

Burton-in-Kendal Parish Council Annual Report for the year 2005/2006



Chairman's Statement by Councillor J.Hopwood

During the course of the last year Janet Alderson retired. Janet was Clerk for a number of years prior to becoming a Councillor and her presence is missed. However, we welcomed two new councillors, Alan Wren and Richard Lawson. Also, as a result of the general election, we have a new MP, Tim Farron. Our District and County Councillor is one and the same man – Roger Bingham and Roger attends the majority of our meetings which we welcome and we thank him for his input and support. Another welcome 'regular' at our meetings is PC Casson. Thankfully and long may it continue, PC Casson's reports do not include any serious crime but we do continue to be very concerned with speeding traffic and we have been lucky indeed that this has not resulted in any serious accidents. It has been announced recently that Cumbria Constabulary is to merge with Lancashire.

Regarding Quality Parish Status – we are very nearly there! Our Clerk has completed the Certificate in Local Council Administration and we now produce a quarterly Parish Newsletter delivered to all households to keep

parishioners abreast, not only of Parish matters, but District and County matters which affect us. We hope to achieve Quality Parish Status this summer. Being a Quality Parish will enable us to access more funding and to provide and/or administer more services.

This year would seem to have been the year for Public Consultation and we have responded to requests for input on a raft of public consultation documents too numerous to list in their entirety. They include District and County Structure Plans, the new Local Development Framework, energy generation, electoral boundaries, sustainability scoping, and minerals and waste development frameworks – not only within Cumbria but neighbouring Lancashire, which of course affects us being so close to the Lancashire border.

Planning applications were down yet again this year – the Parish Council commented on only 15 compared to 25 last year, 35 the year before and 45 the year before that. If this trend continues, we can expect only 5 next year!

We received a planning application for affordable housing at the top of Boon Town which received a mixed reception. SLDC Planning Committee approved it in principle subject to design modifications. Burton, in common with many rural communities, lacks affordable housing. The right to buy council houses and the upward trend in the 'buy to let' market has dramatically reduced the available stock of housing at affordable purchase prices and rents. Finding an available and affordable site which meets planning criteria and the approval of the parish as a whole is well nigh impossible.

We have real concern over the state of our pavements, surface water drains and roads and continue to press for repairs and resurfacing. Our Clerk has a substantial file of correspondence with Cumbria County Council and we have verbal assurances that we will be getting some pavement resurfacing next financial year. We can only live in hope and continue to press these matters.

We received grants again this year from the Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund – a fund we can tap into by being close to Holme Park Quarry. Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust (CWMET) administers part of this fund on behalf of Cumbria County Council and they have contributed £2756 to our signpost restoration project; together with the Friends of the

Lake District who have offered £1200. CWMET have also granted £13,000 to a 'Wildlife Walk' in the schools grounds, this has been match funded by the Neighbourhood Forum, the National Lottery's 'Awards for All' and the PTA's own fund raising. The Countryside Agency (now merged with English Nature and known as 'Natural England') has pledged £140,000 for a variety of conservation, footpath, access and awareness schemes in the parishes of Burton & Holme. One of the projects is the production of a 'Jubilee Walks' leaflet. You may remember that the Parish Council commissioned a series of walks within the parish to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Kath Hayhurst, then a parish councillor, devised four walks which we enjoyed on pleasant summer evenings in 2002. Kath is reproducing these walks in leaflet form, with contributions from Burton art groups and the Burton Fellwalkers; it will be published and distributed to all parishioners during April. Kath continues to be custodian of our footpaths, boundary markers and signs and we thank her for this valuable service.

Other changes in the village – The panorama on Slape Lane was completed and an extract from the panorama adorns the headings of our website and quarterly newsletter. We lost the telephone box at Clawthorpe. Dalton Crag is now officially open to the public. A new housing development is nearing completion on the site of the old garage at Church Bank. The Royal Hotel changed hands yet again and, for the moment, is in the ownership of Punch Taverns. It remains closed but has planning permission for a complete refurbishment.

THE FUTURE. We continue to update our Parish Plan and welcome any suggestions from parishioners which will enhance village life. We are still doggedly pursuing funding opportunities which will enable the employment of a parish lengthsman. The Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) has bid for funding for a pilot scheme in the county and we have recently attended meetings with Cumbria County Council to discuss the practicalities of such a scheme. The scheme is very successful in Lancashire. CALC are confident that running a pilot scheme in Cumbria will prove its value and lead to more funding being deployed down to parishes to enable them to employ their own lengthsmen and not to rely on the County Council to carry out the minor, but no less important, routine maintenance jobs

There was again no increase in the parish precept, which has remained the same for the past five years. A 'Hot Topic' survey on the website revealed

that the majority of those who voted were in favour of an increase in the precept to part-fund a lengthman.

Rather disappointingly, our website is not being used as much as we would like. The results from the 'Hot Topic' and feedback we do get are very useful to us, but we would like to see more.

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their commitment during the last year. Individual councillors represent our interests on, variously:-

The Memorial Hall Committee

Burton Recreation Trust

Burton Morewood School Governors

Holme Park Quarry Liaison Committee

Cumbria Association of Local Councils

Parish Councillors freely give up a considerable amount of time in the interests of the parish. They are the level of government closest to the people they serve. Our efforts to best serve the people of the parish are often frustrated, as the delivery of services is not within our remit, but we can and do make a difference. As can be seen by the number of consultation documents filled in and returned and related meetings attended this year, parish councils are better recognised now and our input does affect District and County decision making.

Last but by no means least, I would like to thank Charles Dale, the Parish Clerk, for his hard work, commitment and dedication to the Council and to the Parish and to the invaluable assistance and support given to me as Chairman.

Footnote :- The Parish Council's share of the Council Tax for each household has increased, as the District Council has increased its charges to the Parish Council for the provision of footway lighting, automatically adding that increase to the Parish Council's share of tax to be collected.

Projects completed from the revised Parish Plan

1. The way marking of all footpaths in the parish
2. Refurbishment of 2 historic fingerposts on Station Lane
3. Replica of cast-iron fingerpost erected at 19 Trees
4. The payphone in the Square changed to one that has text capability

Council Finances

Summary Income & Expenditure Account for the year ending 31 March 2006

2004/05	INCOME	2005/06
8,299.00	Precept	8,299.00
247.96	Interest	414.89
0.00	Rents	0.00
4,992.19	Donations & Grants	0.00
<u>995.93</u>	Other	504.06
<u>14,535.08</u>	TOTAL	9,217.95
	EXPENDITURE	
4,990.75	Provide Information Centre	1,203.62
272.60	Renovate bench	295.57
0.00	Re-install Milestone	45.00
497.28	Training costs for Cllrs. & Clerk	160.90
269.63	Website set-up	0.00
3703.69	General admin/running costs	2,871.85
246.00	S137	80.00
458.00	Lighting	458.00
701.58	Playground maintenance	807.05
2,634.29	Staff costs	3,014.92
<u>53.97</u>	Christmas tree & lights	27.00
<u>13,827.79</u>		8,963.91
	CUMULATIVE FUND BALANCE	
	Balances b/f at 1.04.05	7,273.63
	Add total income	9,217.95
		16,491.58
	Less total expenditure	<u>8,963.91</u>
		<u>7,527.67</u>
	BANK BALANCE at 31.03.06	7,186.13
	Add VAT cheque received, not yet presented	341.54
		<u>7,527.67</u>

The Councillors

Jane Hopwood **Chairman** 01524 781248

Cllr Hopwood represented the parish council on:-

The Holme Park Quarry Liaison Committee.

Cumbria Association of Local Councils South Lakeland District Association.

Cumbria Association of Local Councils Executive Committee.

Paul Rogers Vice-Chairman 01524 782660

Cllr Rogers represented the parish council on the Memorial Hall Committee.

Richard Boddy 01524 781473

Cllr Boddy represented the parish council on the Burton Recreation Trust.

George Isherwood 01524 781132

Cllr Isherwood represented the parish council as a governor of Burton Morewood School.

Richard Lawson 01524 781576

Francis Mason-Hornby 01524 782644

Ken Ray 01524 781127

Bill Willink 01524 781203

Cllr Willink represented the parish council on the Cumbria Association of Local Councils South Lakeland District Association.

Alan Wren 01524 781387

Cllr Wren represented the parish council on the Holme Park Quarry Liaison Committee.

Clerk to the Council - Charles Dale

Russell Cottage, Dalton, Burton-in-Kendal, via Carnforth LA6 1NN

Tel: 01524 781145

E-mail: parish.clerk@burton-in-kendal-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.burton-in-kendal-pc.gov.uk

The Parish's County and District Councillor is Roger Bingham.

Tel: 015395 63694

E-mail: roger.bingham@cumbriacc.gov.uk

Former Parish Councillor Kath Unsworth continued to represent the parish council on the Burton Education Foundation.