

## CALDBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Parish Hall on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2005.

|         |                        |                 |
|---------|------------------------|-----------------|
| PRESENT | Mr W R Cowx (Chairman) | Mr H Little     |
|         | Mrs A Cartmell         | Mrs A D R Noble |
|         | Mr H Hellon            | Mr C Smithson   |
|         | Mr W R Knowles         | Mr A Tyson      |

Mrs E Auld (Clerk)

Mr D S Fairbairn (County/Borough Councillor)

Four members of the public were present – Mesdames Kent, Woodcock and Braithwaite and Mr P Pearson.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs A L Ryan & A Savage (ill).

### MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2004 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr Cowx welcomed and thanked everyone present for attending the meeting. The Council had met eight times during the year with good attendance at most meetings. Various guest speakers had been invited to meetings in relation to planning and legal issues. The Parish Plan questionnaire had been compiled, distributed and completed by around 60% Parishioners, together with a Cumbria Rural Housing Trust Housing Needs Survey with a 55% return rate. The Plan was in the process of being analysed by a group of residents, prior to production of a document for consultation on the findings and eventually printing. The Parish Council was following up the identified need for some affordable housing. Site meetings had been held in connection with Hesket Newmarket encroachments and the Straits – Priests Mill footpath resurfacing and improved access project. The Chairman commented on the increasing amount of red tape and additional work expected of Parish Councils. He expressed appreciation for the attendance and interest of Parishioners at meetings and thanked in particular Councillor Fairbairn, County and District Councillor, and the Clerk for their support as well as all members of the Parish Council.

### ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported on an increase in receipts due to a higher precept and more bank interest. Grants had also been received from the Countryside Agency (£956), Cumbria Community Foundation (£500) and Lake District National Park Authority (£455.75) towards the cost of producing the Parish Plan. Payments were higher by £1,292 due to increases in administration, insurance, open spaces, grants and Parish Plan expenditure (£819 to date). The net surplus for the year was £1,734, which included £1,093 for the Parish Plan. The precept had been set at £7,300 for 2005/06.

### GUEST SPEAKER

Mr Paul Pearson, Cumbria Association of Local Councils spoke about the Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme, which was especially aimed at small Councils, as collectively, once accredited, they could create a louder voice. The scheme arose as a response to the Government White Paper in 2000 when the Parish tier asked to be listened to. The scheme would create more work for Clerks, but active Councillors could do more and by so doing, serve their community better. Initially the Clerk was required to obtain a qualification and then another one by the Parish Council to obtain Quality Parish Status. Once obtained, additional funding would be available to enhance the quality and voice of the Parish. Extra functions could be undertaken i.e. grass cutting, gritting etc. using Allerdale BC funding. Better communication with other tiers and community organisations was expected. Bursaries were available for training. Currently there was £450,000 set aside for Quality Parishes to spend on submitted plans showing how they wished to use the funds. Mr Pearson suggested that the Council gave some thought to the scheme. The Chair thanked him for attending and speaking at the meeting.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – OPEN DISCUSSION

Mrs Woodcock advised the Council that she was the new coordinator for the Northern Fells Group. She also made enquiries as to whether any notes would be available following a conference held at Newton Rigg on Affordable Housing.