

# Staveley with Ings Parish Council

## 2015/16 Annual Report

### From the Chair

Another year; another annual report! And what a year it's been!

Little did we know that Storm Desmond would cause such devastation across our community in early December. While the storm may have gone and the clearing up largely done, the emotional upheaval takes longer and there remains much infrastructure damage to be rectified. We now know we need to plan better for the future, not least because unfortunately Desmond won't be the last storm. I think the key lesson that the Council has learned is that, unlike other major incidents, when flooding occurs it is not just a problem for Staveley and Ings. Bigger, more urban communities will also be affected, almost certainly more so. This means that while the storm is at its height, we have to take responsibility ourselves; we can't rely on others. Fortunately we have many folks willing to help the Council do just that both on the ground and by planning ahead. A huge amount is being done in this respect and the Council is really grateful for the help so many people have given and have promised for the future. We will learn from this experience as we make more detailed preparations.

Now to the allotments: While there is plenty of work still to do, again much has been achieved this year to reclaim our allotment land and begin to make it suitable again for its original purpose. The site has been opened up by the removal of some trees, improved drainage and parking areas are planned and work continues to restore the paths and plots. It is exciting to reach the stage of allocating plots to those waiting; so even more so when they begin to see the fruits (and vegetables) of their labours.

We are grateful for the contribution of Allan Sharples who has recently resigned due to other commitments. Although Allan would have wished to make a longer contribution, we have valued his support and service. As we approach the end of our four year term, we shall also lose Tony Priestley who has chosen to 'hang up his council hat'. Tony has diligently served Ings folks and others with real dedication based on a secure knowledge of the local community. We are extremely grateful for all he has done and wish him well for the future.

As the new Council, hopefully with some new faces, gets underway we will continue our very ambitious agenda, based firmly on our Parish Plan, the progress of which is briefly summarised as you read on in this report. We will, though, be starting to look further ahead and keen to work with other statutory bodies and you, the community, to ask ourselves what Staveley might look like in twenty (or more) year's time and most importantly, what we can do about that. We have repeatedly said we don't want 'things' just to happen to us, we want to have our say and this is just that chance. As this process moves forward in the coming year we look forward to working with you and on your behalf for the benefit of Staveley and Ings.

*Arthur Capstick*  
*Chairman*

## **Strategic Planning**

The Parish Council continues to make real progress in the delivery of its Parish Plan and has, this year, looked carefully at whether it should initiate a more far reaching Neighbourhood Plan. While this apparently offers greater local freedom, it demands considerable resource, time and expertise. Instead, at this stage, the Parish Council has committed itself to initiating a wide ranging consultation on the future 'shape' of our community using questions such as, 'what should Staveley and Ings look like in 15 to 20 years time?' You will have an opportunity to be involved in this – don't miss the chance to have your say.

## **Fellfoot Allotments Regeneration**

Throughout 2015 seven work party days were organised for clearing some of the allotments. These were well attended by volunteers.

In January 2016 the contractor George Newton felled the trees which had been identified and took away the larger wood for his firewood business, extracting this with his horses to minimise damage to the site. This work was undertaken free of charge to the parish council. The large unsafe sycamore near to Kentmere Road was dismantled by experts at this time and cost the parish council £1000.

In February 2016, the trees close to the power line crossing the allotments were felled by the North West Electricity felling team. Again this wood was taken by George Newton, extracted using his horses. This has left many smaller branches on the ground, which are slowly being cleared and cut into logs for sale.

From 1 April 2016, twelve new Tenancy Agreements were issued allowing those on the waiting list to finally begin work on an allotment of their own.

The allotments being used are the four larger ones agreed to be used in a staged process of regeneration, plus sharing of land worked by two existing plot holders, and three larger plots given up during 2015 and able to be reallocated to local residents and those waiting.

The planned areas for cars within the allotments area are yet to be made, but require the new drainage system to be considered first. Allotment holders have been asked to arrive by foot or bicycle where possible or park sensitively nearby but not on Elf Howe Road.

## **War Memorial**

The War Memorial base has been greatly improved by the new sandstone flagstones, thanks to individual donations and the support of the History Society. Plans are well advanced to record the names of the fallen soldiers on plaques to be attached to the surrounding wall, thus preserving their memory as the original inscriptions on the stone plinth begin to fade beyond repair.

## **Improved Access to the Station**

Convincing the key players of the priority to improve access to the station is challenging, as we knew it would be. Despite our best efforts and many meetings we have little to show so far. The new rail franchisees present a fresh opportunity which we will take and a Feasibility Study has been agreed in principle if the funding for this can be found. We are grateful for the support of the Lakes Line Community Rail Partnership and the User Group with whom we continue to work closely.

## **Improved Provision for Cyclists**

Cycle Racks have been installed in the Main Street next to the Alex Road car park

## **Highways**

A continuing theme, the Highways issues are still never ending. However the serious flooding in December diverted Cumbria Highways workforce to more urgent issues. The Highways Agency has been able to confirm that the resurfacing of Windermere Road is scheduled to take place in 2016/17. The on-going issue of dangerous pot holes and lack of white lining is being addressed with Cumbria Highways and it is hoped progress will soon be made.

## **Streetlight maintenance**

The maintenance of streetlights by Cumbria Highways also suffered because of the lack of manpower. On a more positive note, LED lights were installed along Windermere Road and these are considered to be a big improvement. Progress has been made regarding the re-instatement of a streetlight at Wesleyan Chapel, with SLDC agreeing to pay 50% of the installation costs. It is hoped that this can be completed before the winter of 2016/17.

## **Emergency Plan**

Our Plan was well and truly tested this year and will inevitably need some changes as a result. We now have the basis of an excellent Flood Action Group, with representatives from across the community and they will be 'put to work' as we take action on the priorities that have been identified. A project to lower the bund alongside the River Kent has been agreed which it is hoped will allow flood water to escape more quickly in future. We are grateful for the support of the South Lakes Rivers Trust and the landowner in this regard. Simple river gauges have been installed and interactive ones are planned if permission is granted. Consultation on Barley Bridge Weir has been undertaken, re-confirming the Council's commitment to work with the owners and if at all possible to seek its preservation in the future.

## **Grants/Donations**

The Council continues to provide substantial financial support to Gowan Stop & Go to enable the group to continue to carry out an excellent job of maintaining the public conveniences. A small donation was given to the N W Air Ambulance.

The Council has received a grant of £1,000 to allocate to business applicants who wish to improve their Shop Fronts. A maximum of £250 per applicant is payable.

Staveley Council has also been awarded a £7,500 grant from the Locally Important Project fund (SLDC) to enable repair and refurbishment of the Ings Playground. This equates to 50% of the projected cost.

## **Housing and Planning, including the Housing Needs Survey**

The Council has been consulted on 39 Planning applications during the year, the same number as the previous year. The Council responded to all of these applications and submitted comments where appropriate.

A Housing Needs Survey was completed during the year. A summary is available on the website and paper copies are obtainable from the post office. The results provide a guide as to how future planning applications should be considered.

## **Dog Fouling**

Despite improvements, Dog Fouling continues to be an ongoing persistent problem both in the village but particularly on the Recreation Ground. Plans are being made for a wider consultation to tackle the issue.

## **Ings Bus Shelter**

The re-instatement of the damaged bus shelter at Ings will be carried out early in the 2016/17 financial year. The delay in building initially occurred due to the appalling weather and subsequently a problem with a major gas

monitoring meter that was attached to the back wall of the shelter. A mandatory inspection by a National Grid engineer proved difficult to arrange but has now been carried out. Approval has been given for building work to commence.

### Finance

A summary of the annual accounts can be found at the end of this report. For the forthcoming year (2016/17), the Council agreed that the precept should be held at its current level, apart from a 2% allowance for inflation. Precept increased from £14,280 to £14,566. The summary includes details of the earmarked funds the Council holds in reserves for future projects.

### Parish Council

The Parish Council of Staveley with Ings exists to represent residents of the three wards of Hugill, Nether Staveley and Over Staveley. Residents are welcome to attend meetings of the council and provision is made early in the meeting to raise matters of interest or concern and to ask questions about the council's work. You can also bring issues to the attention of the council either through the clerk or by contacting any of the councillors. Contact details are:

**The Clerk:** June Lee, 31 Wattsfield Road, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 5JN

Tel: 01539 729382 Email: [staveleyings.parish@gmail.com](mailto:staveleyings.parish@gmail.com)

### Councillors:

<b>Hugill Ward</b>	Mr A Capstick, Whitber, Raven Garth, Staveley (Chairman). 01539 821719
	Mr GL Wilkinson, The Hill, Ings. 01539 822237
	Mr AS Priestley, 1 Church View, Ings. 01539 822301
	Mr A.Sharples, Moss Side farm, Staveley. 01539 822302 (resigned: Mar '16)
<b>Nether Staveley Ward</b>	Mr TC Johnson, 1 Bridge End, Staveley. 01539 821329
	Mr AJ Wilkinson, 7 Station Road, Staveley. 01539 821069
	Mrs SC Goffe, Middle Fell, Crook Road, Staveley 01539 821146
	Mr J.Parkinson, 69 Main Street, Staveley. 01539 821458
<b>Over Staveley Ward</b>	Mr R Batty, 56 Seedfield, Staveley. 01539 822109
	Miss A Salisbury, Newlands, Crook Road, Staveley. 01539 821305
	Mr PL Harrison, 5 Rawes Garth, Staveley. 01539 821706
	Mr M Kidd, Sunny Orchard Farm, Kentmere Rd, Staveley. 01539 821016

The next ordinary election for all seats on the council will be held in May 2020