

**LANDOWNERS OF CROSTHWAITE & LYTH  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD AT CROSTHWAITE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL  
ON TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7.00PM**

**Present:** 24 Landowners were present.  
Mr J E Lambton of Carter Jonas was in attendance.

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15/2024      **Apologies**

Apologies received from C Hensman, C Taylforth, H Marshall and D Lund.

16/2024      **Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the 207<sup>th</sup> AGM and thanked Matt Jessop for providing the venue, the Trustees for their work during the year, Tony and Heather Marshall in particular for the tremendous amount of work they do, Robert Sykes for his work on the transition to CIO, Alastair Mutch for managing the accounts, Ian Tomlinson for acting as auditor and Carter Jonas for their services.

The Chairman expressed his wish for a comfortable and speedy recovery for Deborah Lund from her recent surgery.

The Chairman was pleased to announce the eventual registration at the Land Registry of the purchase of the High Allotment after 2 years. He was pleased to report the refurbishment of the Tennis Court by the Tennis Club, and Pat Howarth's CLEAN initiative with which the Landowners are involved.

The Chairman was very pleased to announce a very recent development that Bel Burn who had indicated that the Landowners would be a beneficiary in her will has formally confirmed that this is the case, the bequest being an area of woodland north of Crosthwaite, together with a substantial financial sum for its future management.

17/2024      **Minutes of Previous AGM**

It was noted that these had been on the website for many months and were taken as read, and it was proposed by R Sykes and seconded by D Stott that they should be adopted as an accurate record, and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

18/2024      **Matters Arising**

It was felt that any matters arising from these minutes would be covered in the later agenda, and thus there were none at this point.

19/2024      **Accounts to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

A Mutch reported that the accounts were somewhat different from the previous year, mainly due to the purchase of High Allotment last year at £84,500, increased rents and significantly increased expenditure due to a rise in grants made. He pointed out the contingent liability noted on the accounts of £10,000 as a provision towards the new fence at High Allotment. A Mutch advised that much of the money withdrawn from CIOF had been

paid back during the year, mainly due to the acquisition of funds from the Crosthwaite and Lyth Charity.

It was noted that the accounts have been audited and approved, and that they were now ready to be submitted to the Charity Commission.

20/2024 **Reports from Trustees' Meetings**

J Lambton summarised the minutes of the Trustees Meeting held on the 23 January, picking out mainly those items not likely to be discussed later on in the agenda, and there were no comments or questions arising from those minutes.

21/2024 **Charitable Donations**

The Chairman advised that there were a number of possible pending charitable donations, but no formal request had been made up to this date, and when the meeting was asked if there were any further suggestions from the floor, none were made.

22/2024 **Lease Renewals and Rent Reviews**

J Lambton advised on the various tenancies, mentioning that consideration had been given to a rent review on Township Allotment but the decision was made to defer this for a year; the rent on Whitbarrow Cottage had been increased by a significant amount, but still slightly below market rent; and finally he reported that Notice had been received that evening from Peter Mallinson to give up the shed at Whitbarrow Quarry, a building which he has rented for many years and has maintained throughout that period. Thanks were expressed for his care of the building during that time and suggestions were requested for a possible alternative use for the building, although it was noted that it is not in the best of condition.

23/2024 **Township Allotment**

E Sharp explained to the meeting how the continued management of Township Allotment was proceeding with the use of conservation grazing, limiting supplementary feeding to The Square where cows are also calved, sheep have been excluded from the allotment for about 12 years meaning that the ground is getting poorer due to less fertilising effect, but this is good for diversity and E Sharp noted a significant increase in ground flora and vegetation.

Some trees were being planted in The Square to replace those affected by Ash Dieback, using a grant from LDNPA (FIPL), species used being Oak, Rowan, Silver Birch, Thorn. E Sharp was thanked for the continuing careful management of this interesting habitat.

24/2024 **High Allotment**

T Marshall presented his report advising that the Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier Scheme started on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 with work concentrating on erecting a new fence to enable conservation grazing, following liaison with LDNPA and off road groups. The fence is now complete with kissing gates, and photographs of the work were shown. T Marshall advised that there would soon be a Boon Day for clearing scrub and that some stone walls needed repair before tree planting in the autumn.

25/2024

### **Woodlands**

T Marshall presented his report for the Township Plantation noting the increase in the number of firewood cutters from three to five with focus on paths and tracks where there are dead and windblown ash trees most of which have been cleared. Butterfly Conservation had arranged a work party to create a Butterfly Ride, but the follow-up session was cancelled due to poor weather. Generally, butterfly numbers in 2023 were slightly down on recent years although some have shown slight increases. The number of transects was reduced due to the abundance of ticks. T Marshall noted the need to expand habitat for the Duke of Burgandy butterfly with the planting of about 200 cowslips.

An RPA visit had occurred just before Christmas requiring sight of all the paperwork and records which ended satisfactorily with a very positive report from the assessor.

26/2024

### **Status of Charity**

R Sykes commented on how the Landowners of Crosthwaite and Lyth had evolved originally from an organisation whose main purpose was the relief of rates, but when Prime Minister Thatcher abolished rates on 31 March 1990 with the introduction of the Poll Tax the decision was taken shortly afterwards to convert to a Charity. R Sykes commented that had the option of a CIO (a Charitable Incorporated Organisation) been available at the time LCL would surely have become one, but this option only became available in 2006. The main benefit is that now the company can stand separately from the Directors /Trustees and can employ people which eliminates the possible discomfort of Trustees holding significant liability personally. R Sykes advised that the draft document is now with the Charity Commission and is awaiting their comments. The matter will be referred back to the Landowners, possibly at an EGM for authority to close down the existing charity and re-form the organisation as a CIO.

27/2024

### **Election of Trustees**

The Chairman advised that all Trustees resigned at this point but were all willing to stand again, and it was proposed by E Sharp and seconded by C Smith that they should be re-elected, all in favour.

The Chairman advised that in due course, when and if the CIO is formed, this will lead to a revolving Trusteeship and phased retirement which will bring new blood into the organisation.

28/2024

### **Election to Treasurer**

A Mutch was willing to stand again as Treasurer for a further year, and it was proposed by J Sceal and seconded by R Sykes, with all in favour.

29/2024

### **Appointment of Agent/Secretary**

It was proposed by M Casson and seconded by D Stott that Carter Jonas be re-appointed for a further year, all in favour.

30/2024

### **Appointment of Auditor**

I Tomlinson was happy to continue for a further year and it was proposed by M Casson and seconded by T Marshall, all in favour.

- 31/2024      **Appointment of Representative to Recreational Field Trust**  
M Casson was willing to stand for a further year, it was proposed by J Sceal and seconded by T Marshall, with all in favour.
- 32/2024      **Appointment of Representative to Village Hall Committee**  
J Sceal was willing to stand for a further year, and it was proposed by M Casson and seconded by R Sykes with all in favour.
- 33/2024      **Any Other Business**  
The Chairman expressed his best wishes for Matt Park who has recently been severely injured by a falling Ash tree. The dangers of dealing with Ash trees affected by Ash Dieback were highlighted by the Chairman as they can behave very unpredictably.  
J Lambton displayed some photographs of grazing exclosures at Coniston, highlighting the beneficial effect of reducing or eliminating the grazing of sheep from upland pastures.
- 34/2024      **Date of Next Meeting**  
Tuesday 4 February 2025. Venue to be advised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.08pm.

Signed ..... Date .....  
(Chairman)