

Staveley with Ings Parish Council

2014/15 Annual Report

From the Chair

This year I would like to focus in this part of the Report on an aspect of our community that is not just the domain of the Parish Council but which does encompass much of the Council's work – our volunteers across the community. Much is said about the need for volunteers, the difficulties of recruiting them and their age profile. While volunteering trends will inevitably change over time and there will be challenges ahead, Staveley and Ings benefit hugely and in ways that are too numerous to list from the contribution in skills, time, commitment and support that local people bring. It is easy to overlook this or take it for granted so, as Chairman and as a Council, I want us to recognise all the voluntary community work and publicly to express our thanks. I suspect not a day goes by when someone somewhere is not doing something to benefit our village life.

Of course included in this is the work of councillors themselves and 2014 – 15, as in previous years, has demonstrated this. I seem to keep saying that the Council is 'busier than ever'. Whether that is so I am not sure but it certainly feels like it. Once again central to our work has been our Parish Plan, which is proving a valuable guide for the priorities we have to fulfil. Attention is drawn to the detail elsewhere but I do wish to highlight the work that Councillor Salisbury has contributed, with the Allotment Working Group, to re-establish our allotment provision. The attention given to this is an excellent example of how we should proceed. Inevitably, at this stage in the life of the Plan, new priorities begin to emerge and the culmination of work on the Emergency Plan and our recommendations for the consideration of planning applications provide two examples of work undertaken by the Council that is additional to the Plan. So, again to Councillors and I believe on behalf of the community – thank you.

There are, however, plenty of challenges ahead. Two examples will suffice. Full access to the station is proving to be a difficult 'nut to crack'; nor is our provision for young people in the village sufficiently established yet. And then there is Neighbourhood Planning, probably the most significant issue under consideration and one which the Council will return to in the coming year. Underpinning all our work has been the incredibly valuable support that our Clerk, Peter Davidson has provided. His time as clerk has regrettably only been short but in that time he has become a real asset to the Council. We wish Peter and his wife well as they head to the South West – may all his councillors be as 'well behaved' as we are!

Arthur Capstick
Chairman

Parish Plan

The Parish Council has once again made substantial progress against the Parish Plan, with a number of initiatives ongoing, as you will see from the items below. Looking ahead, the Council has also taken the first steps to explore the potential for a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish.

Allotments

With the search for additional land for allotments effectively stalled, the Allotments Working Group have explored the feasibility of regenerating the Fellfoot allotments, with the aim of increasing the number of plots available for cultivation. This involved a huge amount of effort to assess the problems to be overcome in regenerating the Fellfoot site. The Working Group also took account of the concerns raised by a number of local residents, about the impact of restoring the Fellfoot site. All of this work culminated in a detailed presentation to the full Parish Council at the Council meeting held on 1st April, where the Council voted to proceed with the regeneration of the Fell Foot allotments.

War Memorial

The War Memorial has been cleaned and it is planned to replace the worn-out cobbles with flagstones.

Improved Access to the Station

The Parish Council is working closely with the Lakes Line Community Rail Partnership, to push for improved pedestrian access. At this stage, it is not clear whether we will be successful.

Public Transport

Our “Staveley Connections” project received grant funding, which allowed us to purchase a finger post and a notice board for the station and an additional notice board at the bus shelter opposite the Institute. Also grant funded were our “Welcome to Staveley” joint bus/train timetable posters for the notice boards and the handy “pocket sized” bus/train timetables which are distributed at key outlets around the village.

Improved Provision for Cyclists

Cycle racks are planned to be installed next to recycling centre.

Highways

Just like painting the Forth Bridge, Highways issues are never-ending. Nevertheless, Highways have made good progress this year in tackling a number of issues in the village, and our new Highways Area Steward is proving effective.

Streetlight maintenance

The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of 25 streetlights in the parish, some of which proved troublesome this last year. As the residents of Beck Nook know, a problem occurred over the Christmas period with their streetlights, which proved difficult and time-consuming to track down and fix.

The impact of the long-running issue of streetlights on telegraph poles is now much clearer. On the Banks, the light opposite the station is to be replaced with a new freestanding streetlight, while the light between the station and Gowan Crescent will ultimately be removed and cannot be replaced. The old light next to Broom Hill on the Banks is to be replaced with a modern LED unit.

Emergency Plan

The Parish Council are in the final stages of drawing up a community Emergency Plan, which will help to ensure that our parish is well prepared in the event of an emergency.

Grants/Donations

The Council once again provided substantial financial support to the “Gowan Stop & Go” group, who continue to do an excellent job in maintaining the public toilets in Staveley. The Council also provided a donation to the Staveley Carnival and a small donation to Ings Parish Hall in support of window replacement.

Housing and Planning

The Council has been consulted on 39 planning applications during the year (compared with 38 in the previous year). 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 this year the Council agreed that the precept should be held at its current level, apart from an allowance for inflation. It was agreed that a 2% increase was representative of inflation, so that the precept would increase from £14000 to £14280.

Youth Club

The Parish Council received grant funding to allow the establishment of a youth club, and Young Cumbria were tasked with coordinating this project. Unfortunately, take-up during the year has been poor.

Winter salting of paths

The Parish Council enlisted the support of a number of volunteers within the village, to undertake salting of paths during icy weather. Thanks to this excellent voluntary support, our winter salting activities have been carried out very successfully.

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: Peter Davidson, 2 St Marks Fold, Natland, Kendal, LA9 7QU

Tel: 01539 561699 Email: staveleyings.parish@gmail.com

Councillors:

Hugill Ward	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
Nether Staveley Ward	Mr TC Johnson, 1 Bridge End, Staveley. 01539 821329 Mr AJ Wilkinson, 7 Station Road, Staveley. 01539 821069 Mrs SC Goffe, Craggy Wood, 16 Fairfield Close Staveley. 01539 821146 Mr J.Parkinson, 69 Main Street, Staveley. 01539 821458
Over Staveley Ward	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, Caravan at Sunny Orchard, Kentmere Rd, Staveley. 01539 821016

The next ordinary election for all seats on the council will be held in May 2016.

Staveley with Ings Parish Council
Summary Receipts and Payments Account for year ending 31 March 2015

Y/E 31/03/2014		Y/E 31/03/2015
£	Receipts	£
12,209.81	Precept	13,243.97
5,685.19	Grants + donations	5,273.03
6.72	Bank interest	5.12
436.15	VAT refund	995.74
153.50	Allotments	81.00
60.00	Poor Field	60.00
30.12	Other	998.85
18,581.49		20,657.71
	Payments	
2,080.88	Insurance	1,013.20
100.00	Audit	145.00
3,081.64	Salaries, Travel & Training	4,242.47
352.20	Room hire	420.71
312.47	Post, phone, stationary, office equip't	210.96
334.00	Subscriptions	329.00
530.00	Parish Plan	-
109.00	Website	157.00
526.33	Playground	65.00
2,823.74	LAP Grants	2,468.65
1,400.00	Gowan Stop & Go grant	1,100.00
80.00	Section 137	730.00
179.62	Footway Lighting maintenance	1,227.32
620.00	Grass cutting, strimming, planters	1,749.65
1,866.75	Parish Steward	84.00
618.90	Maintenance, Repairs, Materials	1,491.38
171.57	SLDC election costs	-
2,795.45	Speed Indication Device purchase	-
-	Allotments	150.00
1,000.82	VAT	934.51
18,983.37		16,518.85
- 401.88	Net Receipts/Payment	4,138.86

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2015

	£
Summary	
Opening balance as at 1 April 2014	15,801.78
Add receipts	20,657.71
	36,459.49
Less Payments	16,518.85
Closing balance as at 31 March 2015	19,940.64