presented his annual report. He thanked everyone for the support given so willingly to the Parish Council. He thanked the Police and District Councillors for their attendance at meetings, and fellow Parish Councillors for their work during the year.

### **4. PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AND POLICE REPORT**

Chief Superintendent Paul Kennedy from Cumbria Constabulary introduced himself and spoke on his appointment to the Command of South Cumbria. The area he covered was one of the largest in Cumbria and indeed the Country as a whole. He explained his antecedents as an Officer in CID working in the Bradford area. He highlighted work on Policing within the local and force area and spoke on the future structure he would like to see. He highlighted policing priorities and the command structure of the Force. Crime locally had reduced in all monitored areas but with South Cumbria being near the M6 corridor, some criminals saw it as an easy target. He highlighted successes and also spoke on youth disorder. He answered questions from the floor of the meeting. The Chairman thanked him for his attendance and for the work of his Officers in the Community during 2007/85.

### **5. STATEMENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN LAKES PARISH**

The following presentations were made:

- (i) Elizabeth Braithwaite, Grasmere Village Society gave Members an insight in to the structure of the Society and the work it undertook in the community. She commented on keeping a watchful eye on Planning Applications and work with Cumbria County Council, South Lakeland District Council and Lakes Parish Council.

- (ii) Jane Renouf, Ambleside Oral History Group, reported that they had undertaken a massive digitilisation programme that was now complete. 30 years of Interviews were now available on a user friendly database.
- (iii) Andrw Hewitt speaking for Ambleside Community Christmas Lights Committee, explained that this was the 8<sup>th</sup> year of the Lights Committee. The switch on this year would be November 22nd. He thanked the Parish Council for their donation towards the lights and explained that all work was now local involvement in the provision and erection of the lights.
- (iv) Margaret Lewis spoke on the work of the Parish Plan Action Group and updated the Meeting on all of the achievements that had come about because of the Plan.
- (v) Christopher Morris spoke on the Armitt Museum and highlighted the Garden party to be held on Sunday from 2 to 5pm. A new exhibition would be in place in June.
- (vi) Kelsick Educational Foundation. Nigel Hutchinson spoke on the work of the Charity and gave an insight into the reasons for the sale of the Conservative Club. He wished to advertise the work of the Trustees to make parents aware of the funding available to them.
- (vii) David Welch spoke on the work of the Rothay Valley Environment Group, their fundraising and efforts to control Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam.

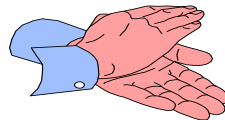
#### 6. ISSUES RAISED BY OTHERS ATTENDING

- (i) Roma Johnson raised the issue of work ongoing in St Mary's Lane and the serious inconvenience being experienced by local residents.
- (ii) Various members of the public present raised the issue of the Ambleside Masterplan Waterhead Final Feasibility Draft and the impact it will have on that particular locality.

The Chairman thanked all for attending, and the meeting closed at 8.59pm.

#### 7. CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUDING REMARKS.

Cllr. L Johnson thanked the speakers, all those who had attended the meeting and the Clerk to the Council, Michael Johnson, who had organised it.



## NOTES RELATING TO PARISH MEETINGS.



The Annual Parish Meeting is not a meeting of the Parish Council. The Local Government Act 1972 dictates that a parish meeting must assemble annually on some day between March 1<sup>st</sup>. and June 1<sup>st</sup>. and that local residents may speak on any matter of local interest.

The Parish Council is charged with the task of organising such a meeting, which may not begin prior to 6 p.m. Not less than seven clear days public notice is to be given of the meeting. The 1972 Act says that the Chairman of the Parish Council must preside over the meeting if he is present. If he is absent then the Vice-Chairman must preside. If neither is in attendance, the meeting elects a chairman from those local government electors for the parish present.

Though a parish meeting may discuss parish affairs, its resolutions (if any) differ considerably in their legal consequences. In the majority of cases a resolution is persuasive only; the parish council may legally disregard it and leave the electors to their remedy at the next election. Unlike a parish council meeting, a parish meeting is not required to vote in any particular way, and so the chairman may ascertain the effect of the voting from any evidence which may in the circumstances lead to an accurate result; thus a voice vote may in the case of an overwhelming majority be sufficient, but when opposing opinions are represented with approximate equality, a count must be taken. Only those registered as electors in the parish may vote although any

member of the public may attend the meeting. The chairman's declaration of the result is final.

The right of the parish meeting to discuss parish affairs extends to any public matter of a parochial nature and is not confined to the exercise of the statutory nature of the parish council. The parish meeting may accordingly pass resolutions on the public activities or policies in the parish of any other local authority, public body, government department or public service provided that they affect the parish specially and are not such as are calculated to affect the whole country or all parishes equally.

**Taken from *Local Council Administration (Sixth Edition)* by Charles Arnold-Baker OBE, of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-law, published by Butterworths 2002.**

---

### **Public participation at Parish Council meetings.**

Individual members of the public wishing to address the Council may do so prior to the commencement of a meeting subject to notice, in writing, being delivered to the Council's offices at least 14 days prior to the meeting in question. No more than 15 minutes, in total, will be set-aside for such statements and no person may speak for more than five minutes without the prior consent of the Chairman.

As an alternative, members of the public may address members of the council at 8pm on meeting nights (or prior to the close of business should the meeting finish before that time) without having to give notice.

Representatives of local groups/charities/organisations wishing to address the council may do so and sufficient time will be allocated for their needs.

Please contact the Clerk for further information.

## CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2009

There was a time when writing an Annual Chairman's report was easy. It was simply a review of what we had been doing throughout the year. Now you have a regular update in the Parish Newsletter, the 'Pink Un', through your letterbox four times a year. I report to you on the challenges facing us now and in the future. Our job is to focus upon what our Electorate need and try to deliver at the lowest possible cost. Increasingly we have to battle through a "Politically Correct" and "Box Ticking" mentality. I do not always blame the District and County Councils for this as they have to obey the edicts of our masters in Whitehall. There can, though, be times when it is easier to hide behind the system rather than addressing the immediate problems. Our job is to try to battle through this miasma and act as a catalyst to get results. A constant battle is Public Toilet provision and keeping our streets and parks in good condition for locals and for the tourists on whom our economy depends. The visible results delivered by our Highway Steward, Brian and Robin, our Parish Handyman, are good examples of what can be achieved through joint working. A good Parish Council must be proactive and have a professional Parish Clerk and a dedicated **unpaid** team of Parish Councillors beavering away for the benefit of the Community. I believe we have, and I thank them all for their support and hard work during this past year.



*Leslie Johnson*  
Chairman

## ACCOUNTS

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>2007/8</b>	<b>2008/9 PAYMENTS</b>	<b>2007/8</b>	<b>2008/9</b>
Balance brought forward	18145.44	14301.79 Stationery/office equipment	343.88	567.61
SLDC precept	51611.00	57140.00 Telephones	502.58	563.17
VAT refund	3741.11	2109.22 Salary Clerk (net)	13798.39	14021.84
NSB Interest	604.01	401.14 Salary/Expenses Handyman	0.0	3903.52
Barclays Business AC interest	385.34	210.70 Expenses & allowances	144.46	230.00
Countryside Agency grant	0.0	0.0 PAYE (tax)	3756.52	3773.80
VAC Parish Plan Grant	6894.22	1905.78 NI employer	934.53	954.32
Up the Wall Donations	0.0	2008.10 NI employee	1404.61	1478.68
Bus shelter grant		5561.87 Chairman's allowance	0.0	100.00
Office Rental Refund	704.19	0.0 Postage	547.90	500.00
Lancaster/AldersleySeat – recharge	651.00	838.00 Grants	3900.00	3200.00
Office removal donation	200.00	0.0 CAB grant	1000.00	1000.00
Miscellaneous receipt	0.0	0.0 Toilets grant to SLDC	13205.69	13283.74
	<b><u>82936.31</u></b>	<b><u>84476.60</u></b> Subscriptions (excl CALC)	185.00	304.00
		CALC membership	382.50	399.50
		Footway lighting	743.89	1212.00
		Bus shelters/seats/noticebd	4963.75	8093.15
		Insurance	909.92	867.66
		Rent (office/meeting rooms)	3926.82	3091.00
		Audit fee	630.00	600.00
		VAT	2125.79	2601.90
		Training	45.00	105.00
		Cumbria/Lakes in Bloom	732.68	867.55
		General maintenance	155.47	250.00
		Equipment & repairs	895.78	505.00
		MTI Contribution	2500.00	0.0
		Parish Newsletter	1603.20	2185.80
		Bank Charges	118.94	157.75
		Parish Plan expenditure	7275.52	1815.48
		Office move/Up The Wall	488.00	1788.28
		Election cost/press advert	1413.70	1114.00
		NSB	<b>11418.57</b>	<b>11819.71</b>
		Barclays current account	<b>2883.22</b>	3174.94
			<b>82936.31</b>	<b>84529.40</b>
		Less unrepresented cheque	Nil	(52.80)
			<b><u>82936.31</u></b>	<b><u>84476.60</u></b>

Michael Johnson  
Responsible Financial Officer & Clerk to Council  
Date 13 May 2009

**Year End  
Balances**

The Annual Accounts will be available for inspection from 27<sup>th</sup> April to 4<sup>th</sup> June on Mondays and Wednesday between the hours of 10am and 4.30pm or by arrangement with the Clerk on 015394 31656 at the Parish Office, The Police Station, Ambleside, and the public also has the opportunity to question the external auditor on these accounts after that time. The Parish Council awarded the following grants to local organisations in 2008/9:

South Lakeland District Council – toilets	£13283.74
Ambleside Community Christmas Lights Committee	£2000
Holy Trinity Langdale PCC	£250
Cumbria Rural Citizens' Advice Bureau	£1000
SLDT – Town Centre Manager	£nil
Grasmere Players	£250
Ambleside Youth Project	£500
St Mary's Ambleside - graveyard	£200
<b>Total</b>	<b>£17483.74</b>

## LIST OF LOCAL COUNCILLORS

### AMBLESIDE WARD COUNCILLORS

Mr. L. Johnson  
8 Loughrigg Park, Ambleside. LA22 0DY  
Tel. 015394 32904

Ms. M.M. Colquhoun  
South Knoll, Rydal Road Ambleside. LA22 9AY  
Tel. 015394 34325

Mrs Anne Sowerbutts  
2 Swiss Villas, Vicarage Road, Ambleside  
LA22 9AE  
Tel. 015394 32691

Mr P.A. Thompson  
Stoneleigh, Gale Rigg  
Ambleside. LA22 0AZ  
Tel. 015394 33410

Mr E. S. Bradshaw  
12 Gale Park, Ambleside. LA22 0BN  
Tel. 015394 32760

Mr. N.C. Martin  
The Hill, Birch Road, Ambleside. LA22 0EQ  
Tel. 015394 31124

### GRASMERE WARD COUNCILLORS

Mrs. E.M. Braithwaite M.B.E.  
(Freeman of Lakes)  
Flax Home Grange, Stock Lane, Grasmere.  
LA22 9SJ  
Tel. 015394 35297

Mr. A. Green  
The Shielling, Easedale, Grasmere. LA22 9QL  
Tel. 015394 35238

Mrs. V. Rees  
Greenheys, Lakeview Drive, Grasmere. LA22  
9TD  
Tel. 015394 35401

### CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

M. A. Johnson Esq. JP  
The Police Station, Rydal Road, Ambleside.  
LA22 9AY  
Tel/fax: 015394 31656  
e-mail: [lakesparishcouncil@lfsmail.net](mailto:lakesparishcouncil@lfsmail.net)  
[www.amblesideonline.co.uk/parish](http://www.amblesideonline.co.uk/parish)

### LANGDALES WARD COUNCILLORS

Mrs Sheila Ogden  
24 Kirkfield Rise  
Ambleside. LA22 9DX  
Tel. 015394 32341

Mr. J. Smith  
14 Thrang Brow, Chapel Stile, Langdale,  
Ambleside. LA22 9HH  
Tel. 015394 37592

Mrs. E. Wilson  
Robin Ghyll, Great Langdale, Ambleside.  
LA22 9JS  
Tel. 015394 37327

### RYDAL & LOUGHRIGG WARD COUNCILLORS

Mr. David Welch (resigned Feb 2009)  
Cote How, Rydal Ambleside LA22  
Tel. 015394 32765

Mrs F.M. Sparrow  
The Haven, The Green, Ambleside  
LA22 9AU  
Tel. 015394 32441

### TROUTBECK WARD COUNCILLORS

Mr. W.H. Allen  
Holehird Farm, Patterdale Road, Troutbeck,  
Windermere LA23 1NP  
Tel. 015394 44021

Mr. J.R. Westmoreland  
Howe Farm, Patterdale Road, Troutbeck,  
Windermere. LA23 1PF  
Tel. 015394 33287

### SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

*Ambleside, Grasmere, Langdale, Rydal &  
Loughrigg*

Mrs. V. Rees 015394 35401  
Mr. D. Vatcher 015394 32822

### CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCILLOR (Lakes)

Mr Brian Barton 015394 33215

## **PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL AND OTHER MATTERS.**

Other than grants and donations received from business, individuals and outside bodies, the Council relies entirely upon the Council tax (Precept) for its funding and that means that it must be accountable for what it spends. Not one penny is received from central government or from the business rates.

Residents sometimes query the "Parish Expenses" referred to on the annual council tax demand. This is made up of the following components:-

- (i) The Parish Council precept.
- (ii) South Lakeland District Council expenses incurred in the Parish mainly to fund maintenance of the pre 1974 street lighting system.

Total Parish Expenses in recent years have been as follows:-

2002/2003	£59,956.
2003/2004	£42,753
2004/2005	£43,529
2005/2006	£44,834
2006/2007	£51,612
2007/2008	£59,715
2008/2009	£67,120

Annual council tax charges in recent years on a band D property have been:-

In 2002/2003 the annual charge for parish expenses on a Band D property was £24.95.

In 2003/2004 the annual charge for parish expenses on a Band D property was £17.83

In 2004/2005 the annual charge for parish expenses on a Band D property was £18.30

In 2005/2006 the annual charge for parish expenses on a Band D Property was £17.89

In 2006/2007 the annual charge for parish expenses on a Band D Property was £18.99

In 2007/2008 the annual charge for parish expenses on a band D property was £23.27

In 2008/2009 the annual charge for parish expenses on a Band D Property was £24.27

The Council continues to recover its reserves to the 2002/3 level in order to meet its present financial obligations.

Members of the public who look at these figures should remember that the total **Council Tax** levied on a Band D property in 2008/9 was over £1400. Of this, almost £1400 goes to the County Council, the District Council and the Police. The rest (£24.27p) is for your Parish Council to deliver its programme for its residents.

### **BEST VALUE.**

The Council is aware that it must observe the principles of Best Value when planning its programme for the year. Expenditure is kept to the bare minimum by the direct involvement of elected members who give many hours of their time in the service of local residents. **Parish Councillors receive no payment for their work within the Parish, not even travelling or subsistence expenses.** They do, however, receive travelling expenses when they represent the Lakes Parish Council on work outside of the Parish. This is presently set at 40p per mile.

The budget sets aside money for items such as the grants programme including a substantial donation towards the Ambleside Community Christmas Lights festival, the subsidy to South Lakeland District Council to keep certain toilets within the Parish open, environmental projects, maintenance - including the bus shelters, public seats, street lighting, bike racks, Ambleside Horticultural Society in partnership with Lakes Parish in Bloom, Cumbria in Bloom, churchyard maintenance, Citizens Advice Bureau, encouragement of tourism, public transport support etc.

## **WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.**

It is interesting to list some of the things the Council has been involved in during the last year.

- Ongoing dialogue with the police on matters of local concern, including vandalism, on-street car parking, drugs and criminal activities.
- A continuing partnership with the Police. The Parish Council Office is now part of Ambleside Police Station offering a Counter service to members of the public for three days a week reporting minor Police matters, including lost or found property,.
- Appointment of a Parish Handyman working 10 hours per week to address basic issues including litter, sign cleaning, hedge trimming, seat and bus shelter cleaning and general small maintenance matters within the Parish.
- Direct liaison with the Cumbria County Council Highway Steward for Highway matters, minor road repairs, hedge and vegetation trimming.
- Parish Councillors serve on many Committees, Charities and Organisations within and on the periphery of the Lakes Parish Council area.
- The Council made recommendations on over 116 planning applications, was represented at 3 Lake District National Park Authority site visits (after major representations on the loss of these visits were accepted by the Park Authority and the invitations to the Parish Council reinstated) and at 1 planning appeal hearing.
- The Council responded to consultation documents from South Lakeland District Council, The Lake District National Park Authority, Cumbria County Council, Central Government, Morecambe Bay Health Authority, Cumbria Association of Local Councils, the Police and others.
- As a result of a Parish Council initiative and evidence from the community, the lane adjacent to the Langdale and Ambleside Mountain Rescue centre has now been officially adopted as a right of way on the definitive map.
- As a result of Parish Council representations, together with the local community, the tables outside of the Royal Oak public house have been removed and the footpath reinstated. A Café Licence for the same area has been refused.
- The Council has lobbied strongly for better public transport services.
- The Council continues to lobby Government and the University of Cumbria to retain the undergraduate presence in Ambleside.
- After strong representations by Lakes Parish Council, Cumbria County Council Cycling Officer attended a meeting of the Council to discuss alternative routes through Ambleside and from Bowness to Waterhead.
- The Council has now introduced three Task Groups to continue the work of the Parish Plan Action Group. Affordable Housing, Youth and Environment are all chaired and led by Lakes Parish Councillors. A major success has been the 'Up the Wall' project for young people in partnership with the University and Police.
- Ensured the retention of public toilets at Chapel Stile, Ambleside, Grasmere and Rothay Park as a result of grant aid of £13283.74p in this financial year,
- Assisted in the replacement of a seat in memory of Jill Aldersley a well known Lakeland artist. This work was paid for by Ambleside Civic Trust.
- Continued with the quarterly Newsletter (the pink sheet) informing the Parish of the work of the Council and also including items of general information and interest.

***This list contains only a few examples of the Council's busy schedule in support of local people.***