

**Claife Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Virtual Meeting held via Zoom 06-04-21 at 7.30pm**

**Attendees:** Acting Chair Cllr Brodie  
Cllr Hilton; Cllr Lennon; Cllr Wyburn  
District Cllr Coward; John Moffat, NT  
Clerk: J. Heather  
3 members of the public

- 050/2021 1. Acting Chair  
**RESOLVED:** Cllr Lennon formally proposed Cllr Brodie as Acting Chair for this meeting; Cllr Hilton seconded.
- 051/2021 2. Apologies  
Apologies were received from District Cllr Wharton who is recovering from surgery
- 052/2021 3. Requests for dispensations  
No requests were received.
- 053/2021 4. Declarations of Interest  
No declarations of interest.
- 054/2021 5. Minutes  
**RESOLVED:** Cllrs approved the minutes from 23.02.21 as a true record.
- 055/2021 6. Public Participation

The **police report** for the High Furness area for March includes an awareness campaign for sheep worrying and the police can provide posters for livestock owners – contact details have been passed on to local farmers. For other issues, contact the police at [101Emails@cumbria.police.uk](mailto:101Emails@cumbria.police.uk) or by calling 101, and always use 999 for emergencies.

A **National Trust** report was received. At **Ash Landing**, parking has always been permitted, work is currently ongoing to stop drivers damaging trees and tree roots. The NT feel powerless to stop visitors parking where they wish; word spreads rapidly on social media of free places to park and NT cannot control this or prevent access, so they are aiming to protect the trees. **A member of the public** raised concerns about an influx of recent visitors: there has been fly camping with tents, barbeques, fires, no toilet facilities - 6 vehicles were observed over Easter for 4 nights, which contravened current lockdown legislation. The NT responded that it is practically impossible to stop campervans and camping, the police have very limited powers and the area is not closed off, so the NT have “accepted that overnight camping will happen”. The member of the public commented that this is not aligned with the published NT policy which asks visitors to be discreet and camp away from lakeshores and sensitive nature areas. Closing off access to Ash Landing would save the NT time and money. **Cllr Lennon** expressed sympathy with the NT’s position and stated that these are unprecedented times, and the campervan population has expanded dramatically in recent years. **Cllr Brodie** suggested that the Ash Landing access could be changed to bridleway status, and asked directly why access to Ash Landing could not be blocked? The NT response was that blocking access would simply move the problem elsewhere and that bridleway status “was a long way down the priority list.”

**Harrowslack:** **A member of the public** stated that the suggestion to put vehicle ANPR at Harrowslack was with the intent of raising funds to pay for reparations and also as a deterrent to those visitors unwilling to pay for the 2 existing NT carparks. NT stated that as this area is not a carpark, it cannot be charged for, and the farming tenant does not want to set up a pop-up carpark this summer. The measures that have been put in place at Harrowslack are designed to minimise the impact for the residents of the Harrowslack cottages, and to minimise impact to the land and wildlife. **Cllr Brodie** commented that it is clear that the bunds are not working, but that there is no easy solution and that all should continue to monitor and report

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anti-social behaviour. An email from another **member of the public** has reported that visitor vehicles have been observed driving at speed along the Windermere West Shore path between Red Nab and Strawberry Gardens and asked whether the gates at both ends could be locked. The NT responded that the gates are not locked because Claife parishioners have wished to retain right of access, and additionally, although the vast majority of visitors are well-behaved and respectful, previous experience of trying to shut off areas to the public has shown that the most determined people come with chainsaws and shovels to gain the access they want. Visitors are often misdirected by SatNav in this area and the “Road to Ferry” signage in Wray is misleading, encouraging drivers to follow the road to Red Nab. Cllr Brodie stated that the question of adding gates could not be resolved at this meeting but could be added to the agenda of a future meeting, and that if considered appropriate for Windermere shore, they could also be considered appropriate for Ash Landing.

**RESOLVED: Clerk** to add to a future agenda, consideration of gates at Belle Grange and Strawberry Gardens on the West shore path, and also at Ash Landing.

General NT update: Hill Top garden is open, the shop opens from 12/4; Claife courtyard and Wray Castle cafes open in the next 2-3 weeks with a new partner; indoor facilities and campsites reopen 17/5. There are no plans for pods or campsites at Harrowslack. Paul Farrington is the contact for volunteers to help with litter picking.

**Dist Cllr Coward** offered thanks to NT as these problems are happening in all parishes. She referenced Dist Cllr Wharton’s report on the resumption of [www.saferlakes.co.uk](http://www.saferlakes.co.uk) patrols over Easter weekend and commented that the multi-agency approach has gone from reactive in summer 2020 to proactive and is now working together well. Issues should be reported to [101email@cumbria.police.co.uk](mailto:101email@cumbria.police.co.uk) and [cvalerts@lakedistrict.gov.uk](mailto:cvalerts@lakedistrict.gov.uk) .

**ACTION: Clerk** to add these email addresses to the News and Events section of the website, and to ensure added to the Claife noticeboards.

Consultation on the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is ongoing and parishioners are urged to comment. 4 options are under consideration: 2 that split Cumbria into two authorities (East-West and North-South), 1 unitary authority merging the District and County Councils, and the Bay proposal, which is supported by SLDC. Consultation closes 19<sup>th</sup> April and the link is <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/governance-reform-and-democracy/cumbria/>.

SLDC is supporting the “Greening South Lakeland” initiative which is a stepwise approach to promote local engagement at household level – an audit is ongoing to capture all environmental initiatives across the parishes.

Parishioners are encouraged to use SLDC’s Customer Connect online service to request SLDC services, e.g. bin collection. Each parishioner can set up their own personal account.

## 7. Update on Ongoing Issues and/or Actions from Last Meeting

### 056/2021 7.1 To update on progress for the parish elections

**RESOLVED:** Nominations have been submitted for Cllrs Brodie, Hilton, Lennon & Wyburn. One further candidate has been nominated. The final list of candidates will be published by SLDC on 9<sup>th</sup> April.

**ACTION: Clerk** to distribute final list to Cllrs for noticeboards.

### 057/2021 7.2 To update on broadband provision in the parish.

**RESOLVED: Cllr Hilton** provided an update. B4RN making great strides forward. Currently contacting landowners to get wayleave agreements in principle. Parishioners and businesses to be encouraged to sign up – the service is significantly faster and cheaper than Openreach and should enhance property value. Poor broadband has hindered people’s plans to live and work remotely in the parish.

**ACTION: Cllr Hilton** to contact the Chair of the Claife B4RN volunteer group to encourage moving forward.

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- 058/2021 7.3 To report on action regarding the deteriorating footpath in Wray  
**RESOLVED:** The footpath between The Cottage and High Wray Bank is only suitable for wellies. NT advise that this is an LDNPA public right of way.  
**ACTION:** Clerk to write to Sara Spicer at LDNPA to raise the issue.
- 059/2021 7.4 To consider a request by Ambleside Action for a Future (AAFAP) to support Keswick Town Council in asking CCC to conduct a feasibility study into a possible sustainability charge for visiting vehicles.  
**RESOLVED:** Cllr Wyburn reported that AAFAP are concerned about traffic increase in Cumbria due to visitors as the county has a large road network per head of population, but limited funds. The sustainability charge would not be for vehicles registered to residents or local businesses. Cllrs supported the request.  
**ACTION:** Cllr Wyburn to write to CCC on behalf of the parish council.
- 060/2021 7.5 To consider a response to the Audit of Environmental Initiatives for Broughton & Coniston Ward  
**RESOLVED:** At the invitation of Hannah Girvan SLDC Sustainability Coordinator, Cllr Wyburn has booked to attend the training webinar run by Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS) on the science and solutions of climate change.
- 061/2021 7.6 To update on recruitment of a new Clerk  
**RESOLVED:** Cllrs approved the job description and advertisement circulated by the clerk, with a small change to the start date.  
**ACTION:** Clerk to prepare a short version for the May Esthwaite Link and the parish noticeboards, to publish the full version on the website and ask CALC to circulate.

## 8. Planning Applications

To note the council's informal response to the following applications received between meetings:

- 062/2021 8.1 07/2020/5861 at Croft Meadow House, North Lonsdale Rd, Hawkshead  
**RESOLVED:** The council had no objection this application.
- 063/2021 8.2 07/2021/5137 Flat 1, Dub How Farm, Near Sawrey, LA22 0LE  
**RESOLVED:** The council had no objection to this application.
- 064/2021 T/2021/0055 Wilfin Cottage, Far Sawrey, LA22 0LQ  
**RESOLVED:** The council had no objection to this application.

To consider the council's response to the following applications:

- 065/2021 8.3 07/2021/5146 The Boathouse, North Side Cunsey Beck, Cunsey, Ambleside  
**RESOLVED:** The council did not object to this application but seek a modification to reduce the risk of light pollution. The development as proposed adds significant glazing on the waterfront and this could add to light pollution that interferes with wildlife and the Dark Skies initiative. Council request that the LDNPA insist on the use of tinted glass and the use of shutters at night and when not in use.
- 066/2021 8.4 T/2021/0047 Church Cottage, Far Sawrey, Ambleside LA22 0LH  
**RESOLVED:** The council had no objection to this application.
- 067/2021 8.5 07/2021/5236 High Wray Bank, High Wray, Ambleside LA22 0JD  
**RESOLVED:** The council supports this application.
- 068/2021 8.6 Byelaw exemption for Waterbird, Lakes Flying Company, 21.09-24.09.21  
**RESOLVED:** The council had no objection to this application.  
**ACTION:** Clerk to convey these responses to the planning authorities.

## 9. Highways Matters

- 069/2021 9.1 To report on the request for an additional grit bin in Wray.  
**RESOLVED:** The clerk reported that the grit bin can be requested from CCC when the location is finalised. Cllr Lennon advised that the preferred location is at the entrance to Base Camp Road in Wray.

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**ACTION: Cllr Lennon** to provide detailed location; **Clerk** to contact Better Highways.

070/2021 10. Windermere Ferry

10.1 To report on the Ferry Advisory Group meeting held 03.03.21.

**Cllr Brodie** had shared her report with Cllrs ahead of the meeting, and highlighted the following points: her primary concern is that despite confirming CCC's intent to appoint a technical expert to support the whole process, Karl Melville, Highways Senior Manager, is gaining information directly from ferry manufacturers and using this to define the future ferry requirements despite not being qualified in this field. His statement that the new ferry will have onboard public toilet facilities for use on a ferry with a crossing time of 5 minutes, was particularly surprising. It is deeply concerning that CCC have not already appointed an expert to guide them through the process and will press County Cllr Brereton and Dist Cllr Wharton to follow that up with South Lakes Local Committee (SLLC) and CCC Cabinet. CCC have finally agreed to allow all emergency service vehicles to access ferry for free, and this will be changed on the website. Furthermore, the lack of data provided to the FAG is unacceptable: only one headline figure on ferry income, no detailed service outage record or passenger data is supplied. Decisions will be ill-informed without this data. Also, the draft minutes from the previous meeting are always circulated very late. New highways information signs, to be installed Spring 2021, will display alternative routes if ferry service is suspended. A webcam may be installed at Ferry Nab but there is not yet a guarantee that when the Freshwater Biological Association (FBA) withdraw from Ferry House, CCC will take over operation of the FBA Ferry House webcam.

**Cllr Lennon** asked what can be done to address these concerns? Cllr Brodie responded that we need to encourage County Cllr Brereton and Dist Cllr Wharton to put pressure on SLLC and CCC Cabinet.

**Cllr Brodie** also advised that she is keeping Hawkshead PC informed and has asked if there is an HPC Cllr willing to take on the role as Hawkshead/Claife's representative.

071/2021 11. Councillor Matters

**Cllr Lennon** reported a parishioner's concerns that a holiday home had lots of lights on over Easter causing light pollution and asked how to address the issue. **Cllr Brodie** advised to first confirm the degree of light pollution, then engage with the property owner to advise of impact on neighbours and the Dark Skies Initiative. **Cllr Hilton** suggested putting a piece in the Link to raise awareness of the DS initiative. **Cllr Wyburn** noted that there will be a "big switch off" in Ambleside on 10.04.21 from 9pm, including street lighting and businesses, to support the DS initiative.

**ACTION: Cllrs Brodie & Wyburn** to put together a Link entry.

072/2021 12. Matters Arising

12.1 To express regret at the passing of a former Parish Councillor, Rachael Milling

**RESOLVED:** Cllrs expressed their regrets and remembered Cllr Milling as someone who worked to help those less fortunate than herself including setting up local foodbanks and the green Esthwaite Link initiative. **ACTION: Cllr Wyburn** to write to Cllr Milling's spouse and express the Council's condolences.

073/2021 13. Financial Matters

13.1 Cllrs noted that the bank balance at 28<sup>th</sup> February stood at £9150.47

13.2 To note receipt of the annual rent for Chapel Cottage, £10, and donation from Mr McGregor fund for upkeep of the defibrillators, £132.

**RESOLVED:** Cllrs noted receipt, with thanks for the donation.

13.3 **RESOLVED:** The following payments were authorised:

- Clerk's 2 month's salary and 9 hrs overtime (Feb-Apr) £331.32
- Clerk's expenses (2 months' Zoom subscription; office expenses) £63.36
- Defibrillator payment to Community Heartbeat Trust £72.00

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- Annual Information Commissioner’s Fee £40.00
- Treework expenses £1470.00

074/2021 Correspondence – 24.02.21-06.04.21

*To note the following correspondence received since the last meeting (items requiring action are in italics):*  
 CALC – 26/2 Letter to parish councils; NACO Protocols marking the death of a senior national figure; CALC Newsletter 02-03/21; CALC Event 18/3 Joining Instructions; Parish Member Election to the LDNPA; Follow up information from the LGR; CALC Member survey 2021; Allerdale BC and Copeland BC Proposal on LGR; Wildlife jobs in Cumbria; EPC2-21 – Model Design Code; 26/2 Friday round-up; NALC Legal Update -02/21; Roots of Remembrance; Briefing note for Parish Council Chairs; Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership update email; 19/3, 26/3 Friday roundup; ACT Gazette Spring 2021; Cost of replacement bus shelters; CCC Environment Fund & Green Recovery; National Free Webinar – crisis communications; CALC & CCC Annual Meeting; Agenda & supporting docs for the CALC meeting 4/3; Carbon calculator for parishes; Slides for Nature recovery even 25/2; CALC LGR online event; Joining instructions for virtual LGR presentation; Cumbria in Bloom March Newsletter; Focus on Funding update 16/3; *Preparing for Face to Face meetings*; 26/3 *Remote meetings update*; 30/3 *Government Call for Evidence on Remote Meetings*; Auditor Guidance for AGAR Star Council Awards 2021; Information on the re-opening of village halls from ACT; ACT News update; 31/3 NW Coastal Access Update; 30/3 Cumbria Arts & Culture Network; 31/3 Cumbria in Bloom Newsletter; Practitioners Guide 2021; Calor Gas – Applications are now open!, 3 weeks to go until applications close; CCC Highways – A big thank you, Highways Feedback Survey Result and Reports; CCC South Lakeland Area Support – The Friendship Club; COVID-19 information & useful information; The Young Persons Opportunity Fund; Community Leaders Pack; Cumbria CVS and LDNPA; Community Resilience Briefing – Spring 2021; Cumbria VCFSE Sector Survey 2021. Cumbria Police – Weekly COVID-19 updates; Monthly newsletters Lakes & Lakes Rural; Ulverston & Furness; 12/3 Poaching; 18/3 Sheep Worrying Signs; Eden DC – Cumbria LGR; Friends of the Lake District – Weekly “Postcards”; Hawkshead Parish Council – Agenda 16/3; Minutes 16/2, 16/3; Agenda extra-ordinary meeting 30/3. HMRC - Business Help and Support E-mails; LDNPA Planning – 07/2021/5062 – Croft Foot, Colthouse – Inform (Granted), 07/2021/5147 Gillbank, Colthouse, - Inform (Prior Approval Not Required), Creation of BWs 510041 & 510042 alongside B5285 between Hawkshead and Near Sawrey, 07/2021/5137 Flat 1 Dub How Farm, Near Sawrey – Inform (Granted); Member of the Public – 23/3 & 26/3 Ash Landing, 6/4 Wray Castle to Claife along the shoreline; Parish Online – News & Updates; *PKF Littlejohn – CU0060 Claife PC – 2020/21 AGAR external auditor instructions*; Rural Services Network – Monthly Funding Digests; Weekly Rural Bulletins; SLDC – Weekly list of licence applications 26/2, 12/3, 19/3, 26/3; New Declarations of Interest; LGR in Cumbria - The Bay & North Cumbria; Forthcoming CAFS Events; SLDC Council Meeting 23/3; SLDC Locality Services March Newsletter; Climate Science and Solutions 101; All member briefing note; Briefing note: Street marshals and reopening high streets; SLDC News Releases - <https://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/news/>

075/2021 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the council will be held **AT THE BRAITHWAITE HALL** on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May. The annual parish meeting will be held at 7.00pm and the annual meeting at 7.30pm. Post-meeting note: these meetings have been moved to Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May at the same times.

Meeting closed 9.45pm.

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 Signed & Approved by (Chair)

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