

SATTERTHWAITE PARISH COUNCIL

Reference No: **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2006**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 15th May 2006 at 7-30pm in the Parish Room, Satterthwaite.

Present

Mr P. Townsend (Chairman), Mr P. Brady, Mr R. Bruce.
P. C. D. Hall (Cumbria Constabulary)
Mr T. Hill, Mr D. Robinson, Mr J. Deavin (LDNPA)
Mr E. Collins (Satterthwaite PCC)
Mrs H. Collins (Rusland and District WI)
Mr A. Wilson (Satterthwaite & Rusland School)
Mr J. Clarkson (Forestry Commission)
Mr A. Stoker (First Responders)
Ms E. Pollock (Friends of Grizedale Forest)
Mrs J. Stoker, Ms J. Pollock, Mrs B. Kirkland, Ms P. Kirkland (Members of the public)
The Clerk

1. **Apologies**
Mr T. Gill (Bereavement), Mrs E. Cringle

2. **Minutes**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd May 2005 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Parish Reports

i) Chairman of the Parish Council (Mr P. Townsend)

- The Council has met 9 times, with attendance by Councillors being consistent. No Councillors have left or joined. Dr S. Tiplady continues as Clerk. Public attendance has been quite high and debates have been engaged and at times lively.
- Debates have taken place on a wide range of issues, including road maintenance, drainage, dog fouling, litter, road signs, wheelie bins, speed limits, unauthorised development, off-roading, affordable housing, car parking, quality parish status, web sites and planning issues.
- Discussion has probably outweighed outcome and action, although action has been achieved on some village lanes and drainage, and the Council did decide against quality parish status and a website after presentations from relevant bodies. The Council is now a participant in the car parking scheme at Hawkshead. Parking in the village is more problematic and only private action will alleviate congestion.
- The introduction of speed limits is ongoing. The problems of litter and dog fouling may never be resolved.
- Off-roaders are now curtailed by the new Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act.
- The planning application for the Grizedale Project in December has overshadowed the Council's work and parish ever since and has had a great impact on the community. The project is now approved and the Council will continue to monitor the development.
- Costs have been kept down and the precept on the Council Tax has not risen. The Clerk and the internal auditor Sue Gardiner of the F.C. were thanked for their fiscal management.
- The Councillors were thanked for their support.

ii) Cumbria Constabulary (P. C. Hall)

- 10 crimes affected the parish this year, half being burglaries of business premises at Grizedale. There has been no violent crime or domestic burglaries.
- Poaching continues to be a problem and joint working with the South Lakes Group and other forces in the north west is underway to catch the perpetrators. Anyone with information is asked to 'phone the police. These are rural criminals who are likely to commit other crimes.
- The amalgamation of the Cumbria and Lancashire forces has been put on hold because of issue of Council Tax. This region should see very little change in policing.

Q Is poaching entirely deer or are sheep taken?

A Sheep rustling is a different crime. None has been reported here.

iii) Lake District National Park Authority (Mr T.Hill, Mr D.robinson & Mr J Deavin)

- Introduced the Voluntary Ranger, John Deavin, for this area. He carries out Rights of Way patrols, surveys and repairs. A lot of good work has been carried out in Claife and Hawkshead, now concentrating on footpath repairs, including bridges, in Satterthwaite and Colton.
- Tony Hill is now covering two ranger areas - Broughton and Coniston as well as this one.
- Recreational off road driving has been curtailed by the new Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act which came into force on 2nd May. It will be some time before all signs are changed to reflect the new status of routes. The road signs near Parkmoor will be removed. Only two routes in the parish - Grizedale to Esthwaite, and Force Mill to Thwaite Head, are still open.
- Trail bikes are going on private land, footpaths and bridleways. It is very difficult to catch them. Please report any illegal activity.

Q Can the forestry Commission assist by removing the existing motor bike and car signs?
A Wait until after the meeting on 8th June when new types of sign will be agreed.

Q Does this mean there will be additional signs saying the old signs don't apply anymore?
A No. New signage for the whole country will be agreed and the old signs removed.

iv) Forestry Commission (Mr J.Clarkson)

- Windblow of January 2005 has only just been cleared, the last at Bogle Cragg. Work will be back to a normal felling programme soon. The general idea is to increase deciduous woodland using natural regeneration and fencing, and making the forest appear more natural by moving away from clear fell to continuous cover. Deer management is continuing and having a big effect on regeneration.
- New mountain bike trails have opened and are over-popular at the moment. The proposed additional track on the east side of the forest has been dropped.
- 'Go Ape' is thriving. A group from Guide Dogs for the Blind were given use for free recently.
- There will be more walking and sculpture trails. Grizedale Arts has moved to Lawson Park and there is a new arts strategy. Works will be brought in on a temporary basis, feedback would be useful.
- There is a new visitor pack containing all cycling, walking and sculpture trails, with information on wildlife and history.
- On the education side they are trying to move away from general visits to more focussed activities such as conservation and arts.
- During the next 12 months a new recreation strategy will be written, covering the next 5-10 years. This will need local input and consultation, and will hopefully help avoid problems such as those with the Grizedale Project.

Q Is the FC involved with the John Muir Award?
A Yes.

Q The new sculpture at Bogle Cragg has been described as sadistic and unpleasant. Is it worth having an arts statement?

A This may be useful. The art is not there to shock. It should also have links to the forest. A commemorative piece for the closure of the school is planned.

Q There is a beech tree at Bogle Cragg with a carving of a German soldier. Will it be preserved?
A It is difficult to preserve. The FC deliberately does not tell people about it. Good quality photographs have been taken.

Q People are in favour of natural regeneration but sometimes help is needed, otherwise it becomes silver birch woodland. Are you planning to add new species?

A Yes. Some intervention will be needed in some areas. The FC hopes to get children involved in selecting and planting trees.

v) Rusland and District Women's Institute (Mrs H.Collins)

- Another successful year for the WI with 21 members.
- Meetings open with business matters, then there is a speaker, then refreshments. Recent talks have been on Levens Hall gardens and a cookery demonstration by Jean Crabtree.
- The Annual Safari supper was up to its usual standard and helps keep the WI financially sound.
- The Christmas Carol evening raised £500.
- Members are involved in so many activities there are not enough weeks in the year to enjoy everything.

Q Are membership numbers constant?

A Yes. Although people leave there are always new members to replace them.

vi) Cumbria County Council (Mr O. Pearson)

Mr Pearson was unable to attend.

vii) South Lakeland District Council (Mr Jenkinson)

Mr Jenkinson was unable to attend.

viii) Parochial Church Council (Mr E. Collins)

- There is now an interregnum. It is hoped that a new minister will be appointed by October but it could take until next year. This is an opportunity to have services taken by different ministers.
- The congregation is small but swells on special occasions such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest. Compared to church attendance in the country as a whole it is doing well.
- Two-thirds of its annual income goes to the church authorities, to the sum of £5000. As a result, there has to be a continuous series of fund-raising events.

ix) Satterthwaite and Rusland Church of England Primary School (Mr A. Wilson)

- The first thought was to fight the school closure, but it was decided instead to have one last good year with the children before they go to Leven Valley School.
- There have been lots of visits and trips to places such as the Beacon at Whitehaven and Weatheral Pottery. They were taken to Kielder water for a week's camping. A film is being made.
- There will be a celebratory event on Saturday 1st July for all residents, and present and former pupils of the school. There will be a marquee. The event will open at 3pm and go on until 11pm. Spread the word.
- Thanks were expressed to the local community for their support over the years.

Q Will you preserve any archive material.

A Yes.

x) Satterthwaite Recreation and Play Area (Mr Townsend)

- The playground has had a committee of one for the past year.
- The main expense of insurance has been reduced from £559 to £267. The BBQ made £279 and tennis key sales were consistent with previous years.
- The services of the grass cutter have been lost. Mr Townsend has managed to keep the grass cut.
- The annual safety inspection went off without any major issues, but the slide will need to be replaced shortly at a cost of circa £3000.
- Looking forward, things are not encouraging and some tough decisions are going to have to be made. There is a lack of children in the village, there is a dramatic reduction in sale of tennis court keys, the lack of volunteers to run the playground is a problem, the cost of new equipment is prohibitive, and the mower may need to be replaced. These problems need to be debated by parishioners.

Q Is it a drain on local finance and could the money be put to better use?

A It is not subsidised by local people to any great extent. The money comes from the BBQ and the sale of tennis court keys.

Q What about a donations box?

A There was one some years ago but it collected very little and was vandalised.

xi) First Responders (Mr Stoker)

- There seems to be a lack of understanding about what First Responders does, how it works, and how it is funded.
- It is a branch of Hawkshead and there are six volunteers: Janet Dobson, Becky Bruce, David Higgs, Arthur Threlkeld, Tim Gill and Andrew Stoker. They cover an area from Moor Top to Rusland Hall, and include Dale Park and Graythwaite.
- They deal purely with heart and respiratory problems. They give treatment until an ambulance arrives.
- They are contacted by pager. The equipment is stored behind the pub.
- It is not a guaranteed service.
- A kit bag costs circa £2000. The pagers are the main expenditure at £1440 per year for six. New pagers will be £400 per year. Funding is from donations and events. Last year it broke even.
- They should be carrying oxygen equipment soon.

Q How many times have you been called out?

A Since September 2004 there have been 5 call-outs with 2 mis-calls for Grizedale/Grizebeck.

xii) Friends of Grizedale Forest (Ms Pollock)

- There are 33 members, mainly from Satterthwaite, Hawkshead and Rusland.
- They have spoken out against the Grizedale Project and know they represent 320 people. They have a small fund and a website.
- Their aim is based on regard for the environment and the need to help preserve the unique things in Grizedale Forest, both for locals and visitors.
- Their objective is to have a Public Enquiry into the Grizedale Project, because of major concerns about transport issues and excessive use of the road system.
- They have a role in disseminating information on future projects and are working with other groups such as Rural Regeneration Cumbria.
- They are a recognised and available consultative body for Grizedale Forest.

4. Open Forum

Q According to the Westmorland Gazette lengthsmen are to be reinstated. Would the Council be interested.?

A The Council has no knowledge of this and would need to know how it was to be funded.

Q Someone in the village is prepared to set up a website for the Council. Will the Council consider this?

A It will be put on the next agenda.

5. Date of Next Meeting

Annual Parish Council Meeting Immediately after the end of this meeting.

The meeting closed at 9-00pm.