

**LANDOWNERS OF CROSTHWAITE & LYTH
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT
THE ARGLES MEMORIAL HALL, CROSTHWAITE
ON WEDNESDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2015 AT 7:00pm**

Present: 23 Landowners were present
Mr J E Lambton of Carter Jonas was in attendance

18/2015 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Claire Hensman, Penny Mutch, John Sceal, Robert Sykes, Alistair Mutch, Peter Cartmel, Manuel & Fiona Zobole.

19/2015 **Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting. He expressed concern for Penny & Alastair Mutch, as Penny was facing more treatment. He thanked them both their work and commitment to the Landowners, Alastair for preparing the accounts and Penny for working her way through the historical minutes with a determination that this task should be finished during this anniversary year. The Chairman read an email from Denise Park, received just before the meeting, expressing a positive outlook for her treatment, and thanking all for their support. The chairman also reported that the previous Chairman, Tony Schofield, was still in a home in Garstang and in a fairly poor state.

20/2015 **Minutes of previous AGM**

It was noted that these could not be found on the website, where they should be. Therefore the Chairman summarised these minutes thoroughly. It was agreed that they were an accurate record. It was proposed by Peter Sherratt and seconded by Matthew Dobson that they should be accepted as a correct record, and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

21/2015 **Matters Arising**

None, as covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

22/2015

Accounts of the 31st October 2014

These were presented by Peter Sherratt, the auditor, as Alastair Mutch could not be present at the meeting. Income had increased slightly overall, although investment income had reduced by £466. The major change was the receipt of a Forest Commission grant of £1,182. Charitable donations had increased substantially at £13,500 (£1,050 the previous year), and there was an increase in legal and professional fees, mostly associated with negotiating the new EWGS. Thus the previous year's surplus of nearly £11k had declined to a loss as at 31st October 2014 of £2,040, but overall the total value of the Landowners' assets had declined by only £10 from £141,370 to £141,360.

Mr Sherratt advised that the Landowners' accounts were in good order. There were no queries on the accounts. It was proposed by Matthew Dobson and seconded by Elizabeth Cartmel that the accounts be adopted as a correct record and all of the meeting was in favour.

23/2015

Reports from Trustees Meeting

The Agent summarised the content of Trustees' meetings throughout the previous year. There had been three Trustees' meetings. In June 2014 there was a review of cash deposits and investments, a debate about funding for the church, school, Moss Road committee and Crosthwaite Exchange, discussions about Ash disease, grey squirrel control, signs, tipping, quarry stone and butterflies. New arrangements for coppicing agreements were agreed and a request for a bench on Whitbarrow was considered and declined, as not on Landowners' land. In October 2014 there was a debate about funding for the Memorial Hall (curtains & sound system). The EWGS was discussed in detail plus many ongoing woodland matters. The 200th anniversary was discussed, together with the recent motorcycle trial. There were reports of climbing on White Scar, water supply problems at Whitbarrow Cottage, insurance, the Turner Road and Denise Park's planning application at Low Farm. In January 2015 the accounts were presented, there was a debate on investment policy; funding requests were considered for the school car park, school biomass heating system and bowling club. A detailed update of the EWGS was given, and there were discussions regarding moth evenings, the butterfly report, the 200th anniversary, Gillbirks Quarry, Turner Road and an extension to a building at Whitbarrow Cottage. There was a brief discussion regarding the numbering of the AGM's, with the forthcoming AGM noted as the 198th. It was assumed that two AGMs had been missed due to World Wars.

Oliver Barratt expressed thanks for the work that the Trustees are doing on behalf of the Parish.

24/2015

Charitable Donations

The Chairman advised that last year donations had been made to St Mary's Church, Crosthwaite (10k), Crosthwaite School (2k) and the Argles Memorial Hall (1.5k). The latter donation was to be used thus: £500 for replacement curtains, £1000 for new sound equipment. It had been noted in the recent pantomime, Robin Hood of Whitbarrow Scar, that the sound equipment had worked extremely well.

Donations in the pipeline included a possible 2k to Crosthwaite School in respect of a new car park, and the possibility of 2.5k to the Bowling Club to help purchase a new machine for managing the turf.

Elizabeth Cartmel suggested that additional money could be given to the school to match the amount given to the Bowling Club, but it was noted that considerable financial support had been given to the School in previous years, and the Landowners do own the freehold of the Bowling Club site.

25/2015

Lease renewals & rent reviews

The Agent reported that rent reviews were due in 2015 on Township Allotment (April) and Whitbarrow Cottage (July). Revised rents will be negotiated between the Agent and the tenants, and be reported to the Trustees for approval.

26/2015

Woodlands management

Tony Marshall presented a condensed report covering activity on Township Plantation during 2014, advising that there had been several coppice plots worked by local people. A new Woodland Management Grant and Woodland Improvement Grant had been negotiated and agreed with the Forestry Commission (FC) under the EWGS which will provide regular funding for the next five years for management work, plus additional funding for specific capital works.

Work parties had cut back scrub to create glades and rides, assisted by Butterfly Conservation, in order to encourage butterflies. Bracken had also been cut with the same objective.

The butterfly transect being carried out by Laura Sivell continued to be funded with assistance from the FC, and this shows that some species such as the Duke of Burgundy were increasing, and the incidence of butterflies such as Fritillaries was much better than on other sites. It was noted that Township Plantation is an exceptional site for butterflies. Tony reported that the number of enthusiasts visiting the site during the year was manageable but this needs to be monitored. A summer walk had been held, led by Simon Webb from Natural England.

On White Scar various invasive non native trees had been removed with the help of Butterfly Conservation volunteers.

A yew tree that fell from the rock face in 2013/2014 is reportedly about 200 years old, its rings having been counted.

The Chairman reported that there was no grant scheme in place for Fellside Plantation. This was being looked after by John Seal, and was used by Crosthwaite School who greatly appreciated this facility.

There is a proposal to create a footpath through Fellside Planation, in recognition of the 200th Anniversary. It was noted that this footpath would need to be physically closed at least once a year to prevent it from becoming an established dedicated right of way.

Deer control is in progress, and is supported by the FC. Desmond Holmes enquired whether somebody would be willing to pay for the privilege of carrying out the stalking. However it was noted that many unproductive hours are expended, for a very limited cull.

Grey squirrels continue to be controlled mainly by Matthew Park although no tally is being maintained anymore.

27/2015 **Township Allotment**

Bill Sharp explained his stocking policy for the Allotment, which revolves around a calving period which starts on the 14th March. There is a slight tick problem. Cattle use Toby Tarn for drinking water, although this is causing it to get a bit puddled. The possibility of using pasture pumps was suggested, where cattle can release water into a trough themselves. The new grazing regime is causing more heather to grow and juniper seedlings were also establishing. Some of these have died but none have yet tested positive for disease.

There was a discussion about cyclists and riders using Township Allotment. There are no bridle paths so this is not legal, although it is tolerated. It was suggested that signs or physical barriers were put in place to prevent established rights being created. An alternative is to deposit a Definitive Plan, showing existing statutory rights of way, with Cumbria County Council (CCC), although the Agent advised that this entails a fee being paid to CCC, notices and advertisements being displayed and takes some time to organise.

28/2015 **Summer Walk & 200th Anniversary**

Two moth evenings are planned for Monday 27th July at White Scar and Saturday 12th September on Township Plantation.

A further Summer walk is planned, perhaps a perambulation of the boundaries, with a picnic. Date to be announced. It was agreed that the picnic site should be accessible for less able participants, for example by 4 x 4.

The Chairman advised that discussions were ongoing with the County Archives office regarding the digitizing of the Heversham Enclosure Award, and that it was still hoped that this could be arranged.

30/2015 **Election of Trustees**

There being no nominations for new Trustees it was proposed by Peter Sherratt and seconded by Chris Smith that all of the existing Trustees should be re-elected en bloc, and this was approved unanimously at the meeting.

31/2015 **Election of Treasurer**

Alastair Mutch had indicated that he was willing to continue as Treasurer. This was proposed by Martin Casson and seconded by Oliver Barratt. All in favour.

32/2015 **Appointment of Agent/Secretary**

It was proposed by Martin Casson and seconded by Elizabeth Cartmel that Carter Jonas would continue as Agents, Julian Lambton being their appointed representative for the time being.

33/2015 **Appointment of Auditor**

It was proposed by Martin Casson and seconded by Elizabeth Cartmel that Messrs Mutch and Sherratt will continue as Auditors for another year, and this was approved by the meeting.

34/2015 **Appointment of representative to the Recreational Field Trust**

It was proposed by Matthew Dobson and seconded by Chris Smith that James Park would continue in this role for another year. All in favour.

35/2015 **Appointment of representative to the village hall committee**

It was proposed by David Stott and seconded by Elizabeth Cartmel that Gordon Pitt would continue in this role for another year, all in favour.

36/2015 **Any other business**

Desmond Holmes recommended tea and biscuits are served at the next AGM.

Desmond Holmes produced an interesting letter dated 26th April 1919 from Arnold Greenwood Solicitors stating, inter alia, that proceeds from the sale of timber could be used for other purposes, including the erection of a public hall in the parish. It was noted that the trustees have already been very supportive of the Argles Memorial Hall. He also stated that an original copy of The Heversham Award was held by Heversham Parish Council.

A suggestion was made that the ledgers for the Charity, once they had been transcribed by Penny Mutch, are deposited in the County Records Office for safe keeping.

Oliver Barratt enquired whether a laminated map showing the extent of the Landowners' ownership could be displayed within the Memorial Hall.

There was a proposal that the notice advertising the AGM should be placed in both the January and February editions of the Parish Magazine, not just January as at present.

37/2015

Date of next AGM

This was scheduled for Wednesday 3rd February 2016 at **7pm**.

It was noted that the wrong time had been posted in some areas for this AGM (7.30pm). There was a short debate about the time of the meeting, which concluded that **7pm** should remain as the preferred time.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.22pm.

Signed
(Chairman)

Date