

**LANDOWNERS OF CROSTHWAITE & LYTH
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT
CROSTHWAITE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON WEDNESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2019 AT 7:00 PM**

Present: 27 Landowners were present
Mr J E Lambton of Carter Jonas were in attendance

15/2019 **Apologies**

Apologies received from Mrs C Hensman, Mrs E Cartmell, Mr J Park. Deborah Lund of Carter Jonas.

16/2019 **Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the 202nd AGM, and expressed his thanks to Matthew Jessop, Headmaster for permitting the use of the school room. He also thanked the Trustees for their work and commitment and recognised their quirky mixture of experience and knowledge, meaning that the Charity was recognised for its conservation management. The Chairman thanked A Mutch and P Sherratt for their work as Treasurer and Auditor respectively, and announced that P Sherratt was resigning after 16 years of service. The Chairman also expressed his thanks to Carter Jonas for their time commitment which exceeded the quantum of their fee. He noted that there had been fewer meetings in the year, and also fewer donations, but this coincided with significant expense on Whitbarrow Cottage, so was timely. The Chairman was pleased that the Charity were using local contractors, Joe Dobson and Carter Roofing to carry out the work on the cottage and advised that this work was largely complete, with exterior decoration and further internal works due later this year. The Chairman was pleased to report the end of the long land transaction saga at Howe Fell Cottage. A new Woodland Grant Scheme would be coming up in the next few months. He mentioned that there had been discussions about the sustainability of firewood plots. The summer walk led by the Sharp family and the motorcycle trial had both gone very well, but there continues to be a problem in respect of commercial dog walking.

17/2019 **Minutes of Previous AGM**

The Chairman mentioned that the minutes had been posted on the website since shortly after the last AGM, and therefore took them as read. It was proposed by P Sherratt and seconded by M Dobson that they should be accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

18/2019 **Matters Arising**

None.

19/2019

Accounts to the 31st October 2018

A Mutch summarised the accounts, having first thanked P Sherratt for his work as an auditor for so many years, and ensuring the accuracy of the financial reports. The accounts had been published, for the first time, on the website for several weeks, and therefore available for all to see. He explained that income from investments, rents and grants at £17,746 was similar to the previous year (£18,344), and that expenditure at £14,767 was considerably less than the previous year (£17,879), mainly due to the greatly reduced level of grant giving at £500 (previous year £6,500), this was despite £9,324 expenditure on Whitbarrow Cottage. There was an overall surplus of £3,801, slightly less than the previous year (£4,391).

A Mutch advised that cash at bank had reduced sharply to £1,600, and that it may be necessary to use funds held in the Cumberland Building Society. He noted that it was satisfactory that the insurance premium had dropped by nearly £400 to £783. He explained that currently the Cumberland Building Society pays 1.5% interest, whereas the Coif fixed interest fund pays 3.2%, and the Coif investment fund pays 3.4%.

A query was raised as to why rents and licences were treated as endowment funds, and not unrestricted. It was thought that this was because these were funds received from the property endowment given to the Parish originally, but it was felt that under the new Charity Commission Scheme there was no restriction in how the funds were used, providing they met the charitable objectives.

20/2019

Reports from Trustee's Meetings

J Lambton summarised the main points from the Trustees meetings held in February 2018, September 2018 and January 2019. In February there was a proposal for a summer walk with Simon Webb from Natural England and discussions about how to reduce Ash dieback disease. In September detailed proposals for re-roofing and associated works at Whitbarrow Cottage were tabled, with budgeted costs of around £30,000, the Agents noting that this was a significant investment, but the cottage had had very little capital expenditure on it for very many years, apart from re-roofing the single storey section and rebuilding the porch. There was an update on internal works mostly being undertaken by the Tenants, and advance warning of the imminent end of the Woodland Grant Scheme and preparations for the new one from January 2020.

There were discussions about tree problems on the Allotment boundary, dog walking, parking problems, issues regarding the work of Butterfly Conservation and funding for Butterfly Transects, agreement to increase the charges for plots from £35.00 to £50.00, debate about Ash tree replacements, debate about "back on our map" project involving the planned movement of Duke of Burgundy eggs from Township to other sites; a report on the near conclusion of the land dispute at Howe Fell Cottage, and payment of £2,000, and a brief report on the summer walk and the motorcycle trial. In January 2019 the Chairman reported the resignation of P Sherratt as Auditor, the decision to keep the offer of funds for the footpath feasibility study in place, even though this may not now be needed; a report

on the accounts and investment; detailed discussion about the process of renewing the WGS; discussions about further tree planting, the continuance of the Butterfly Transect through T and H Marshall's involvement, how Fellside Plantation had improved, and a discussion about how to encourage best practice amongst coppicers; there were discussions about Grey Squirrel control and a further update on the work at Whitbarrow Cottage.

21/2019 Charitable Donation

The Chairman reported that there had been no recent requests for donations. He advised that the funding for the footpath feasibility study would remain in place for the time being. There had been two further, very recent, requests for further funding for the school, namely alterations and improvement to the entrance for compliance and visitor management purposes, as well as possible funding for a running track on land at the back of the school. These last two requests were currently being considered by the Trustees.

22/2019 Lease Renewals and Rent Reviews

J Lambton reported that the rent review of Whitbarrow Cottage was currently on hold, pending completion of the improvement works, and that this would be addressed later this year in the light of the works completed, and the contribution to the work made by the Tenants. J Lambton advised that the rent of Township Allotment could be reviewed in April 2020, if Notice is served 12 months previous. A decision would be taken on this matter at a later date as there is currently much uncertainty about the future of farm subsidies. It was noted that the rent had previously increased partly on the back of increased HLS payments being received by the Tenant, so this may need reviewing if ongoing subsidy levels are not at the same level.

23/2019 Woodland

T Marshall advised that there had been another five firewood plots, and another five are planned for this year. WGS grant income of £1,500 had been received, and claim submitted for a further £116 for capital work related to Ryde Management (which is encouraged and assisted by Butterfly Conservation). T Marshall advised that the Trustees were being encouraged to go into a new Woodland Improvement Grant where the annual grant could be about £5,000. Laura Sivell had completed part of the 23rd Butterfly Transect, which was completed by T and H Marshall. T Marshall reported that the butterfly numbers were better than last year, but way down on the levels from 20 years ago. Having said that 2018 was a very bad year for Duke of Burgundy caterpillars, as the drought shrivelled up all the cowslips on which they feed. Ash dieback is now over most of the site so the demise of the Ash tree population will continue, the bigger trees taking longer to die than the younger ones. The problems with commercial dog walking and dog mess was also highlighted again.

J Scheal reported on work at Fellside, which continues, firewood is being taken by Chris Taylforth who is also controlling Grey Squirrels, and is willing

to advise on best practice for coppicing. J Scheal is still working on the circular path.

There was a general discussion about tree survival, noting that the Larch disease seems to have retreated in significance. Bigger Ash trees last longer. Any Ash regrowth and young saplings dying quickly, although there is generally about a 10% survival rate.

D Jordison commended T and H Marshall and J Scheal on all the work they do in the woods, and the meeting thanked them for all their hard work. J Goodland enquired about the control of Grey Squirrels. It was confirmed that this is continuing, but momentum needs to be maintained.

24/2019 **Township Allotment**

Bill and Edward Sharp reported that all was well on Township Allotment and advised that about their cattle had been sold off, with a new cattle breeding regime. It was noted that in the dry 2018 summer Toby Tarn never dried up. P Mallison reported that all was well at White Scar Quarry.

25/2019 **Election of Trustees**

There being no nominations by the required date P Sherratt proposed and J Goodland seconded that the current Trustees should be re-elected en bloc, and this was approved

26/2019 **Election to Treasurer**

It was proposed by R Sykes and seconded by H Trotter that A Mutch should continue in this role for a further year, all approved.

27/2019 **Appointment of Agent/Secretary**

It was proposed by M Casson and seconded by R Sykes that Mr J Lambton of Carter Jonas, assisted by D Lund, should continue in this role for a further year, all approved.

28/2019 **Appointment of Auditor**

Following the resignation of P Sherratt it was noted that Mr I Tomlinson has kindly volunteered to take on this role, it was proposed by M Casson and seconded by J Scheal that I Tomlinson should be appointed as Auditor, all approved.

29/2019 **Appointment of Representative to Recreational Field Trust**

This position is currently held by M Casson, and it was proposed by R Sykes and seconded by I Tomlinson that he should continue in this role a further year, all approved

30/2019 **Appointment of Representative to Village Hall Committee**

J Scheal currently holds this post and it was proposed by R Sykes and seconded by M Casson that he should continue in this role for a further year, all approved.

31/2019 **Any Other Business**

It was noted that there would be a summer walk led by Rob Petley-Jones on the 29 June 2019 commencing at 1.30pm at the Millstone.

A Smith enquired who were the Landowners of Crosthwaite and Lyth, noting that there were many new householders in the Parish. It was noted that originally the Landowners would have been confined to very few major landowners in the parishes, but this then extended to rate payers, whilst rates were payable, before the organisation was re-constituted as a Charity governed by a Scheme Document. J Lambton advised that the Scheme Document sets the objective of the Charity as being for the “benefit of the inhabitants of the area”, and therefore anybody living in the Parish was deemed to be a “Landowner of Crosthwaite and Lyth”.

32/2019 **Date of Next Meeting**

The AGM meeting Wednesday 5th February 2020, at 7.00pm, venue to be advised.

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 8.02 pm

Signed Date

(Chairman)