

BLAWITH & SUBBERTHWAITE PARISH COUNCIL

www.bspc.btck.co.uk email: blawithclerk@gmail.com

CHAIRMANS REPORT FOR 2018-2019.

Re reading last year's report it would appear that this year was very much a case of more of the same. However, things have moved on significantly since then.

Innogy appealed against the refusal of planning permission for extending the life of Kirby Moor wind farm. A public inquiry was held in January with the result expected within the next two weeks. The Group which had led the fight against the wind farm, backed by 10 Parish councils, took part in the proceedings in the form of "Kirby Moor Protectors", a rule 6 group, with legal representation self-financed by members, Parish councils and supporting organisation. I hope this exercise in localism will produce the desired result.

Both the development of the proposed nuclear power plant at Moorside and the new electricity transmission line from it to Heysham have stalled as private enterprise reconsidered the risks of these projects in the absence of government funding. Instead the focus of attention for the year was the government's review of national park boundaries. At the moment the boundaries, which were set in the 1950's, tend to follow geographical features rather than parish boundaries which means that some parishes, such as ourselves, lie partly in and partly out, meaning that parts of these areas come under different planning authorities (for us LDNP and SLDC respectively). It is hoped that this anomaly, amongst others, will be dealt with by the review which is still being consulted on.

The development of the Parish plan has continued and has now reached the stage where a draft has been prepared for review. Thanks to all who have been involved so far and I look forward to the fine tuning of this document this year.

Your council also welcomed the news that broadband will be extended to Blawith and Water Yeat later this year. We continue to press for the other areas of the parish to be included in the roll out.

Last month many people took part in the annual clean up (formerly keep Britain Tidy campaign). It is disappointing to report that the problem of waste and fly tipping at the roadside seems to be as bad as ever. Your council has encouraged LDNP to provide additional bins at certain points (near the Lake and at Brown Howe), but the problem remains intractable for the moment. I hope and believe that the recently announced initiative in Scotland that will introduce returnable deposits on bottles and containers will be a game changer as even if it does not reduce waste it will provide an income to charities and others who seek to clean it up, including donations to the Parish council to help cover the costs of maintaining the verges.

This brings me onto our budget. You may have noticed significant increases in our budget over recent years. The reason for this is twofold; as a public body we are required to comply with the constantly changing rules and standards set by the government, including insurance, GDPR and the services of a clerk to administer the council's business. This accounts for around 80% of our costs. In recent years it has become clear that we can no longer expect our County council to provide us with some services such as verge maintenance, which they have in the past. Much as we would like this to be different it is obvious that Cumbria like others is struggling to find the money to provide the services to protect even the most vulnerable in our society. Your council therefore took the decision to budget for funds to pay a lengthsman to provide verge maintenance and related services where we are not constrained by the requirements of the highways department. We continue to work with highways to ensure that necessary repairs are brought to their attention and would urge people to continue to report them to us or via the highways' website. Details of the budget for the new year are set out below.

PLANNING

The council is committed to supporting applications which contribute to the maintenance and sustainable development of the parish. We recognise our obligations under world heritage status for the large portion of the parish within the National Park, and the maintenance of the shore of Coniston Water. This year we have supported many applications but also been forced to recommend

refusal where these did not meet these criteria. Our constructive dialogue with the Crake Valley Holiday Park has not borne fruit, however we continue to try to work constructively with them

The Council has responded to 17 planning applications during the Council year, including Certificates for Lawful Development. Of those, the Council have submitted a response of support for 7; no objections for 3 and objections for 7.

Finally, I would like to thank the Clerk and my colleagues on the Council for their continued commitment and attendance at other bodies on which the parish is represented, as well as all the members of the public who have attended our meetings or corresponded with us. Without you we would be much less informed and effective. I would also like to thank our other elected representatives at district and county level for their support and guidance this year.

Ian Jones

Chairman

BUDGET 2019/20

<u>EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN</u>	<u>2018/19 BUDGETED</u>	<u>2018/19 TOTAL (E)</u>	<u>2019/20 BUDGET</u>
VILLAGE HALL HIRE	245	225	225
CLERK SALARY	1818	1854	1942
CLERKS EXPENSES	160	160	160
CALC SUBSCRIPTION	120	111	120
INSURANCE	280	248	280
OTHER ADMIN (COURSES ETC)	50	111	120
AUDIT	50	30	50
DATA PROTECTION	200	35	40
PAYE	73	73	73
EGTON PCC (FOR PARISH NEWS)	30	30	30
BUS DONATION	0	0	0
REMEMBRANCE WREATH	20	42	40
CHAPEL	120	120	120
MISC	50	250 Kirkby WF	50
LENGTHSMAN	100	80 signs	300
PARISH PLAN	150	62	100
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£3,466.00</u>	<u>£3,432.00</u>	<u>£3,650.00</u>

2019/2020 PRECEPT REQUEST £3600