

## Ennerdale & Kinniside Parish Council

### The Annual Parish Meeting 2014

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
in St. Mary's Community Centre, Ennerdale Bridge.

**36.05.14: In Attendance:** Cllrs. Wood, Taylor, Johns, Topping, McMullen, Denham-Smith and Shail.

Also in attendance: Cllr. Salkeld (CBC), Peter Maher (The Ennerdale Hub), Judith Brown, seven members of the public & David Smith (Clerk)

**37.05.14: Apologies:** Cllr. Ayling.

**38.05.14: Declarations of Interest:**

Cllrs. Wood, Topping and Johns all declared an interest as shareholders in The Ennerdale Hub Ltd.

**39.05.14: Approval of minutes from the 2013 Annual Parish Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013:**

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Cllr. McMullen

Seconded: Cllr. Shail

The Chair duly signed them.

**40.05.14: Election of the Chair of the Council:**

The Clerk took the Chair of the meeting and asked for nominations for the position of Chair of the Council for the next 12 months.

Cllr. Topping nominated Cllr. Wood for the position of Chair.

Cllr. Denham-Smith seconded the nomination.

All the councillors present supported this nomination.

**41.05.14: Election of Vice-Chair of the Council:**

Cllr. Wood in his role as Chair asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Council for the next twelve months.

Cllr. Denham-Smith nominated Cllr. Topping for the position of Vice-Chair.

Cllr. Johns seconded the nomination.

All councillors present supported this nomination.

**42.05.14: Presentation: The Ennerdale Hub Project: Peter Maher and Judith Brown.**

Peter commenced the presentation by reminding those present of the origins of the project back in 2010 when the Parish Council heard concerns expressed about the loss of services within the village. A village meeting collected a range of ideas that people wanted to see happen in the village and they set up a group to try and make things happen. The PC then commissioned a feasibility study in which the

viability of various ideas were ascertained. The Ennerdale Hub was formed as a Co-operative for community benefit. There are now 217 members.

A follow up meeting coincided with the closure of the Fox and Hounds and those at the meeting felt that re-opening the pub was the first thing that the group should undertake. Eight weeks later the pub was open as the first venture of the Ennerdale Hub Ltd. The pub currently just about breaks even and has resulted in interest in The Ennerdale Hub from Japan to 10 Downing Street.

It was clear early on that the other facilities that people wanted to see in the village, such as a shop, a cafe, a resource centre, could not be based in the pub. The feasibility study highlighted the old Forestry Building as being a possible base and during a further round of public meetings, people felt that refurbishment was not an option and that knocking the building down and starting afresh was the best way forward. After spending some two years developing a Big Lottery bid, including the development of plans and obtaining planning permission, The Ennerdale Hub was awarded £500,000 at the backend of 2013 for the development of the Community Hub on the Forestry site.

Peter explained that there were still issues to be dealt with before the project could move ahead. These include dealing with the Forestry Commission solicitors who were being somewhat difficult in terms of the agreements needed. Before demolition can proceed there is an over-head power cable that needs to be taken down and re-routed and, assuming this matter is dealt with satisfactorily, no work can commence until September when the risk of disturbing nesting birds has gone.

The tendering process for the work to be undertaken has commenced and a contractor will be in place by July 1st. The work is expected to take six or seven months and by March 2015 everything should be in place and ready to open. There will be a formal opening on April 4th 2015.

Judith then explained the community engagement process and the various opportunities that people have had to make their views known. It has become clear over time that people wanted more than just a shop. The visitor economy is seen as being important and a cafe which compliments what happens in the pubs, visitor information, community rooms and space for the Wild Ennerdale project are all seen as being important.

The following questions were asked:

Q: Is there going to be enough parking?

A: Yes, we have doubled the size of the parking area at the front of the building and we have purchased an additional piece of land behind the building to provide a turning circle and staff parking.

Q: How confident are you that you will be able to recruit the 28 volunteers you need to run the shop and the other facilities?

A: This is not going to be easy but we hope to have four members of staff and this will reduce the need for volunteers. If we are short of volunteers then we will have to adjust the opening hours accordingly. Currently we aim to be open from 7.00am to 8.00pm but this might have to change.

Q: What happens if there are some unexpected costs during the building phase?

A: There are funds allocated under 'Contingencies' that we would have to use.

Peter concluded the presentation by saying that the next few months would be a very 'interesting' phase of the project and that the continued support of the Parish Council was much appreciated.

The Chair thanked Peter and Judith for their presentation.

#### **43.05.14: Chairman's Report:**

Cllr. Wood delivered his annual report, given below.

As of April 2013, there were nine Parish councillors. During the year Councillor Oakley tendered her resignation. One of our parishioners, Bridget Johns, offered her services and was duly voted onto the Parish Council. More recently, Councillor Lachlan tendered his resignation. A notice was issued advertising this vacancy and requesting that any parishioner interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, contact the Parish Clerk. This vacancy remains open.

The current Council membership is:

David Wood (Chair), Ian Topping (Deputy Chair), Chris Ayling, Mark Denham-Smith, Bridget Johns, Cath McMullen, Roger Shail and Joan Taylor. The Parish Clerk is David Smith.

During the year, Councillors were actively engaged in and/or were represented on the following community partnership bodies:

1. Cumbria CC West Cumbria Partnership Forum - working on the Sustainable Regional Strategy.
2. The Lake District National Park - contributing to the development of its Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy
3. Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) - ensuring that the best interests and opposition to the siting of a nuclear waste Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) within the Parish, were clearly stated
4. Copeland Borough Council - working together with Borough Councillor Bob Salkeld on maintaining and improving local services whilst delivering the objectives set out in the Corporate Improvement Plan.
5. Regen North East Copeland - delivering the Neighbourhood Action Plan for Cleator Moor and the surrounding rural parishes.
6. The Joint Neighbourhood Forums - on matters of common concern such as local transport, policing, highways, grants for needy local activities etc.
7. The Cold Fell Road Action Group - working with representatives of adjoining Parishes, the Police, Cumbria County Council, the Borough Council Highways Engineer and Sellafeld Ltd to reduce the impact of high volumes of traffic travelling through villages and using unsuitable local roads.
8. The Local Neighbourhood Watch Committee - working with the Neighbourhood Police Force to help keep parishioners and visitors safe from crime and criminal acts.
9. The Wild Ennerdale Partnership - working with the Partners - the Forestry Commission, National Trust, United Utilities and Natural England - to achieve the shared vision for Ennerdale to become a wilder place for the benefit of people and nature.
10. The 217 Local Bus Service - working with adjacent parishes and Cumbria County Council Public Transport to retain the local 217 Bus service to and from Frizington to Cockermouth.
11. Cumbria County Council's "Connecting Cumbria" initiative to connect West Cumbria the Superfast Broadband service.

The Parish Council reviews and may input to planning applications made to LDNPA and to Copeland Borough Council. Two such applications were of particular interest to parishioners.

1. The proposed development of 22 houses in Vicarage Lane. The Parish Council opposed this application.
2. The proposed development of the Ennerdale Hub Community Centre. The Parish Council supported this application with five reservations regarding the detail of the development.

Following Cumbria County Council exercising its Right of Withdrawal from the MRWS process, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has opened consultation into the failings of the MRWS process. DECC issued a consultation document to which the Parish Council responded. There is concern that DECC would diminish the roles of the County Council and Town and Parish Councils, in a revised MRWS process. This matter continues to be closely monitored by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council accounts for the financial year 2013/2014 are being drawn up and will be available and on display, at the Parish Meeting on Wednesday 14th May 2014 at 7.00 pm in St Mary's Community Centre, Ennerdale Bridge.

I wish to record my thanks to my fellow councilors for their support and for their willingness to assume responsibility for the many portfolios making up the work of the Parish Council. My thanks also go to Councillor Topping for taking the role of Chairman during my long absence. Finally, my thanks go to the Parish Clerk, whose efforts and advice have been invaluable to the smooth running of the Parish Council.

**44.05.14: The End of Year Accounts:**

The Clerk presented the End of Year Accounts and talked those present through the figures. Total income during the year was £4,128.70p. Total expenditure was £2,797.05p. Together with the balance brought forward from the previous financial year, £11,328.11p, the balance of the main Parish Council account on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2014 was £12,659.76p. In the Business Reserve Account there was £224.69p thus giving a total balance of £12,884.45p. The figures had been checked and agreed by Carole Carre (FCA), the internal auditor. There were no questions from those present. The End of Year accounts were formally agreed by the councillors present, together with the annual governance statement contained within the external audit form as completed by the Chair and the Clerk.

The meeting ended at 7.50pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

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