

**Claife Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at High Wray Village Hall**  
**At 7.00 pm on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022**

**Attendees:** Parish Councillors A Brodie (Chair), S Hilton, K Keighley, P Lennon (Vice Chair), J Whitworth, M Wyburn, Parish Clerk L Prescott, Mr J Moffat (National Trust) & 1 member of the public.

030/2022 **Welcome**

Councillor Brodie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

031/2022 **Minutes**

**Resolved** To approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

032/2022 **Chair's Report**

Councillor Brodie reported:

- This year our parish continued to experience a rise in visitor numbers over the Summer of 2021 as covid travel restrictions remained in place. Management of pop-up camping and fly camping was better prepared for than the previous year but there were still issues with litter and traffic.
- The most significant events occurred in November and January. Storms Arwen, Malik and Corrie uprooted trees and resulted in associated power outages, loss of land line and mobile telephone signal, and internet. Power outages at High Wray were particularly prolonged and affected not only lighting and heating but also the mains water supply which relies on an electric pump to get water to the village. Councillors and residents rallied to support their neighbours, but it was a stark reminder of how reliant we are on electricity. Wood stoves, battery powered radios and lamps, and candles became essential household items again. The location of an emergency resilience centre based in Hawkshead was supported.
- The lifting of covid restrictions allowed face to face meetings again. Your Council was disappointed that the option to have occasional digital meetings was not permitted by the Government as there are several advantages in doing so. There is no need to travel to a venue and there is a consequent saving of time which may encourage or enable some people to attend who would or could not otherwise.
- A priority of the Community Led Plan of 2013 was to improve internet services. Progress has been piecemeal. Last year, your Councillors put a huge effort into working with B4RN (Broadband for the Rural North) to provide superfast broadband to residents of Claife and neighbouring areas. Disappointingly, the government withdrew the voucher scheme which would have helped these efforts to succeed. The scheme may return after August 2022 when it will be clear whether national suppliers such as British Telecom are prepared to provide a service to the more sparsely populated areas such as ours. B4RN may be back! Fingers crossed.
- Depopulation of Claife seems to have accelerated this year as older, long-standing residents move to be closer to family members or accommodation more suitable to meet their needs. Due to increasing property prices and demand for rural holiday lets and 2nd homes in beautiful places the need for long term, affordable, rented property has never been more evident.
- This year we were pleased to welcome a new Councillor with a younger perspective, Katie Keighley, to represent the Lower Ward. We hope more young people will consider putting themselves forward for co-option as the opportunities arise.

033/2022 **Representative's Reports**

a) The Braithwaite Hall Trust

Councillor Hilton reported that electrical works and a new storage shed are planned for this year as well as maintenance of the lawn. Bookings for the hall are now increasing and the income from the car park has increased.

b) Hawkshead Market Hall Trust

Councillor Hilton reported that the pillars have been removed from the Market Hall. The Chair is moving from the area so a replacement will need to be appointed.

c) Hawkshead Grammar School Foundation

Roger Bonham provided a written report, read by the Clerk:

- The grant programme continues to have good take up amongst the young people of the area. In 2021 they gave grants to 20 young people, 12 for university, 6 for 16-18 transportation, and 2 vocational. 4 of the grants went to Claife young people. They should be able to continue to run the programme at the same level for the next few years.
- The Museum has undergone a rethink after a disappointing 2021. Taken guidance from other local small museums and Wordsworth venues. Exhibitions have been refreshed, and museum access and days/hours changed to accommodate changing visitor patterns. Early indications are that visitor numbers are back up to 2019 levels (but with better margins).
- Book cataloguing and condition assessment continues with a small group of dedicated volunteers in the Library. They have now covered 200 of the 1600+ books. The conservator returns in June to conduct refresher training and plan next steps.
- A rolling programme of maintenance continues, in 2021 windows were updated at 1 Museum Cottages and roof repair completed at School House Cottage. This winter a firebreak has been installed between the cottages.

d) Windermere Ferry Advisory Group

Councillor Brodie reported:

- The Ferry advisory Group met digitally in September 2021 due to health concerns for members of the group. With the lifting of Covid restrictions in England, the March 2022 meeting was held face to face. The group has no power to make decisions, it can only advise.
- Contactless ticketing payments continue. It is anticipated that discounted paper ticket books will be withdrawn. A replacement digital application will be trialled. Fares will be reviewed in September 2022 and any changes will come into force in April 2023. Details of new ferry information signs, locations and alternative route information to be provided to Parish Councils in May and will be installed in 2022-23.
- A design consultancy firm, Vectis, has been appointed to explore design options for a replacement ferry. At the time of writing this report, no dates had been set for a public consultation regarding design proposal, but the group were advised that this would probably take place in May. The design proposal will be for an electric battery powered cable vehicle with diesel back up to maintain systems. The ferry design will drive land-based infrastructure requirements and development and the plans for these should be included in any consultation. The business case will be presented in September/October 2022.
- A shadow council will be elected in May 2022 and when the new unitary authority of Westmorland and Furness is vested on 1st April 2023, it is hoped that it will maintain the group and proceed with the plans to replace the ferry. This is not guaranteed.

e) Community-Led Plan

Councillor Brodie reported that the plan needs to be updated. Most of the goals from the plan have been achieved and it is hoped that the work on improvements to the Internet services will produce results over the next year or so.

034/2022 **Public Participation**

- a) A resident reported that a new long-distance path along the west side of Lake Windermere is planned as an initiative by the Lake District National Park Authority. The first stage will be from Newby Bridge to the YMCA and planning approval has been granted. The next stage will be from the YMCA to the Ferry, however some parts of this route may be difficult to traverse.
- b) Councillor Lennon reported on the High Wray Village Hall renovations  
Five years ago the building was in need of extensive renovations. The Management Committee decided to set up a working group to fundraise and manage the renovations. Alongside this process, Mary Wyburn agreed to update Constitution and change to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and prepare the documentation (including Equal Opportunities Policy and Statement of Intent) to formalise the management of the building in line with Charity Commission requirements, as well as registering the building as an "Asset of Community Value" through Claife Parish Council.

The works were planned in three phases. The first phase (2018) was installing a modern electric heating system. The second phase (2019) was to upgrade the kitchen, including insulated wall, newly painted and insulated cupboards. The final phase (2021) was to revamp the washroom facilities, including re-roofing and insulating the washroom extension, and insulating the outside walls. Internal walls were demolished and new stud walls built to house an accessible washroom with fully compliant shower, toilet and basins. A gender-friendly shower room with toilet, wash handbasin and lockable storage cupboard and a third toilet/wash-basin facility all built with heaters, ventilators and easily cleaned surfaces.

Fundraising took a substantial amount of time and effort, including local fundraising activities and applying for local and national grants, some with extremely short deadlines and a total of £46,000 was raised. ACT (Action with Communities in Cumbria) workshops attended by Pat, Mary and Wendy Henry provided invaluable advice and support. Land registration has been applied for and the hall is in a much-improved financially viable state following the government grants received during the pandemic. Feedback from users has been very encouraging, all happily now able to have a more comfortable 'camping-barn' experience.

Councillor Brodie expressed her thanks to Pat and Mary for their contribution to the community in creating such fabulous facilities.

**Claife Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Meeting held at High Wray Village Hall**  
**At 7.30 pm on Tuesday 3rd May 2022**

**Attendees:** Parish Councillors A Brodie (Chair), S Hilton (Vice Chair), K Keighley, P Lennon, J Whitworth, M Wyburn, Parish Clerk L Prescott, Mr J Moffat (National Trust) & 1 member of the public.

035/2022 **Chairman**

Councillor Lennon proposed and Councillor Hilton seconded Councillor Brodie as Chairman for the Council Year 2022/23.

**Resolved** To appoint Councillor Brodie as Chairman for the Council Year 2022/23.

036/2022 **Vice Chairman**

Councillor Whitworth proposed and Councillor Lennon seconded Councillor Hilton as Vice Chairman for the Council Year 2022/23.

**Resolved** To appoint Councillor Hilton as Vice Chairman for the Council Year 2022/23.

037/2022 **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from District Councillors H Troughton and I Wharton.

038/2022 **Requests for Dispensation**

None received.

039/2022 **Declarations of Interest**

None received.

040/2022 **Minutes**

**Resolved** The council approved the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

041/2022 **To appoint Representatives to Outside Bodies**

**Resolved** The following representatives were appointed to represent Claife Parish Council:

The Braithwaite Hall Trust – Councillor S Hilton

Hawkshead Market Hall Trust – Councillor S Hilton

Hawkshead Grammar School Foundation – Mr R Bonham

Windermere Ferry Advisory Group – Councillor A Brodie

Hawkshead Parish Council (re Ferry Group) – Councillor A Brodie

042/2022 **To appoint Committees and Sub-Committees**

**Resolved** To appoint the following:

a) Local Housing Sub-Committee – Councillors A Brodie, K Keighley & J Whitworth.

b) Lead on initiatives from the Community Led Plan – Councillor A Brodie

**Claife Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at High Wray Village Hall**  
**Following the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 3rd May 2022**

**Attendees:** Parish Councillors A Brodie (Chair), S Hilton (Vice Chair), K Keighley, P Lennon, J Whitworth, M Wyburn, Parish Clerk L Prescott, Mr J Moffat (National Trust) & 1 member of the public.

043/2022 **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from District Councillors H Troughton and I Wharton.

044/2022 **Requests for Dispensation**

None received.

045/2022 **Declarations of Interest**

None received.

046/2022 **Minutes**

**Resolved** The council approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

047/2022 **Public Participation**

a) Reports were received as follows:

i) Police

The Clerk reported that the Police reported the following incidents in February 2022 for the Coniston Area: 5 violent and sexual offences, 2 thefts, 1 burglary & 1 criminal damage and arson.

ii) County Councillor

No report.

iii) District Councillor

No report.

iv) National Trust

Mr Moffat reported

Some of their properties will shortly be to let, although due to difficulty finding contactors and increasing costs it is taking longer than usual to re-let. Also the Towerbank Arms is being advertised to lease.

All their sites are now open but due to difficulties recruiting staff they are not yet opening indoor sites as planned. Hill Top is still operating on a booking system which has helped with the parking situation. More people are walking and cycling, which supports their aim to be car free. The ferry is an essential part of this aim. Base Camp remains closed, its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is approaching and decisions have to be made how to best use the site. Visitor numbers this year are lower than in recent years. All their paths are open, but not all completely clear following the trees which were felled during the storms. Work to clear the west shore path will now take place in September 2022 as they need to close the paths using the planning procedures to undertake the work. Over £600,000 worth of damage was caused by the storms which is not covered by insurance. Ash dieback and larch disease are increasing, as well as a new disease affecting douglas fir so timber work will continue throughout the year. Contractors are required to clear any mud they deposit on roads during extraction. The Trust plan to install a defibrillator at High Wray due to visitor numbers. They are putting in place measures to limit the use of land at Harrowslack which has been used for wild camping with the resultant issues of fires and toileting problems. He is in communication with the Claife Café regarding their sign and a planning application will be required.

b) Members of the Public

No comments.

048/2022 **Councillor Matters**

Councillor Whitworth raised concerns in relation to the speed of vehicles turning into Wray Road from Hawkshead B5286 road at speed. This junction is in Hawkshead Parish, so will be referred to Hawkshead Parish Council.

Initialled ..... Date .....

049/2022 **Updates on Ongoing Issues and Actions**

a) Windermere Ferry

Councillor Brodie referred to the report submitted to the Annual Meeting (033/2022d) and advised she has emailed Angela Jones regarding the consultation but does not expect a response until after the forthcoming elections.

b) Refurbishment of Near & Far Sawrey Noticeboards

Councillor Hilton reported that the Far Sawrey noticeboard is in a very poor condition and due to its location under trees proposed that it is replaced with one made of a material that will not rot. A new noticeboard could be bolted onto the current frame. He also reported that he will be able to repair the Near Sawrey Noticeboard.

**Resolved** Councillor Hilton will measure the existing Far Sawrey Noticeboard and the Clerk will research available noticeboards in alternative materials.

050/2022 **Council Land**

a) Land Registration

Noted that Councillor Brodie and the Clerk met and collated documents in relation to the Land Registrations. Noted that the valuations have been received by the Parish Council.

b) Agreements between Parish Council and Tarn Hill Trustees

The Councillors received the final document.

**Resolved** Councillor Brodie to sign the document on behalf of the Parish Council and Councillor Hilton to submit the document to the Trustees for their signature.

051/2022 **New Agenda items**

a) Nature Recovery Strategy online meeting

The Clerk reported that she and Councillor Lennon attended this online meeting. The information was as previously reported by Councillor Keighley, outlining the Cumbria Wildlife Trust plans to resurvey County Wildlife Sites (which are important for wildlife but not SSSIs) and improving wildlife corridors. They were asked whether they could provide details of the Cumbria Wildlife Sites in the Parish but advised they could not.

b) Market Hall, Hawkshead

Covered in the Annual Parish meeting report (033/2022b).

c) Noticeboard update arrangements

**Resolved** That Councillor Whitworth will update the High Wray Noticeboard and Councillors Brodie, Hilton and Keighley will update the Near and Far Sawrey Noticeboards.

d) Parish Elections to the LDNPA

**Resolved** Not to submit a candidate.

e) Windermere Big Lake Survey

Councillor Brodie has volunteered to take part. Sampling of water, from Windermere and becks that flow into it, will take place on June 26th.

f) NALC Sector Finance Survey

**Resolved** Not to submit a response.

g) Recruitment of a new Parish Lengthsman

This has been advertised and Hawkshead are also advertising as they employed the same lengthsman. The job description may need to be amended.

**Resolved** Job description to be circulated for consideration.

052/2022 **Planning Applications**

a) The following planning applications were considered:

- i) 7/2022/5106. High Cunsey Farm, Cunsey, Ambleside, LA22 0LT. Construction of new boathouse with dayroom, new timber jetty, extension to existing timber jetty, localised dredging and associated site works.

**Resolved** To object to the application due to the location, overdevelopment, facilities, sewage disposal, light pollution and the length of the new jetty.

- ii) T/2022/0033 Firbank, Far Sawrey, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0LQ. G1 - G1 - Fell 1 x sycamore sapling & 1 x Lawson cypress. G2 - Fell a selection of Western red cedar. G3 -

Reduce 2 x Beech Trees by approx. 2.5m. T2 - Fell 1 x beech tree. T3 - Reduce 1 x beech tree back to previous pruning points. T4 - Fell multi stem sycamore.

**Resolved** No objections.

- iii) 7/2022/5235 Apple Tree Cottage, 2 Town End Cottages, Far Sawrey, Ambleside, LA22 0LH. Replace existing timber windows and french doors with new timber replacement windows and doors to the same size and design as existing.

**Resolved** No objections.

- iv) 7/2022/5269. Appletree, Far Sawrey, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0LH. Extension of existing lean-to outhouse. Addition of 2 no rooflights to existing kitchen.

**Resolved** No objections, but concerns about light pollution.

b) The following Planning Decisions were noted:

- i) 7/2022/5125. High Wray Bank, High Wray, Ambleside, LA22 0JD Non material amendment to planning permission 7/2020/5815. Approved unconditionally.
- ii) T/2022/0021. The Barn South, Cunsey, Ambleside, LA22 0LT. Oak tree (listed as T1 in application) - Fell to ground level. 8 x Birch trees. Approved with conditions in relation to timescale, works and replanting.

053/2022 **Financial Matters**

a) Noted that bank balance at 30 March 2022 is £9,721.01

b) The quarterly financial report was received.

c) **Resolved** To authorise payment of the following accounts:

Clerk's Salary (01/01/22 – 31/03/22) (new rates)	£615.82
Clerk's Travel (01/02/22 & 15/03/22) @ NJC rates	£29.25
CALC/NALC subscription (2021/2)	£137.57
ICO Data Protection Fee (2022-23)	£40.00
Edwin Thompson LLP (land valuation fees)	£1,668.00

054/2022 **Highways**

a) Highways items to be reported

None.

b) Highways items reported

EI/21611	Drain next to Grit Box on B5285 at bottom of Cuckoo Brow Lane	Assigned to Highways Team
EI/21616	Lane eroded by water at bottom of Cuckoo Brow Lane	Assigned to Highways Team
EI/23846	Road junction markings faded / washed out. Junction of Stones Lane, Near Sawrey with B5285	Completed
EI/23783	Road surface deteriorating with multiple pot holes developing. B5285 near Sawrey House Hotel	Assigned to Highways Team
EI/23796	Road surface from Belle Green to the entrance to the last house on the left of the lane.	Assigned to Highways Team
EI/23823	Passing place sign broken off post and other one unreadable, B5285 between Near and Far Sawrey.	Assigned to Highways Team
EI/23831	White lines at road junctions on B5285 in Near and Far Sawrey are faded / washed away and need replacing.	Completed
EI/39463	Sunken grid and pothole obscured by water accumulation	Completed
EI/41426	Rubber Road side bollard marker damaged B5285 between Black Beck Bridge and Near Sawrey.	Assigned to Highways Team
EI/41418	Re-report of item EI/21611 claimed completed	Closed
EI/59501	Near Tock How Farm High Wray (watering trough). Huge deep dangerous pothole already reported several times	Assigned to Highways Team
EI/59508	EI/59501 additional	Closed

c) Purchase of safety items in relation to highways problems

Councillor Whitworth reported that unfilled potholes create a danger to road users, especially cyclists and suggested the Parish Council purchase traffic cones that can be placed around these hazards whilst they await repair.

**Resolved** To check with Cumbria Highways as to whether this is permitted and if so to purchase 6 of the larger cones.

055/2022 **Correspondence (for information only)**

The circulated correspondence was noted.

056/2022 **Date of Next Meeting**

Noted that the next Parish Council meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at Braithwaite Hall.

Initialled ..... Date .....

Signed & Approved by (Chair)

Date

Initialed ..... Date .....