

STANWIX RURAL PARISH

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Houghton Village Hall

Wednesday, 10th May 2023

7.00 p.m.

Under the chairmanship of Mr C Nicholson (Chairman of the Parish Council)

The Parish Meeting is open to all Electors of the Parish and can discuss all parish affairs and pass resolutions about them.

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th May 2022 (attached)**
- 3. Chairman's Report for 2022/23 (to follow)**
- 4. Any other matters concerning the Parish**



**S Kyle
Clerk to the Council
2 May 2023**

STANWIX RURAL PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held virtually on 11th May 2022 at 7:20p.m.

1. Present

The Chairman, Mr C Nicholson (Chairman of Stanwix Rural Parish Council), 5 Parish Councillors, 2 Carlisle City Councillors & Mrs S Kyle, Clerk to the Parish Council.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 5th May 2021

Approved and signed by Mr C Nicholson.

3. Chairman's Report 2021/22

On March the 16th 2020 the government advised everyone to stop non-essential contact and travel, a few days later on 23rd the first lockdown was implemented. 2 years and 7 weeks have now elapsed and, although many of us still remain alert to the risks, as a nation we are all now 'living with Covid'. At last, in The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, year we can begin to return to normality.

Activity

Rather than dilute its resources by attempting to spread them across the various communities it serves and perhaps falling short, the Parish Council has made grant funding available to community led projects aimed at celebrating The Queens Jubilee. Financial assistance has been provided to Houghton Village Hall and Crosby-on-Eden Parish Hall and to Houghton In Bloom. As a contribution to The Queen's Green Canopy project the Parish Council has also planted 6 oak trees at various locations throughout the parish.

Jubilee projects do not have to be confined to the weeks around the official celebrations and money remains available both for Jubilee related projects and others of community benefit. Although there is no Houghton Fair this year it is hoped that this will return in 2023.

The ever popular Summer Play-Days will go ahead as usual this year in Houghton and Crosby-on-Eden. Both schools will be notified of dates, which will also be published on the Parish Council website and notice boards – they are booked quite quickly so stay alert!

Planning applications continue to be received by the Parish Council in its role as a Statutory Consultee, with over 65 being considered last year. Some of these are quite large and involved and so demand a considerable amount of attention.

Precept

Being extremely alert to the soaring cost of living, especially with regard to heating bills, the Parish Council has again taken the decision not to increase the Parish Precept for 2022/23. The precept will therefore remain at its 2019 level, of £46,500, until at least 2024. This financial stability is enabled only through the Parish Council's continuing exercise of prudent budgetary control and monitoring procedures.

Local Government

The recent local council elections triggered the most dramatic and far reaching administrative upheaval since 1974, when Cumbria County Council came into being following its first elections held the previous year; the new unitary authority now returns the name of Cumberland to the map from next April. As an overarching administration, with fewer councillors to go round, the new council is likely to be more dependent on Parish Council's to link it with communities and perhaps to deliver some devolved services – only time will tell.

Conclusion

In conclusion it remains for me to thank members of the Parish Council for their continuing work in support of our communities. Thanks too to our City Ward Councillors, Elizabeth Mallinson, Fiona Robson and Paul Nedved and County Cllr John Mallinson for their highly valued and valuable help and support, including financial support, on a wide variety of matters.

Finally, what superlatives can I employ in thanking Sarah Kyle, our Parish Clerk and Proper Officer, that haven't already been used over the years? The vital importance of the Parish Clerk can often be overlooked or underestimated, but make no mistake a good one is a council's greatest asset and in that regard Sarah is priceless! So on behalf of the entire parish thank you, Sarah, for keeping the council train running on the right track to arrive at its proper destinations. And on a personal note, Sarah, my most sincere and boundless personal thanks for making my job immeasurably easier than it so often could be, and for just generally putting up with me!

4. Open Forum

No matters for discussion were raised and the Chairman closed the meeting at 7:27p.m.

Signed:

Chairman: 10 May 2023