

## HELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 6 April 2016 at 8.00pm in the Helsington and Brigsteer Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs J Seddon (Chairman), S Carman, A Davies, B Mansbridge, S Steer, G Wilson, District Cllr A Rawlinson, County Cllr J Bland, Ms J Saunders (Clerk) and 12 members of the public.

1. Apologies were received from Cllr B Sykes and Cllr G Wilson.
2. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 6 May 2015 were approved and subsequently signed by Cllr A Davies.
3. Cllr A Davies presented the Chairman's Report on Parish Council activities and parish matters 2015/16. Thanks were recorded to J Davidson, former Clerk who had done an excellent job; her replacement as Clerk J Saunders; Cllr J Seddon who had resigned as Chairman but was remaining as a councillor; Cllrs S Steer and B Sykes who were standing down as councillors in May; Cllr S Carman and the Community led Plan Working Group for their work on the Plan; District Cllr A Rawlinson and County Cllr J Bland for their assiduous attendance at parish council meetings.

It was noted that anyone wishing to stand for election to the parish council should submit nomination papers before the closing date the following day. The inclusion of Helsington parish in the Lake District National Park from 1 August 2016 was also noted. Disagreements and controversy in the parish over issues such as the location of the new Village Hall, the provision of additional housing and latterly the proposed Internal Drainage Board were acknowledged, but the Chairman hoped that people would also recognise the need to live together and respect others' views, and be thankful for living in such a beautiful area.

4. There was an opportunity for members of the electorate to raise any matters relevant to the Parish:  
District Cllr A Rawlinson endorsed Cllr A Davies' comments, stating her view that it was a privilege to live in the area, to represent everyone in the community and give everyone a voice. She commended the positive atmosphere of Helsington parish council meetings. County Cllr J Bland commented that people may disagree with one another but still respect others' views.
5. Community Led Plan:  
Fran Richardson of ACTion with Communities in Cumbria outlined the community planning process. She highlighted the importance of community plans in bringing about action, attracting funding and affecting policy. Having gathered evidence from the questionnaires, the next stage in the process would be to use what the community has said to draft and finalise the plan. Cllr S Carman noted that there had been 72 questionnaires returned, with most coming from residents of Brigsteer. He gave an overview of questionnaire results, highlighted findings such as the importance of the Wheatsheaf to the community, parish council communication via website and newsletter, and concerns about community cohesion. Cllrs S Carman and J Seddon expresses a willingness to continue their participation in the Community Led Plan Working Group, but appealed for more volunteers, both councillors and non-councillors, to join the Group. Cllr S Carman advised that a draft Plan would be produced and presented to the Parish Council, with a target publication date of October 2016.  
There was an opportunity for comments, questions and suggestions and the following points were noted:

- 72 responses out of a potential of around 300 was felt by Fran Richards to be a good response rate (23%), with 20% being regarded as reasonable.
- The importance of feedback and communication of findings back to the community.
- The difference between level and nature of responses from residents of Brigsteer village and those in outlying parts of the parish.
- A recommendation to keep the Plan simple.
- The prospect of the production of a Valley Plan following the inclusion of most of the parish in the Lake District National Park.
- What works well in the parish - ie the Village Hall and the Wheatsheaf pub - and the potential for the recognition of community assets.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed: .....

(Chairman)

Date: