

## **Wetheral Parish Council**

Minutes of the Annual Meeting with Electors held on Wednesday,  
9th May 2018 at 7.00pm in the Wetheral Village Community Hall

### **PRESENT:**

**Councillor Barry Earp – Chairman**

### **Councillors**

**J. Melrose-Woodman  
I. Evans**

**J. Searle  
D. Pattinson**

**G. Round  
C. Oliver**

**S. Higgs  
P. Bainbridge**

**Also, present: 14 residents of the Parish.**

### **1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 10th May 2017**

The minutes of the previous meeting were available for inspection and approved for signing by the Chairman as a true record.

### **2. Chairman's written report given by Cllr Earp on behalf of Cllr Dodd;**

Cllr Earp welcomed residents and Councillors to the 2018 Annual meeting with Electors and apologised for the absence of the Chairman who is recovering from an operation.

#### **Chairman's Report**

One of the main targets the Parish Council has set itself over the last two years is to have sufficient funds at all times to fulfil its mainstream functions. I am pleased to say that the Council has now met this target. This funding, derived from the precept, is "guaranteed" every year and forms the core of the Parish Council's responsibilities.

Many of the other projects that the Council undertakes rely on grants from local bodies, and we have a great deal of experience in sourcing this type of funding. For example, this has enabled us to start work on Scotby Playing Fields, where we have upgraded the quality of the pitches and will eventually build a much-needed new pavilion. Monies have also been set aside to renew the roof on Scotby Village Hall.

Councillors have been active in monitoring speeding issues in and around the Parish, particularly in Cumwhinton and Wetheral. The number of instances of speeding is quite staggering at 632 since the implementation of speed watch in the Parish. Here, the Parish Council is liaising with the police to raise awareness and ensure there are consequences for motorists who persistently break the speed limit.

This year, the Parish Council has started a Neighbourhood Plan in Wetheral Parish, to attempt to control, though not to prevent, some of the housing development in the area. This will be a long-term exercise. As an example, similar plans elsewhere in the country have taken up to five years to put in place, but everyone at the Parish Council feels the opportunity had to be taken.

There are many other projects underway currently. The above is simply a cross-section of some of them, to hopefully provide an insight into the varied world in which we work.

We currently have 14 serving councillors, (with one vacancy for Great Corby/Warwick Bridge), representing all wards so that local issues are dealt with by people from the relevant communities. This is probably one of the Parish Council's greatest strengths.

Noticeboards are located throughout the Parish, where details of local events can be found. The Parish Council also has a new website, scheduled to be launched in the summer, where, again, details of events

and activities can be posted and advertised.

Parish Councillors are all volunteers and there is no cost attached to their appointment or endeavours. Anyone wishing to get more involved can contact the Parish Council office on 01228 561687 where a warm welcome awaits.

### **3. Cllr Stephen Higgs, Neighbourhood Planning**

The Parish Council decided to designate the Parish of Wetheral for a Neighbourhood Plan which would have policies along side those in the Carlisle & District Local Plan 2015-30, the plan would not prevent development but could influence future development.

#### **Initial Objectives**

##### **Housing**

- To ensure expansion and development of settlements is sustainable and proportionately balanced.
- To ensure new development is of high quality design, is built to a high sustainability standard and reinforces local distinctiveness.

##### **Infrastructure**

- To locate such development that current problems with traffic, congestion, parking and road safety are not exacerbated, but if possible reduced.
- To link all developments to village centres with footpaths and cycle ways.
- To reduce the need to travel by car.
- Schools?

##### **Environment**

- To seek opportunities for landscape, recreational and environmental gain, whilst minimising the environmental of new development.
- To protect, enhance and conserve the Parish's open spaces, historic environment, landscapes and views.
- To preserve high quality agricultural land.

##### **Economy**

- To enhance the prospects for local employment
- To enhance and support local services.
- To ensure access to high speed broadband (or equivalent)

#### **Community**

- To maintain the character and vitality of our villages.
- To preserve important community assets.
- To protect our historic and natural environment ( list to be drawn up)

## **Comments from the Neighbourhood Plan presentation.**

Can the number of dwellings be controlled?

Limit the density per hectare?

Why are the brown field sites not being developed instead of the rural green field?

Schools are a key factor as the local schools are full. Can the City Council influence the County Council?

Housing needs survey should be undertaken professionally in the Autumn and grant funding is available to support the development of Neighbourhood Plans.

Local distinctiveness as very few plans have been written with should a broad based geographical area.

## **4. Open Session**

Mr Fisher, Aglionby; concerns that there is going to be a play area on the nature area in Aglionby, its close to the pond and a road. There are a number of large agricultural vehicles and deemed dangerous.

No children in the village. Concerns of more trees being felled.

Response- The Parish Council had been contracted by a group of residents who support a play area in the village for their children and grandchildren. It is envisaged that it would be for younger children with parents supervising. The play area would be fenced and the intention is to move some of the snow drops and blue bells to the pond area.

No speed limit through Aglionby which is a concern with large agricultural traffic. Can there be a 30mph limit.

Wetheral – many vehicles not complying with the 7.5 tonne limit.

Turnmire Play area- grass requires cutting.

Why is the road called Steels Bank?

Scotby village green- lots of dandelions and the grass needs cut, weed around the sleeper need treated.

Playing field- the boardwalk needs removed from the field, football pitch has bald patches and the cricket pitch has uneven ground.

Roads- pot holes everywhere in the Parish what can be done?

Edges of the roads breaking up due to large vehicles driving over the verge.

When will the B6263 be re-opened.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm