

Levens Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Levens Institute on Tuesday 21 March 2017 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr R. Atfield (Chairman), 7 Parish Councillors, County Cllr. J. Bland, District Cllr A. Rawlinson and 31 residents.

1. Apologies

N. Capstick, J. Farraday, PCSO J. Park, S. Hill, S. Greenaway

2. Youth Club Awards

P. Martin reported that the Youth Club continued to thrive and that previous members remained connected and very supportive. The Community Action Team remained very busy. Youth Club Awards have been made to 16 young people with 7 commendations. One member has recorded 44 individual acts of volunteering throughout the village. The Chairman thanked P. Martin for her leadership and commitment and congratulated all members of the Club for the awards gained and the work they had contributed on behalf of the village.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting

It was resolved that the Chairman sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2016 as a true record.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave his report on Parish Council activities for 2016/2017.

5. Financial Report: Year Ending 31 March 2016

The Clerk gave the Finance Report based on the summary of the audited and approved accounts for the year ending 31 March 2016 and the estimated out-turn for the year ending 31 March 2017 (details circulated to all as part of the Annual Meeting Handout). In response to a question, he confirmed that the Levens Community Project remains in funds based on income received from a number of grants received.

6. Guest Speaker: Andy Knipe, Environment Agency South Lakes Field Team Leader

Andy Knipe gave an interesting presentation on the work of the local Environment Agency Field Team focusing particularly on 'Incident Response' and restoration priorities following recent flood events. He confirmed that priorities and therefore resources were currently focused on urban areas, such as Kendal and Windermere and that whilst the EA was working closely with the Lyth Valley Water Level Management Board, it was looking to cease funding the principal pumping stations serving the Lyth Valley. Andy answered a number of questions on this and other matters. Attendees joined with the Chairman to thank him for his informative talk.

7. Police Report:

Although PCSO Park had made regular reports to the Parish Council over the course of the year, she was unable to be present. She had however provided a written Report with details of the 185 calls received from within the Parish over the previous 12 months.

8. Reports from Village Organisations

Representatives from the following local organisations gave Reports, highlights of which included:

- Levens Residents Group: Allan Steward confirmed that the Group, which had been formed to monitor the Greengate development, was to disband now that the Storey Homes initiative was going ahead.
- The Methodist Chapel: Thanked the Parish Council for continuing to provide grant support for hosting the Post Office on Chapel premises. Sympathy for the family of Brian Gray who had sadly passed away were expressed.
- Legs Levens: Continues to thrive using the Village Institute for practice and having performed at a variety of venues during the year.
- Levens Arts and Film Society – continues to operate as a sub-Group of the Levens Village Institute.
- The Brownies: remain strong thanks to commitment of local leaders.
- Ladies of Levens – The Clerk read an entertaining Report on recent activities prepared by Naomi Capstick.
- Levens Primary School: Ray Gillard (Chair of Governors) reported that the school role stood at 70. Various activities have raised funds and he invited residents to visit the website. He thanked those concerned for efforts to improve road safety in the Village.
- St John's Church: The Church continues active engagement with the village community. Refurbishment work continues.
- Levens Village Institute: Stephen Read thanked the Committee for its work and Mr Watson for facilitating the public defibrillator. There had been an increase in user groups, but parking at the rear of the Institute was an issue of concern to nearby residents. The LVI is working closely with the Levens Community Project in preparation for the necessary agreements for when progress with the new Village Hall demands.
- Levens Playing Fields: a variety of events have contributed to funds raised for repairs and maintenance and thanks were expressed to those who helped with the installation of the aerial runway. Recommendations in a ROSPA Report are being considered.
- Levens History Group: Maintaining a well-attended programme. Whilst some geophysical work has been completed in Levens Park, and HLF bid to fund further archaeological research had not been successful.
- WI: On behalf of the Levens Charity, the Chair expressed the thanks of the Parish Council for the donation of a plot of land on Brigsteer Road for community benefit.
- South Lakeland Orchard Group: Hugh Connor reported on a variety of activities and paid tribute to Brian Faraday.
- B4RN: Simon Doddrell gave a positive report on the work of the local B4RN group to bring super-fast broadband to the village. He thanked the Parish Council for its support.
- Levens Traffic Management Group: Cllr. Hargraves reported that this newly established group was looking at problems and possible solutions for some of the traffic issues (particularly speeding) that had been raised as of concern to residents.
- South Lakeland District Council: Cllr. Rawlinson reported on a number of initiatives she had been working on in the village including dog fouling, re-cycling, resolving issues with the Old Carpet Shop and a possible footpath alongside Levens Lane.
- Cumbria County Council: Cllr. Bland reported on road repairs and resurfacing in the Village and that improvement works would continue within the priorities of the

Highways Department. The Council was also working closely with the Highways Agency on improvements to the A590 in the area.

- The Levens Community Project: Cllr. Mason reported that despite the current problems at Sizergh Fell Quarry highlighted by the Chairman, he was confident that the problem would be resolved favourably. In the meantime, much work continued to prepare for the next phase of the Project including discussions with SLDC for financial and other support from the Community Led Housing Fund.

9. Public Forum

The following points were raised and noted:

- Parking on the grass verges at the bottom of Lowgate causing obstruction to other vehicles and a safety risk to drivers and pedestrians and well as unsightly conditions.
- A plea that if funds are available the needs of the playing fields are considered for support.

The meeting closed at 9.26pm and light refreshments were offered.

Signed.....(Chairman) Date:

Levens Parish Council

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