

WASDALE CIVIL PARISH

MINUTES of the Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 11 November 2003 in the Old School, Nether Wasdale. There were present 23 residents and 3 visitors (Chris Berry of the Lake District National Park Authority, Lorraine Smyth of Voluntary Action Cumbria and Barbara Wright of the Gosforth-and-Wasdale Hidden Britain Centres Group). Several apologies had been received.

79. MINUTES of the meeting held on 13 May 2003 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as correct. Arising from Minute 66b, the Chairman was thanked for moving the Nether Wasdale post box to the village green, where he had built a stone cairn to house it; and from Minute 71, it was reported that First Responders volunteers would shortly begin training.

80. PARISH PLAN. The Steering Group appointed by the May meeting had met five times, obtained a grant of £2070 from the Countryside Agency for drawing up (not implementing) a Parish Plan, and devised a questionnaire for everyone living or working in the Parish to complete. Residents had already received a 4-page Directory of existing facilities, which was an essential starting-point for the Parish Plan process. Questionnaires were distributed and arrangements made to get them to those not present. They were to be returned to the Clerk by 21 November. Thanks were expressed to Voluntary Action Cumbria (Lorraine Smyth and Sarah Mitchell) and to Joyce Hughes for her work on the Directory and grant application.

81. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND. (See Minute 68.) Work on the Nether Wasdale fountain was almost complete. It was agreed to apply for a further grant for 2003/2004. £925 was potentially available and could perhaps be applied to a suitable item in the Parish Plan (maybe repairs to the Old School building).

82. FINANCE. **2002-2003:** The External Auditor had approved the accounts without reservation. **2003-2004:** The Responsible Financial Officer reported the following expenditure to date: CALC Membership and LCR Publication £33-59; Insurance £175-61; Print Cartridge £27-99; R&J Slater for work on war memorial shelter and fountain £1075-13; Grasscutting £172-50; Hire of Old School for May and November meetings £50. **2004-2005:** The meeting approved an increase in the Parish Precept to £500.

83. PARISH BOUNDARY REVIEW. (See Minute 66a.) The Clerk had discussed with Eskdale's Parish Clerk and Chairman, with Copeland and with CALC, the need to re-draw parish boundaries if the wishes of certain householders to transfer to Wasdale were to be met. A meeting of interested parties was to be called. The Clerk said he would attend but no-one offered to join him.

84. PUBLICITY FOR WASDALE. Fiona Henderson and Barbara Wright spoke about progress by the Gosforth-and-Wasdale Hidden Britain Centre Group, which had produced a new folder to hold members' individual publicity leaflets, set up a new website and made plans to produce an attractive book as a companion volume to the widely acclaimed "Eskdale Base". Meanwhile Guy Newbold had produced a new publicity leaflet called "Wasdale, Valley of Extremes" and continues to improve the website www.wasdaleweb.co.uk. (He had offered to put these Minutes on the site, and a few of those present at the meeting thought this would be useful. The commercial parts of the new Parish Directory would *not* be included, however.)

85. ACCESS TO COMMON LAND AND OPEN COUNTRY. The Provisional Map for Wasdale (under the CRoW Act 2000) was on display. Only landowners, tenants and those with commons rights could now appeal, and they had to do so by 19 November.

86. HIGHWAYS, **(a) Road Maintenance.** Pot-holes had been reported to the Highways Hotline. The County budget for highways maintenance had been cut by half, apparently because of a new government formula favouring large conurbations over rural Authorities. The Clerk intended putting a motion to the next Joint Meeting of County, District and Parish Reps, urging the Cumbria Strategic Partnership to put pressure on the Government to change the formula. Rex Toft (Leader of Cumbria County Council) had himself indicated this could be a helpful step. The Parish Meeting endorsed the proposed action, **(b) Footpaths.** Thanks were expressed (i) to Geoff Allen for completing the new riverside footpath west of Stangends Bridge, whence it was now possible to walk to Gaterigghow Bridge; and (ii) to Chris Berry for organising drainage and improvements to the Shepherds Cottage-Greendale bridleway. **(c) Signpost** A new signpost near the phone exchange promised by Capita in March 2002 had been installed in June 2003 but still had two blank direction arms! The latest promise was that they would be put right within one month, **(d) Santon Bridge Closure.** (See Minute 77.) Rex Toft had replied to the Clerk indicating why the strengthening of Santon Bridge was thought to be necessary for the safe passage of agricultural and forestry vehicles.

87. NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS. The National Trust had been unable to send a rep. to the meeting because of illness. Chris Berry reported that the Lake District National Park Authority had undergone a major internal re-organisation. He continued to be the Ranger for Wasdale, and was adding Ennerdale to his brief. John Meeks said the final Report and recommendations of the Ravenglass Basin Transport Group Survey were soon to be published. There was thought to be a need to improve the local Community Car Scheme, and the erstwhile Muncaster Microbus (recently replaced by a larger vehicle) could play a role in this.

88. PLANNING MATTERS. Planning approvals had been given for a porch at Foulsyke and the replacement of outbuildings behind The Strands with a single building providing additional accommodation. The recently revised Tree Preservation Order 13B (Irt Cottage to Wasdale Hall) was available for inspection.

89. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION RECEIVED. The Clerk drew attention to a number of items including a revised taxibus timetable (copies available for local hotels, B&Bs etc.); a warning that a Classic Car Reliability Trial would be passing through our area on 7 December; an appeal for more foster and adoptive homes for children who are looked after by the Local Authority; a letter from CLAREN (Cumbria & Lancashire Community Renewables) concerning community promotion of wood-burning stoves; crime prevention leaflets; Whitehaven Citizen's Advice Bureau Annual Report and appeal; Cumbria Early Years Development Information Pack; information from The Lost Ways Project which encourages community involvement in research into local rural issues - historical, geographical and social; and many, many Corporate Plans, Action Plans, Management Plans and similar documents which the Clerk asked people please to take away with them.

90. NEXT MEETING (which would be the A.G.M.) would be on Wednesday 12 May 2004. The present meeting closed at 8.50, and the Chairman was congratulated on conducting a busy meeting so expeditiously.