

**LANDOWNERS OF CROSTHWAITE & LYTH
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT
CROSTHWAITE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON WEDNESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7:00 PM**

Present: 32 Landowners were present
Mr J E Lambton of Carter Jonas were in attendance

15/2018 **Apologies**

Patrick Boggon, Ian Tomlinson, Heather Marshall and Robert Moser.
Deborah Lund of Carter Jonas.

16/2018 **Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the 201st AGM of the Landowners of Crosthwaite and Lyth. He offered thanks to Matthew Jessop, Headmaster, for allowing use of the School for the AGM. The Chairman wished to record his thanks to the Trustees for their work during the year, in particular T Marshall and J Sceal for their extensive commitment to Township Plantation and Fellside Plantation in particular. He advised that there had been 4 Trustees meetings throughout the year, and considered that the Trustees were a "mixed bunch" offering a variety of skills and perspectives resulting in, hopefully, good decisions being made. The Chairman was pleased to report very good feedback from the various statutory agencies regarding the management of the Landowners Estate. The Chairman also thanked R Sykes for his tutored Fern Walk, A Mutch for his work on the accounts, P Sherratt acting as Auditor, and J Lambton and D Lund at Carter Jonas for their roles. The Chairman advised that, throughout the year, money had been given to the School for remodelling work, and he offered his congratulations to the School for their outstanding Ofsted Report. Funds had also been supplied to the Recreational Field Trust for a new mowing machine and for repairs. Currently financial support has been given to a feasibility study for a pedestrian footpath through the village, recognising that there are many hurdles to jump before this can be a reality.

There has been major expenditure on Whitbarrow Cottage, in particularly £7,000 on the laying of a new water pipe, from which a happy consequence was improved water pressure for many residents in the Howe.

The Chairman advised that the land adjacent to Howe Fell Cottage at the Howe was indeed "very close to completion" all documents signed, and just awaiting a final conclusion. It was only a year ago, at the last AGM when it was reported that the boundary dispute had been resolved, and it was only as recently as March 2010 when the problem first started, so the Chairman was hopeful that, some eight years later that the matter could finally be removed from the agenda.

The Chairman alerted the meeting to the problems of Ash dieback, increasingly prevalent in the area, and advised that, as usual, a motor cycle trial had been held on the allotment in September for which a small donation had been received, and no problems encountered.

17/2018

Minutes of Previous AGM

These had been available on line (as advised in the Notice of AGM), although it was pointed out that a paper copy could always be supplied by the Agent if required. It was proposed by P Sherratt and seconded by H Trotter that the minutes should be taken as read, and signed off as a correct record. All in favour.

18/2018

Matters Arising

None.

19/2018

Accounts to the 31st October 2017

Copies of the accounts and explanatory notes were circulated at the meeting. A Mutch advised that they were in the usual format and explained that the Charity had made a small surplus of £464.00 during the year, noting that income of £18,343 was very similar to last year, but spending on charitable donations had decreased by about £6,300, while expenditure on property maintenance had increased by about £6,000. As at the 31st October 2017 investments had shown a gain of £3,927 from the previous year, giving a total net positive movement in funds for the year of £4,391 (£5,514 in 2016).

There were no queries on the accounts, but it was suggested that the accounts could be posted on the website, along with the AGM minutes, to give people a chance to examine them prior to the meeting in future years.

20/2018

Reports from Trustee's Meetings

J Lambton briefly summarised minutes from the Trustees meetings held on the 1st February, 14th June, 29th November 2017 and the 31st January 2018. In February the agreement on the Howe Fell Cottage dispute was reported; agreement to pay in full for the Butterfly Transect at £1,100; in June £5,000 funding for the School approved; £1,000 funding for the mowing machine approved; debate about funding a Lengthman for the Parish; discussions and reports on the Whitbarrow Cottage water supply, erection of the Lodge in the ground, repairs and decorations; issues regarding "walkies" on the allotment and the access track at White Scar. In November possible rent reviews at Whitbarrow Cottage and Whitbarrow Allotment were discussed and deferred; lack of progress at Howe Fell Cottage reported; debates about ongoing Butterfly Transects, the EWGS scheme, firewood plots, balancing of firewood extraction against regenerative growth; reports on Landowners insurance and decreased premium negotiations; enthusiasm for R Sykes tutored Fern Walk, and consideration of a possible beacon on Landowners land to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War. In January this year cash deposits and interest obtained from them were reviewed; further debate about funding for the proposed footpath study; detailed reports

regarding woodland management and new grant regimes, and the possibility of further repairs at Whitbarrow Cottage, including roof issues.

21/2018 **Charitable Donation**

The Chairman briefly reported the donations to the School (£5,000), Recreational Field (£1,000) and a contribution towards the footpath scheme of £500, recently approved. There were no other funding requests under consideration at this point.

22/2018 **Lease Renewals and Rent Reviews**

J Lambton advised that the rent review of Whitbarrow Cottage, due 1st December 2017 had been deferred until late 2018, or when the various repairs and alterations have been completed. The possibility of serving Notice of rent review for Whitbarrow Allotment in April 2017 had been deferred, and to be considered afresh prior to the 5th April 2018.

23/2018 **Woodland**

J Sceal reported that there had been little change at Fellside Plantation over the past 12 months, apart from 4 people taking firewood, and the continuation of making a circular track in the northern half of the site to link up with the "Bicentennial Footpath", to create a figure of 8 pathway around the plantation. Grey Squirrel control has been productive, with 18 killed, and few greys seen recently. The Forestry Commission are supporting J Sceal's 5 year programme, and the management of the site generally.

T Marshall reported about Township Plantation. Firewood plots are continuing, although finding accessible plots is becoming harder. The annual Woodland Management Grant of approximately £1,500 continues, plus small amounts for capital works. Butterfly Conservation's volunteers have cleared some glades and tracks. This work assists Landowners in being able to claim the Forestry Commission grant.

Laura Sivell completed her 22nd Butterfly Transect, fully funded by Landowners as nobody else would assist. It was a poor year for butterflies, although slightly better than 2016 and, critically, the rarer species are holding their own.

Grey Squirrel and Deer control continue, with numbers of both declining.

Ash dieback disease is increasing. There is a possibility of some trees being resistant, so any felling should avoid these in case they can help the survival of the species in the longer term.

White Scar continues to provide interesting habitat, and is frequently visited, adjacent woodland has been felled by the Forestry Commission.

24/2018 **Township Allotment**

Bill Sharp produced an album of photographs showing life on the allotment over the years which was circulated around the meeting, for which he was warmly thanked. Edward Sharp reported that there were now 20 head of

cattle on the allotment, and no sheep. They have produced 15 calves during the year and profited somewhat from the wet summer. Generally the revised grazing regime has benefitted the allotment with good regeneration of heather, a lot of wild strawberries, and tree saplings generally, and also regeneration of Juniper. However some ragwort has also appeared, and although there is a debate about whether this is a noxious weed or a wild flower, it is generally being pulled up when seen.

25/2018

Election of Trustees

A notice inviting nominations had been published in the Parish Magazine. No nominations were received by the stated date, and as all existing Trustees were willing to stand for a further year, P Sherratt proposed and P Hensman seconded that they should all be re-elected for a further term. All in favour.

26/2018

Election to Treasurer

It was proposed by M Casson and seconded by M Dobson that A Mutch should be re-elected as Treasurer for a further year, and this was approved by the meeting.

27/2018

Appointment of Agent/Secretary

It was proposed by M Casson and seconded by E Cartmell that Mr J Lambton (assisted by D Lund) should be reappointed as Agent/Secretary for a further year, and this was approved by the meeting.

28/2018

Appointment of Auditors

It was proposed by M Casson and seconded by J Sceal that P Sherratt should be reappointed as auditor for a further year, and this was approved by the meeting.

29/2018

Appointment of Representative to Recreational Field Trust

J Park advised that he wished to step down from this role. M Casson volunteered to take his place, and it was proposed by E Cartmell and seconded by P Sherratt that M Casson should be appointed for the coming year.

30/2018

Appointment of Representative to Village Hall Committee

It was noted that G Pitt, who currently holds this position, now resides out of the Parish. J Sceal volunteered to take his place, and it was proposed by R Sykes and seconded by M Casson that he should be appointed to this role for the coming year.

31/2018

Any Other Business

The possibility of a walk on Township Allotment was discussed, it was suggested that the flowers are at their best in June, so the walk should be scheduled for that month, and possibly incorporate a circuit through Fellside Plantation as well. It was thought that the walk could be led by Edward Sharp (tenant) and Simon Webb (Natural England).

32/2018 **Date of Next Meeting**

The AGM meeting Wednesday 6th February 2019, Crosthwaite Church of England School

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 7.59 pm

Signed Date

(Chairman)