

# Bassenthwaite Parish Council

**Minutes of Bassenthwaite Annual Parish Meeting  
held in the Parish Room on Thursday 12th May 2016 at 7.00pm.**

Bass min 111AP **Draft minutes to be ratified at the May 2017 Annual Parish Meeting.**

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**Cllrs Present:** John Stephens, Robert James, Helen Reb, Norman Harrop, Jonathan Mattinson & Sarah Langcake.

**Also Present:** Alan Bowness (County Councillor), Elizabeth Clark (Clerk) & Gordon Oliver (Parishioner).

- 1) **Apologies** - Cllrs McMillan, Armstrong & Grainger (Allerdale Borough Councillor).
- 2) **Minutes** Resolved - that the Chairman sign as a correct record minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015.
- 3) **Chairman's Report** - The Parish Council has met eleven times in the past year. There have been nineteen planning applications.

The Parish Council has been below full strength for part of this year and currently there is one vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Anyone interested should inform our Parish Clerk, Elizabeth Clark, or any councillor.

The Parish Council applied for the Sun Inn to be registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) and this application was granted by Allerdale Borough Council in August 2015. This means that should the brewery owners of the Sun Inn decide to sell then it must first be offered to our community when we would have six months to raise the asking price.

Great strides have been taken towards replacing the Parish Room with a new building largely funded by a BIG lottery grant. The final application stage (Stage 3) for this grant was submitted in February 2016 and the result of this will be known before the end of July. The planning application for the new room was approved by the LDNPA planners in January.

Please note that although the Parish Room is owned by the Parish Council, and as such they are the body applying for and receiving the grant and for planning permission, they have no say in the running of the room as it is a charity with a group of trustees (Parish Room Management Committee) who are completely responsible for it.

Cllr McMillan has continued to monitor the progress of superfast broadband in rural Cumbria. BT have installed an optical fibre cabinet near The Castle Inn alongside an existing cabinet. This means that those living close to this cabinet will be able to receive superfast broadband should they so wish. BT have plans to install another fibre optic cabinet on the A591 near to the Chapel cross roads to enable more parishioners to receive higher speeds.

Police attendance at Parish Council meetings has been rare over the past year but our clerk receives an incident report from the police before each meeting. No trend can be seen from

these reports with Bassenthwaite remaining a relatively low crime area. However thefts and burglaries have occurred so no one should be complacent.

The Lake District National Park Authority installed a signpost outside Holly Bank on North Row pointing out footpaths through Holly Bank grounds that go to the Parish Quarry and to The Rake. The LDNPA are still pursuing the re-routing (compared to the map) of a footpath linking the quarry with the brow path to the East of the quarry edge.

The condition of parish roads is constantly monitored by the Parish Council. Cllr Bob James reports to Cumbria Highways on a number of highway related problems including potholes, blocked drains and road surface deterioration. Flooding at the A591 end of North Row was reported and dealt with by Cumbria Highways.

Our sincere thanks to Cllr James for continuing with this Highways liaison work. Anyone can report highway faults on the **Hotline 0300 303 2992** or **on the internet at [www.cumbria.gov.uk/highwayshotline](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/highwayshotline)** .

The Parish Council requested the partial taping over of the street light outside the Parish Room in order that the impact of such taping on glare and providing darker skies could be assessed. Feedback was that taping of the light compromised safety for walkers in School Road and the tape was removed.

The Parish Council precept has been held at the same level as last year (£7,350) as no extra expenditure is anticipated.

The Parish Council has received a transparency grant to enable the purchase of a laptop and printer so that we can comply with the transparency code. To this end we have adopted Standing Orders and Financial Regulations which are the rules whereby the Parish Council conducts its business. These orders and regulations can be obtained from the parish clerk or (shortly) from the web site at [www.bassenthwaite.org.uk](http://www.bassenthwaite.org.uk) .

The Parish Council have installed replacement swings to the North of the beck and a toddlers springer to the South near the wooden swings. A grant from our County Councillor, Alan Bowness, made this possible and we thank him for it.

The old style cast iron highways signpost at the chapel crossroads is in a poor condition and the “Keswick” finger has been broken off. A parishioner has the broken finger and Cumbria Highways have quoted a cost of £4,000 to refurbish the post with an offer to pay half if we pay the other half. We are currently investigating any other options for the reinstatement of this sign.

Following the flooding the Parish Council have had a meeting with the Environment Agency with a view to the beck being dredged from the wooden bridge to the ford as there has been severe gravel build-up in this area. No decision has yet been taken but we are hopeful of action later in the summer.

Plans have been submitted by Community Heartbeat Trust to adopt the telephone box on the Village Green as a defibrillator station. The upfront cost of this will be around £2,000 which the Parish Council propose to meet from capital. There will be an ongoing annual charge which will be met from the precept.

Finally the Japanese Knotweed in land adjacent to the bridleway at Parkergate on the A591 was sprayed last autumn by the LDNPA.

The Parish Council looks forward to another busy year.

#### **4) Consultation of Electors**

Mr Oliver advised that he wanted to bring the following three matters to the parish council's attention; what was the current situation with the defibrillator? Parking at the Bass Chapel junction & the deteriorating edge of the Beck. Cllr Stephens advised that the defibrillator was still ongoing although its progress seemed to have slowed down at the moment but it was hoped it would be installed this year. Mr Oliver stated that the highway code states that vehicles can't park within 10 metres of the junction. Cllr Stephens advised that this issue had previously been raised with highways and reported to the police a number of times. Double yellow lines were discussed and it was agreed that the issue should be again reported to the police. Mr Oliver informed councillors that the beck edge had deteriorated further since the floods with stones loose in the wall area. He also advised that the rail on the middle of the bridge was quite loose and was becoming unsafe. It was agreed that the LDNPA should be advised about the beck and the damaged path that leads to the bridge.

Mr Oliver left the meeting & the Annual Parish Meeting was closed at 7.25pm.