

WASDALE CIVIL PARISH

MINUTES of the Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 1 November 2006 in the Old School Community Hall, Nether Wasdale. There were present 20 residents and 2 visitors (Colin Lindsay of the National Trust and Chris Berry of the LDNPA). A few apologies had been received.

161. MINUTES of the meeting held on 3 November 2005 were taken as read, approved, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

162. LAKESIDE ROAD WORKS. Karl Melville, Senior Maintenance Engineer, had accepted an invitation to speak about this matter, but he failed to attend. It was known that there were plans to close the road for most of the day for four weeks from 20 November to undertake patching work at 50 different locations.. The Clerk had asked whether this closure (following on from the one a year ago) had always been planned, or whether it had become necessary because the 2005 works had not achieved all that they were intended to achieve. He had had no reply to this query. It seemed clear that patching would have little or no impact on the problem of standing water on the road surface, and this was felt to be a hazard in a number of places – not only on the lakeside road but also, for example, at Berry Brow. The Clerk was asked to write saying that we would hold Mr. Melville accountable if there were to be an accident arising from the standing water (or ice). We had been asked to suggest dates for a 4-day road closure in the summer of 2007 for surface dressing. Howard Christie proposed the week beginning 18 June, and this was agreed.

163. NETHER WASDALE IN BLOOM. Lucy McKinley reported that Nether Wasdale had won the Copeland Shield for Best in the Borough 2006, and were runners-up in the Champion's League village category. We also achieved an RHS Silver-gilt Award. Lucy paid tribute to Ruth Knight's plantings at the camp-site, and the Meeting thanked Lucy and Martin Cain for their work and organisation. They had spent £245.04 granted them by the Parish Meeting in May, and the Meeting now agreed to pay over to the newly-formed "Nether Wasdale in Bloom" Committee a grant of £200 recently received from Copeland Borough Council in connection with the competition. Residents of all ages were urged to help plant bulbs, clear brambles, etc. at a Community Activity Day on Sunday 26 November, 10 am to 4 pm (meeting at the maypole).

164. PARISH COMPUTER FOR THE CLERK'S USE. The Meeting was asked to endorse the decision of the Chairman to accept the gift of a computer and printer from CALC (using funds from the N W Development Agency and DEFRA). The gift was conditional on the Clerk undergoing computer training, and the Parish paying towards Broadband Access (£110 in a full year), insurance (probably £10) and eventual replacement of the equipment (setting aside a reserve of £50 a year). After the Meeting had accepted the Budget for 2007-2008, this was agreed.

165. FINANCIAL MATTERS. **2005-2006** The External Auditor had accepted the Accounts without reservation. **2006-2007** The Responsible Financial Officer reported the

following expenditure to date, all the items being within the amounts agreed in Minutes 150b and 153: CALC membership and LC Review £38; Insurance £248.27; Cumbria in Bloom £5; Community Hall Upkeep Grant £50; Martin Cain (plants and labour) £245.04; Audit Commission £58.75; Churchyard Care (grasscutting) £175. **2007-2008** A draft budget (filed herewith) was accepted after Bill Bailey had said “Reserves” should specifically include £600 for Wasdale Head Green, unspent in 2000. It was noted that the effect of the Budget was to increase the Parish Precept from £500 to £520 (an average increase per household of less than 50p, or a penny a week).

166. PARISH BOUNDARY REVIEW. This was now in the hands of the appropriate Government Dept. A last-minute objection in another part of Copeland could delay implementation, though the Clerk had asked the Council and CALC to urge speedy confirmation of those new boundaries which (like ours) have been agreed by all those directly concerned.

167. OPEN SPACES, GREEN PLACES. Jo Chaffer, Project Officer for Friends of the Lake District, had paid two recent visits to meet representatives of the Parish prior to drawing up a draft Project Paper outlining plans for the Wasdale Head Green and Common land in and near Nether Wasdale village. The Paper speaks of restoring and enhancing the character of the two green spaces, celebrating their historical, cultural, landscape and community value, and putting in place schemes for their sustainable management in the long term. Those who had been involved in the discussions urged the Meeting to give the project their support. At this stage no-one need be concerned about the details of the Scheme, which would continue to be negotiable for many months to come. But there was an urgent need to complete and agree the Scheme in outline so that Jo Chaffer could submit a bid (potentially for many thousands of pounds) to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Residents were asked to let the Clerk know of any training requests they may have (eg walling) since it might be possible to include the cost in the bid. The Meeting approved the outline Scheme unanimously and enthusiastically.

168. WESTERN VALLEYS EXCHANGE ASSOCIATION (WEVA). David Killick, Chairman of WEVA, said 15 visitors from St. Martin d’Auxigny had enjoyed their visit to Wasdale and District at the end of September, and he thanked those Wasdale people who had gone out of their way to provide hospitality, and / or contribute to the programme (notably Howard Christie, Geoff Linaker, Andrew Race, Martin Allen, Jack and Shirley Wakefield and Bill Bailey of the Ratty). There was to be an open meeting at the Old School on 6 November at 7.30 to discuss the future of twinning with St. Martin.

169. PARISH PLAN IMPLEMENTATION. The Local History Society were complimented on their excellent weekend of talks and exhibitions in the summer, and the Nether Wasdale PCC.were congratulated on work done in the Old School, now graced with new upholstered chairs paid for by Sellafeld Charity Snowball Committee, which was also part-financing the current work of installing storage heaters. It was hoped to buy curtains next. Bill Bailey said he hoped to repair the lakeside guide post, and had plans for restoring it to its original appearance, funds permitting. The Clerk said he held out little hope of persuading BT to do anything about the phone box in Nether Wasdale,

but Lucy McKinley offered to try – and also to assist Bill Bailey to bring up-to-date the Directory of Facilities at the back of the Parish Plan. The Housing Needs Survey results would not be known until January, and even then they may prove to be of little assistance with planning since of the 43 forms distributed in Wasdale by the organisers only 14 had been returned.

170. OTHER NEWS Chris Berry gave news of his work as National Park Ranger, referring among other things to maintenance of footpaths and bridleways, installation of stiles over walls within access land, the removal of water hemlock, the monitoring of Three Peaks events, and the involvement of the public in helping to decide the future of planning. There is at least one vacancy for someone to represent the Parish at a National Park Tourism Consultation Day at Broughton-in-Furness on 19 January. Colin Lindsay added some National Trust news, mentioning for example the footpath situation in the Gap / Kidbeck / Stangends area. There was a question about the safety of the footpath above Greendale Beck a little beyond the Middle Fell fork. Bill Bailey gave other news as Parish representative on CALC and on the Neighbourhood Forum, which had had a useful lecture on the Digital TV switchover. The Clerk referred to a revised planning application relating to Gap Farm and invited comments, in the absence of which he would write to the LDNPA Planners giving the Parish's approval.

171. THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING would be in May – possibly on Tuesday 15 (to be confirmed).

The meeting closed at 9.15