

**LAKES PARISH**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**AND ANNUAL REPORT**

**2009/10**



## **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF LAKES 2010.**

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 12th May 2010 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 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009 (see below).
3. Matters arising from the minutes (if any).
4. Chairman's address.
5. Guest Speaker – Deputy Chief Constable Stuart Hyde, Cumbria Police
6. Statements (generally 5-10 minutes duration) by representatives of local organisations and by individual residents of Lakes Parish, including:-
  - (i) David Buxton will talk about the work of the local Police.
  - (ii) Tim Brown will speak on the work of Ambleside Civic Trust.
  - (iii) A representative of Grasmere Village Society will report.
  - (iv) Deanna Cousins will speak on the work of the Langdale Valley Assn.
  - (v) Linda Dixon will speak on the work of Ambleside Welfare Charity
  - (vi) Jak Hirst will speak on Ambleside Sports.
  - (vii) A representative of the Kelsick Educational Foundation will speak on their work.
  - (viii) Cllr Mrs Sparrow will speak on the work of the Lakes Parish Task Group for Youth.
  - (ix) Vivienne Rees will give an update on the Armit Museum
  - (x) Andrew Hewitt of Ambleside Community Christmas Lights will speak
  - (xi) A representative of the local Red Squirrel Group will speak
  - (xii) Jane Durrant of Ambleside Allotments Association will speak.
  - (xiii) Other speakers on request to the Chairman

### **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 2009.**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Kelsick Centre, St Mary's Lane, Ambleside on Wednesday 20th May 2009 at 7pm

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. L. Johnson (Chairman), E.S. Bradshaw, N. Martin Mrs S Ogden, M. Parsons , Mrs A Sowerbutts, P Thompson, Mrs E Wilson, David Vatcher, Jane Renouf, PCSO Laura Jackson, PC D Buxton, John Askew, 9 members of the public/ local organisations and the Press

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. Mrs E.M. Braithwaite Ms M.M. Colquhoun, Mrs F.M. Sparrow and Mrs V Rees.

### **1. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held at St. Martin's College (Ambleside Campus) on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008 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 unpaid work during the year.

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

John Askew from DigitalUK spoke on the impending digital television switch over in South Lakes. He had brought along equipment to demonstrate the requirements for continuing television reception after the switchover. BBC2 would be the first to go on June 24<sup>th</sup> followed a month later on 22 July by all other channels. He answered questions from the floor of the meeting and remained behind on the close of the Meeting to demonstrate the equipment and to answer individual questions. . The Chairman thanked him for his attendance.

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

The following presentations were made:

- (i) Grasmere Village Society had sent apologies and the Clerk reported on the work of the Society and the major task ahead for the next year which would be the refurbishment of all of the seats in the Village..
- (ii) Jane Renouf, Ambleside Oral History Group, reported that they were still going strong with an archive of over 400 tapes on every aspect of local life that could be accessed from the Internet on [www.aohg.org.uk](http://www.aohg.org.uk). It is thought that this is the most comprehensive history of any small community anywhere in the UK.
- (iii) Christine Brown speaking for Ambleside Community Christmas Lights Committee, explained that this was the 9<sup>th</sup> year of the Lights Committee. The switch on this year would be November 21st. The move towards LED bulbs was continuing.

The Lantern procession continues to be a great success. She 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) The Clerk spoke on the work of the Parish Task Groups and read a report from Cllr Mrs Sparrow the Chairman of the Youth Task Group.
- (v) David Buxton spoke on a year of Policing in Ambleside and Lakes Parish. He was supported by PCSO Laura Jackson and highlighted the Tick Box and Targets in comparison with other Police Forces. He spoke on the very encouraging Crime Figures and one incident in particular in Troutbeck that had resulted in over 50 crimes and 50 detections.
- (vi) Ben Lamb spoke on the invasive species of plants in Lakes Parish and highlighted the work being done to combat this. He congratulated the work of the Rothay Valley Group and looked forward to working with the Environment Task Group of the Council in the future.
- (vii) Keith Coates spoke on the work of Rydal Village Society. He was positive about the formation of three village Societies as a result of the 2005 Parish Plan. Parish Council representatives attended all the Village Society meetings and this was a good continuation of Parish and people working together.

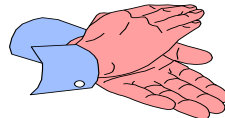
#### 6. ISSUES RAISED BY OTHERS ATTENDING

- (i) David Vatcher highlighted the ongoing work to clear the beck by Miller Field car park and the churchyard. He said that the drainage problem at the 55 steps had now been pinpointed and work was underway to try to solve the problem that was coming from a private garden.
- (ii) There were no other issues raised.

The Chairman thanked all for attending, and the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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

Cllr. L Johnson thanked the speakers, all those who had attended the meeting and the organiser of the Meeting, the Clerk to the Council, Michael Johnson.



## 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* (Eighth Edition) by Charles Arnold-Baker OBE, of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-law, published by LexisNexis 2009.**

### **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 2010

Writing an Annual Chairman's report was once simply a 'One Off' list of what we had been doing throughout the year. Now we send you a regular update through your letterbox four times a year. Many thanks to our Parish Clerk who pulls together the news of our Council activities and also includes notices of Community Events sent in to him. At a time when money is short in the Public Sector, I report to you on the challenges facing us now and in the future. As ever, our job is to focus upon what our Electorate need and try to deliver at the lowest possible cost. The 'Flavour of the Month' at the behest of Central Government, is 'Local Area Partnerships'. The principle is to devolve decision-making on the needs of the local community down from District and County Councils to a more local level. Highly commendable, despite the extra work involved, but we need the money to come down also. There are concerns that this must not be merely an exercise in making even more demands on the Parish Precept.

We have had that problem for some years in paying over £13000 each year of your money in order to subsidise the Public Toilets in our Parish. This continues to be one of our main priorities and we press the District Council constantly. Clearly we need our Toilets and to keep our streets and parks in good condition for locals and the tourists on whom our economy depends. On the positive side the very visible results delivered by our Highway Steward, Brian, and by Robin, our Parish Handyman, are good examples of what can be achieved through joint working.

A good Parish Council must be proactive with a professional Parish Clerk and a dedicated **unpaid** team of Parish Councillors working throughout the year to use their local knowledge on behalf of the Community.

This I believe we have, and I thank them all for their support and hard work during this past year.

Finally I could not end this report without noting the passing of a long serving and dedicated Lakes Parish Councillor, Elizabeth Braithwaite MBE, Freeman of Lakes. Elizabeth served for many years as both Councillor and Chairman of the Parish. Her breadth of knowledge and her willingness to share that for the benefit of everyone, particularly in her home village of Grasmere, is an example to us all. We do miss her.

*Leslie Johnson*

Chairman of Lakes Parish  
Council



## ACCOUNTS

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>2008/9</b>	<b>2009/10 PAYMENTS</b>	<b>2009/9</b>	<b>2009/10</b>
Balance brought forward	14301.79	14941.85 Stationery/office equipment	567.61	602.62
SLDC precept	57140.00	65000.00 Telephones	563.17	567.48
VAT refund	2109.22	2669.83 Salary Clerk (net)	15021.84	16099.43
NSB Interest	401.14	34.24 Salary/Expenses Handyman	3903.52	3877.86
Barclays Business AC interest	210.70	20.46 Expenses & allowances	230.00	49.00
Countryside Agency grant	0	0.0 PAYE (tax)	3773.80	3233.80
VAC Parish Plan Grant	1905.78	0.0 NI employer	2068.32	2953.06
Up the Wall Donations	2008.10	1117.50 NI employee	1478.68	503.48
Bus shelter grant	5561.87	2000.00 Chairman's allowance	100.00	100.00
Office Rental Refund	0	0.0 Postage	500.00	400.00
Donated Seats – recharge	838.00	3513.81 Grants	3200.00	3700.00
Office removal donation	0.0	0.0 CAB grant	1000.00	1000.00
Miscellaneous receipt	0.0	0.0 Toilets grant to SLDC	13283.74	14722.19
	<b><u>84476.60</u></b>	<b><u>89297.69</u></b> Subscriptions (excl CALC)	304.00	151.00
		CALC membership	399.50	419.00
		Footway lighting	1212.00	1296.00
		Bus shelters/seats/noticebd	7093.15	7726.00
		Insurance	867.66	963.52
		Rent (office/meeting rooms)	3091.00	4316.50
		Audit fee	600.00	600.00
		VAT	2601.90	2176.06
		Training	105.00	98.00
		Cumbria/Lakes in Bloom	867.55	679.24
		General maintenance	250.00	415.00
		Equipment & repairs	505.00	956.57
		MTI Contribution	0.0	0.0
		Parish Newsletter	2185.80	2644.38
		Bank Charges	157.75	150.23
		Parish Plan expenditure	1815.48	0.0
		Office move/Up The Wall	1788.28	886.61
			<hr/>	
		<b>Year End</b>	NSB	11819.71
		<b>Balances</b>	Barclays current account	11853.95
				3174.94
				<b>84529.40</b>
				<b>89297.69</b>
			Less unpresented cheque	(52.80)
				Nil
				<hr/>
				<b>84476.60</b>
				<b>89297.69</b>

Michael Johnson  
Responsible Financial Officer & Clerk to Council  
Date 12 May 2010

**BALANCING FIGURE FOR YEAR** = **89297.69**  
**2009 - 2010**

The Annual Accounts will be available for inspection from 16<sup>th</sup> April to 17<sup>th</sup> May and from the 4<sup>th</sup> June to the 14<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 2009/10:

South Lakeland District Council – toilets	£14722.19
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 Brownies	£500
St Mary's Ambleside - graveyard	£250
St Johns Ambulance - Ambleside	£250
Learning Plus – Ambleside Library	£200
<b>Total</b>	<b>£19422.19</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) (Died January 2010)  
Flax Home Grange, Stock Lane, Grasmere.  
LA22 9SJ  
Tel. 015394 35297 – **Vacancy declared**

Mrs E Footit  
17 Benfield, Grasmere. LA22 9RD  
Tel. 015394 35918

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: [lakesparish@fsmail.net](mailto:lakesparish@fsmail.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

**One Vacancy**  
Langdale, Ambleside. LA22  
Tel. 015394

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

### RYDAL & LOUGHRIGG WARD COUNCILLORS

Mr. Malcolm Parsons  
Huntsmans Cottage, Rydal Ambleside LA22  
9PN  
Tel. 015394 32228

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)

Dr David Earnshaw 015394 33573

## **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:-

2003/2004	£42,753
2004/2005	£43,529
2005/2006	£44,834
2006/2007	£51,612
2007/2008	£59,715
2008/2009	£67,120
2009/2010	£72,428

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

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

In 2009/2010 the annual charge for parish expenses on a Band D Property was £27.98

The Council is continuing to recover its reserves to half the normal Precept in order to meet its present financial obligations.

Members of the public who look at these figures should remember that the total **Council Tax** to be levied on a Band D property in 2010/11 is **£1560.29**. Of this, over **£1500 goes to the County Council, the District Council and the Police**. The rest (**£27.98p in the last financial year**) 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:-

- Ongoing dialogue with the police on matters of local concern, including vandalism, on-street car parking, drugs and criminal activities. Supporting the Stronger Safer Neighbourhoods campaign.
- A continuing partnership with the Police. The Parish Council Office is part of Ambleside Police Station offering a Counter service to members of the public, when the Community Volunteers are not available, reporting minor Police matters, including lost or found property,.
- Continuing the 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.
- Continuing 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 115 planning applications and was represented at 5 Lake District National Park Authority site visits
- 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 Parish Council initiatives White Platts at Ambleside is now open on Sundays and warning signs are in place on Red Bank road, Grasmere.
- As a result of Parish Council representations, together with the local community, an application for a right of way running from North Road to Chapel Hill is in the list for consideration by the County Council.
- The Council continues to lobby and work with Cumbria Association of Local Councils for better public toilets.
- The Council has lobbied Government and the University of Cumbria to retain the undergraduate presence in Ambleside but with limited success to date.
- Lakes Parish Council continue to keep a watching brief on any proposals for alternative cycle routes around Ambleside and from Bowness to Waterhead.
- The Council has Task Groups to continue the work of the Parish Plan Action Group 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 giving your money totalling £14722.19p in this financial year,
- Assisted in the replacement of seats in memory of Johnny Williamson, the well-known local barber, and three additional seats in memory of others. They are located at the top of Compston Road, near St Anne's Church and at the top of McIver lane. All these seats have been donated and paid for by relatives in memory of their loved ones.
- Assisted with the planning, finance and installation of the new stone built bus shelter in Chapel Stile.
- 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.**