

# Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting

Held 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

## 1. Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022

The minutes were accepted at the Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022

## 2. Chairmans Report

### Planning

There were several domestic applications approved this year along with comments both for and against. The contentious planning applications were generally commercial & industrial; they included the 300 Houses at Harker to which the PC strenuously objected, the RDF facility at Hespín Wood, the Incinerator at Kingmoor, the RDF 24/7 operating request, the expansion of NWR and the public consultations on the two Pyrolysis plants. Commercial waste planning has been elevated to Parliament such is the opinion in the Parish against these developments.

### Environmental

We have completed our annual village litter pick, the Eden riverbank had previously been addressed by Castletown and already looked good as a result. As expected, commercial waste from Rockcliffe to Aero nurseries, Rockcliffe to Cargo, Aero nurseries to Hespín Wood, Hespín Wood to Metal Bridge and Rockcliffe to Hespín Wood has featured constantly throughout 2022-23. Commercial waste littering has been elevated to Parliament by both residents and the PC.

Unfortunately 2022/23 has also experienced at least two occasions of leachate pollution into the River Eden from the Kingmoor Industrial Estate, this was elevated to the Environment Agency who were monitoring it.

NWR have featured throughout the year with several processed plastic spills, questionable deposits of mixed waste at Cargo farm & the deposition of mud on the road from their facility to Cargo. These have been elevated from the City to County Council and to Parliament.

There have been several occasions of excess noise pollution from the Hespín Wood site during 2022-23 during unsociable hours. The noises can be classified into two groups, a low resonance cyclic grinding noise (from Renewi) and the sounds from heavy mechanised plant operations (across site).

### Roadways & Traffic

On one occasion the village was subject to rerouting of all traffic through the village due to an M6 closure. The church wall was damaged by HGV's consolidating our concerns that the Village roads are unsuitable for HGV's. Generally however, as a council we are discussing HGV traffic coming into the village less.

Signage at Lonningfoot was resolved inhouse, the sign at Floriston subject to regular vehicular collision remains a constant safety concern and the sign at Shapwath are both under review by the Cumberland council.

The PC have elevated concerns of increased traffic as a result of the RDF plant, RDF 24/7 operating request and the Kingmoor Incinerator through the planning channels. The PC are also aware of Parishioners whom have raised this at Parliamentary levels.

Potholes have been reported along with substandard road repairs. The subterranean power cable from Harker to NWR tarmac that subsided within months was reported and repaired in 2022-23.

### **Grants**

As with previous years we have supported St Mary's church with a grant towards the upkeep of the churchyard. Rockcliffe Parish Council receives an annual grant from the Beckburn Wind Farm and can allocate up to £2000 for community projects.

Examples of projects supported are the Bonfire celebrations, Xmas tree, Heathlands Bee club, Edenlyne news, & the Rockcliffe Centre. Larger grants can be applied for by contacting Cumbria Community Foundation and click on Beckburn. Education grants are available for 6th form travel to Carlisle. University students can receive an annual grant to assist with study costs. Apply to Cumbria Community Foundation, Beckburn fund.

### **Extraordinary Activity**

#### QEII death

Sadly Queen Elizabeth II died of old age at 15:10 BST on 8 September 2022 at the age of 96, ending her 70-year reign. Parishioners celebrated her life and dedicated service to our country at the Village Green, In the Community centre & at the Crown & Thistle. In memory to her majesty, an ongoing fundraising is "live" to purchase & erect a pagoda of sorts to be sited in St Mary's grounds on the path leading to the church door.

#### Cumberland Unitary council

Cumberland Council is the local authority for Cumberland in England. It is a unitary authority, having the powers of a non-metropolitan county and district council combined. It was first elected in May 2022 and operated as a shadow authority until taking up its powers on 1 April 2023. Our primary point of contact is Cllr Tim Pickstone (Lib Dem Longtown)

#### Thank you to Hazel Graham & Stephen Barbour

I huge thank you to both Hazel & Stephen for their sterling support to the Parish. Hazel has been a Parish Councillor for in excess of 20 years, and has contributed in maintaining our village way of life consistently since taking post. A huge loss to the council, Hazel has brought "balance" and a wealth of financial know-how to our meetings. Stephen has offered rural expertise, and despite only serving for a couple of years, his support will be missed – especially his pyrotechnic skills when it comes to setting the damp Village bonfires alight.

#### Parish Council Local Election / Vacancies to co-opt Councillors

There is no requirement to hold local elections on the 4<sup>th</sup> May due to insufficient candidates. To the contrary, the Parish Council will be looking to co-opt eligible Parishioners willing to serve. Existing Councillors may nominate or second one candidate, each candidate needs to receive an absolute majority of votes. The Chairman will then place the names of those nominated into alphabetical order and proceed to vote. Councillors will have one vote per vacancy to be filled.

I am hopeful of volunteers from across the Parish to join our team of Councillors, so we may truly represent all our Parishioners from Harker to Todhills without prejudice.

#### King Charles III Coronation

The coronation of Charles III and his wife, Camilla, as king and queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms is scheduled to take place on Saturday, 6 May 2023, at Westminster Abbey. Charles acceded to the throne on 8 September 2022, upon the death of his mother, Elizabeth II.

The Parish of Rockcliffe will celebrate the Coronation in the usual manner, the PC are looking to procure a Coronation bench made from recycled plastic – the siting of which is still to be decided. In addition the PC will purchase 200 memorial mugs to be distributed FOC to eligible children with the surplus for general sale during the Coronation celebrations.

#### UK Coastal Path

The England Coast Path is a new walking route that will follow the entire coast of England. For the first time people will have the right of access around all our open coast. This includes – where appropriate – any land, other than the trail itself, which forms part of the Coastal Margin.

On 9 May 2022, Natural England submitted a report to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs setting out proposed changes to the approved route of the England Coast Path at Esk Boathouse, Castletown in Cumbria, a section of the Gretna to Allonby stretch.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1073174/variation-report-vr10-esk-boathouse-castletown.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1073174/variation-report-vr10-esk-boathouse-castletown.pdf)

During the past year obvious improvements have been made from Cargo to Rockcliffe, the route from Rockcliffe to Metal Bridge is still under construction (see link above).

#### **In Conclusion**

This is the first year I have served as Chair, and would like to thank each and every councillor for their support; no one individual has contributed more or less than any other. Our newer Councillors are contributing more than ever; examples of this include the Christmas Carol service at the Village Christmas Tree, the Tree itself, the Bonfire & Firework display, the Bonfire BBQ, the Christmas Mulled Wine, the Village Rounders, Village Golf, the Village Green improvements, the planters by the Village signs, representing the PC at work day meetings at Kingmoor & Hespin Wood, maintaining Public Footpaths etc the list goes on.

Behind the scenes the amount of work going on to keep our Parish a wonderful place to live shouldn't be underestimated, neither should our achievements. As a Parish Council, our diversity is our strength, and our dedication to serving our Parishioners is obvious.

Thank you all

Geoff Moss

Chair Rockcliffe Parish Council

**3. Open Forum**

Residents of the Parish are invited to discuss Parish matters.

**4. Date of next meeting** – the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024, at Rockcliffe Community Centre 7.00pm before the Parish Council Annual Meeting

**Lesley Faulder**

Clerk/RFO to Rockcliffe Parish Council