

# Staveley with Ings Parish Council

## 2020/21 Annual Report

### **From the Chair**

The past year has been truly exceptional and has affected us in many ways in Staveley and Ings. Not least the workings of the Parish Council. Last March we were set to proceed with a number of new projects including: launching our new Community award, young person's opportunity award and finishing Jack's corner in the centre of the village among other things. The pandemic and ensuing lockdowns put these on hold. Official in person public meetings were stopped, and at the time of writing they still have not resumed. Luckily all our Councillors and most of our residents have been able to adapt quickly to meeting online. While never quite replacing the effectiveness of an in person meeting, technology has allowed us to safely hold public meetings and get much Council business done. We have still been able to comment on all planning applications before us, develop our Community plan and tackle major discussion points such as the Abbey care home and flooding and sewerage discharge in the Village all over the internet.

Unfortunately, the past year has also seen us lose some of our dearest members of the community to the ravages of the virus. A glint of hope emerged through the tragic events with the formation of Staveley and Ings together. A large group of volunteers who pledged themselves to help those affected by the lockdown. Another example of how our community spirit burns so brightly and makes Staveley with Ings such a special place.

### ***Mark Kidd Chairman***

### **Highways**

The state of the roads is once again high on our list of tasks at the Parish Council. Cumbria Highways has the responsibility for maintaining our road network and we are still attempting to build relationships with the key players there. We are still awaiting resurfacing of Windermere Road however Silver Street has now been resurfaced. Our emerging Parish Plan suggests that traffic flow and parking in Staveley are major issues that Parishioners are concerned about. We are starting to look at ways of improving the often congested centre of the Village. There may be certain things we can do as a Parish Council however significant progress will likely be achieved by working with other agencies.

### **Crook Road – Safety Improvement Measures for all road users as footpath**

A sub-group of Parish Councillors are leading a project to explore and then consult affected residents on safety improvement measures for all road users, from Crookfield down to the railway bridge. There are active and ongoing discussions with possible partners and funding sources. Initial plans have been drawn up (February 2021).

We await the outcome of recently started discussions with 2 other agencies which may expand this project beyond these boundaries.

The sub-group has put in a lot of work surveying the area and traffic flows over the last two years and have designed a new scheme. The new design is entirely locally led.

Providing all agencies timetables allow, this will be presented to residents this summer for consultation, following which final plans will be drawn up.

This project will then proceed to costings and identifying sources of funding and finally to completion.

### **Lakes Line Community Rail Partnership**

The Council continues to be an active member of this group, tasked with ensuring the development and use of the Line and its facilities fully serve the local community. Inevitably, this year has seen extensive disruption to the service, unfortunately just at a time when new management was introduced to improve reliability. However, unlike many other areas the service is now almost back to a complete timetable.

The Partnership is committed to promoting rail travel as restrictions ease. Fundamental to this is the opportunity for investment from the national 'Restoring your Railways' programme which would involve the installation of a passing loop and subsequently enable a more frequent service to be introduced, providing better connections with main line trains. The Council has given full support for this funding opportunity, while continuing to press for improved facilities and full access to the station at Staveley.

### **Staveley with Ings Community Plan**

During the year the Parish Council has coordinated the Community Plan to involve as many people who live and work in the village. The approach drew upon The Conversation events in 2019, which explored what people valued most about the parish and how these links together, and responded to a more traditional On-line Survey in 2018.

The Conversation showed that the unique community spirit within a mixed and accepting community, green space and affinity with the landscape, local access to services and shops, and employment and business opportunities were highly valued.

The values, challenges and different viewpoints identified have shaped the strategic areas for the Community plan, which are:

- Nature and the Environment
- Staveley with Ings Society
- Our Economy
- Our community Services and Facilities
- Planning and making decisions

During November and December individuals, local businesses, voluntary and community groups contributed ideas about what **actions** can be taken individually or together to make sure our community continues to thrive.

A Community Plan Group, made up of parish councillors and other residents, led on the development of the plan. They were supported by a further 35 volunteers who considered ideas for actions in each of the five strategic areas.

The draft Community Plan will be ready for scrutiny and comment by the full parish council and by all residents in June 2021.

### **Barley Bridge Viewing Area**

After several years of negotiation and lobbying for this unsightly area, this year has seen its restoration to a space from which the view across the weir and beyond can be enjoyed by all – well almost! All that remains is for the boundary wall to be raised slightly and made safe by returning it to its original height and a stone seat to be installed. Inevitably, the final agreement involved some compromise. The tarmac surface will need time to weather in but was agreed so that the area would be accessible to everyone using wheels. The kerb has been completely replaced at a slightly lower height than initially envisaged to ensure it is more visibly attractive.

The Parish Council wishes to thank Kentmere Limited, Cumbria County Council, The Lake District National Park Authority and South Lakeland District Council for their financial support.

Total income received in the year was £3,055, including £500 for a memorial seat with £5,953 being spent on the work.

### **Jack's Corner**

Lockdown has slowed work down considerably however despite the delay we have progressed and remained within our tight budget. Many thanks to Gary Wilson who has worked for virtually nothing on the building works. Also, to Mike and Sarah Tullis who donated the large tree for the centre of the corner. Thanks to SENS for funding, installing and planting the wooden planters. As I write, we have several benches on order, sponsored by local people and

hopefully installed in time for summer. There is also a little bit of building work to finish over the next few months including installation of 2 bike racks. Our hope is the corner becomes a useful and attractive centre for Staveley. Flower plant boxes are to also be installed. A small lending book library is to be incorporated into the Corner. Income received in the year was £ 4,320 £3,320 relates to advance payment for Memorial seats. Payments of £10,559 were made utilising earmarked reserve fund.

### **Fellfoot Allotments**

From 1 April 2021 there are twenty-eight allotment holders paying 20p per square metre for the land they work. This is an increase of six on last year as some plots have been divided to make smaller plots because of the recent demand for allotments. Two holders did not have their Tenancy Agreements renewed this year but those on the waiting list have taken these plots on.

During lockdown it was permitted to work allotments and many allotment holders spent much time at Fell Foot, enjoying the quiet countryside and getting on with growing fruit and vegetables.

The very dry spring weather during lockdown gave a water shortage when three of the four natural springs at the site dried up. Since then, baths and/or barrels have been placed by each spring and the communal shed to give at least a reserve of water should the same occur again.

The trees on the plot given over to Cumbria Wildlife Trust for three years from 2019 are doing well. These trees will be planted out in the winter of 2021/early 2022.

The gates of both car parks were left open from March 2020 because of Covid, so that holders didn't need to touch the gates on entry.

Rent Income for the year was £1,275 with expenditure of £1,605. Drainage work costing £1,540 was the major outlay.

### **Frona Williams Allotments (Silver Street)**

In January 2021, the Parish Council purchased the allotment site on Silver Street at a total cost (including legal fees) of £11,300. The Community Land Trust gave a donation of £2,236. The site will be known as the Frona Williams allotments, the late Frona Williams was the previous owner of the site. There were 17 applicants for the 10 plots plus one other plot taken by an existing allotment holder moving there from the Fell Foot allotments. In the interests of fairness, a lottery was drawn to allocate the plots, on Wednesday 17th February 2021. After three weeks of clearing the site, plot holders were able to start digging and clearing their own plot on Friday 19th February. Six of the holders have young children in their families and these are the next generation allotmenters!

Special thanks go to the following for donating their time or materials to the restoration of the Frona Williams Allotments:

Fallowfield Joinery for sheets of corrugated tin for the replacement shed roof

Yvonne Cannon for her time cutting back the large Leylandii hedge

George Edington for fixing part of a dry stone wall

Harry Nelson for spending the best part of two weeks fixing up the old tin shed and painting it and bringing his chipper to get rid of some of the Leylandii branches.

Clive Johnson for an extra water butt.

Peter Harrison for some clearing labour.

Anne Salisbury for three trips to the tip with a van full of Leylandii branches.

### **Craggy Wood**

Developments at Craggy Wood have suffered during the Covid pandemic as staff were furloughed for a long period. Plans are still in the pipeline for new interpretation boards, the making of a pathway through the field and woodland bequeathed to the Cumbria Wildlife Trust (CWT), fixing walls, making other walls to link Craggy Wood with Dorothy Farrers Spring Wood.

Work parties and information days will continue when Covid rules allow.

Small trees given out by CWT in 2018 to residents to grow for the extended forest will be recalled to be planted out in the field in the winter of 2021/2022.

The CWT has been required to fell all the diseased larch trees in the top east corner of the woodland. Villagers will be notified when this work will take place and a diversionary footpath will be used during this time.

### **Streetlight maintenance**

We are responsible for 28 streetlights in the Parish. All of them are in Staveley. The other streetlights you see are looked after by either the District or County Council. The streetlights on Kendal Road were replaced last year at a cost of £1,460. C.C.C have carried out work on Beck Nook streetlights and repaired other lights promptly when requested to do so.

### **Flooding**

Staveley with Ings has been visited by the Environment Agency on a few occasions in the last year to consult on flood defence ideas and plans. Residents and Councillors have given their strongest representations possible. We are now awaiting the Environment Agency's actual plans for Kentmere, Staveley and Ings by the end of this year. Ground investigations in Ings took place in March as part of the Flood Management scheme for the village. There may be flood defence walls in Staveley and natural flood attenuation projects further up Kentmere Valley.

### **Community Award**

Once back to face to face meetings we hope to start our community award scheme to recognise people in the parish who have volunteered or contributed good works to the community over a number of years. We will present an honorary certificate and place their name in a special bound book which will be on public display from time to time. Anyone may nominate a person for an award. Contact the Chair or Clerk.

### **Young Persons Opportunity Scheme**

We have successfully raised some money to start a fund to help young people (under 18's) from less well-off families in the Parish pay towards extra-curricular activities. Small grants up to £100 to cover club fees, trips or a piece of equipment are available. The scheme is active now. See our Parish Council website for details and an application form. Please spread the word to those who may benefit.

### **Grants/Donations**

Ings Village Hall contributed £1,775 towards the cost of the wall repair work at the village hall.

Kentmere Ltd gave £1,500, CCC £1,055 and Lake District National Park £500 to help fund Barley Bridge viewpoint.

SLDC Councillor Pat Bell, contributed £250 towards costs at Jacks Corner.

SLDC Councillor Hazel Hodgson gave £250 for the mini library at Jacks Corner and £250 to the Youth Opportunity scheme.

No grants were given this year but a budget of £1,500 has been set aside to facilitate grant payments in 2021/22.

### **Planning**

The Council has been consulted on 54 Property Planning applications, (40 property & 14 Tree) an increase from the previous year of 39. (33 property, 6 trees) The Council responded to all of these applications and submitted comments where appropriate.

### **Finance**

A summary of the annual accounts can be found at the end of this report. For the forthcoming year (2021/22), the Council agreed that the current level of precept should be increased by £300.) The precept was set at £14,880 plus Grant from SLDC of £729.68 totalling £15,609.68. (2020/21 £15,266)

General reserves as at 31/03/2021 total £8,419 a decrease of £7,538 in the year. The decrease is due to the funding required to purchase Silver Street allotments.

Earmarked reserves as at 1/03/2021 total £21,637, decreasing from £33,255. The reserves were spent on projects (Barley Bridge viewpoint and Jacks Corner)

The summary includes details of the earmarked funds the Council holds in reserves for future projects.

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

**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. 01539 821719 Mr GL Wilkinson, The Hill, Ings. 01539 822237 Mr PL Harrison, 5 Rawes Garth, Staveley. 01539 821706 Mr P. M. Riley, Burnthwaite, Ings, Kendal 079799-64880
<b>Nether Staveley Ward</b>	Mr TC Johnson, 1 Bridge End, Staveley. 01539 821329 Miss A Salisbury, Newlands, Crook Road, Staveley. 01539 821305 (077132 40572) Mr Andrew Pimblett, 10 Caldrigg Fold, Staveley LA8 9QN 073982 83719 Mrs Miriam Powell, 20 Danes Rd, Staveley LA8 9PW 01539 821475
<b>Over Staveley Ward</b>	Mr M Kidd, Sunny Orchard Farm, Kentmere Rd, Staveley. (Chairman) 01539 821016 0780 761 2253 Ms Yvonne Cannon, Rose Cottage, 2 Bank Terrace, Crook Road, Staveley 07538-734684 Mrs Deborah Michel, Craggside, Kentmere Rd. Staveley 01539 821414 (077175 80600)

The next ordinary election for all seats on the council was held on 6th May 2021