

## CALDBECK PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

First an update on the **local elections** that took place on **2 May**. There were 8 candidates for 10 places for the Parish Council and so all candidates became Parish Councillors. Richard Hellon and Colin Smithson decided they would not seek re-election and Christine Coulthard had resigned earlier in the year. John Brown joins the Parish Council so Hesket Newmarket is again represented. The new Parish Council would like to co-opt two people at its meeting on 17 June. If you want to find out more about what's involved in being a Parish Councillor, please do talk to any Parish Councillor or the Clerk. People wishing to be co-opted need to let the Clerk know by 14 June. If more than two people put their names forward, the Parish Councillors vote on who should be co-opted. As regards other local elections, the County Council Thursby Division by-election was uncontested, with Mike Johnson the new County Councillor. For Allerdale Borough Council, Tony Annison was elected for Warnell Ward.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** took place on **13 May at 7:00pm in Caldbeck Parish Hall**, followed by the **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council**. **Tim Cartmell was elected Chairman and Paul Doherty Vice Chairman**. A fuller report of the meetings will be published in the July magazine. Main points are summarised below.

Regarding the **Caldbeck/Hesket Newmarket footpath**, after missing its deadline and under threat of being found in contempt of Court, the County Council sent us the report its independent reviewer originally prepared and which the Information Commissioner had ordered the County Council to release. As expected, the report addressed the merits of the County Council's decision not to support the footpath and the reviewer recommended that the Chief Executive reviews the decision and proceeds with the Footpath Creation Order. The Parish Council is now working with Mike Johnson, County Councillor, to see how the footpath can best be established and remains fully committed to the project.

County Council **Highways** were pleased to receive positive feedback regarding the recent work in **Hesket Newmarket**, including repairs to the entrance to the car park. They have responded to the concerns raised about the need to coordinate Highways and BT/other utility companies' work so that alternative access is maintained; and the need for better signage - accurate dates/duration and 'businesses open'. The Parish Council has also raised concerns about Highways using Blue Gate and fly tipping. Further information is on Highways News: <http://www.caldbeck.org.uk/parish-council/key-documents/>.

Allerdale Borough Council approved the Parish Council's grant application for Pre Application Advice from the National Park to help progress an **Affordable Housing** project for self-build houses. But we still await a letter setting out the grant conditions before appointing architects to prepare the request for advice. The intention is that a Community Led Group will take forward the project once the National Park has provided its advice.

Whilst the Parish Council remains keen to purchase National Park land, including **Hesket Newmarket green** and the Caldbeck/Hesket Newmarket **village car parks**, we recognise it is likely to take a considerable time. The land was accepted in lieu of tax and Treasury and HMRC consent is likely to be required. The National Park would then need to consult interested parties.

The Parish Council discussed planning application [7/2019/2087](#) **Land to the East of the Children's Play Area, Hesket Newmarket** - approval of the pre-commencement condition relating to flood risk and surface water measures. The Parish Council noted that the

papers stated 'provision of detailed drawings required' and the schedule of work had timings but no start/end dates. Without this information and a report from the County Council as Lead Local Flooding Authority, the Parish Council was concerned that no evidence was available to demonstrate whether the pre-commencement condition had been met. The Clerk was asked to check if the information and report are available before finalising the Parish Council's response to the application.

The **final accounts papers for 2018-19 and related reports** on internal controls are all now published on the website. Once we receive the report from the external auditor, the accounts and related papers will be available for inspection, throughout the whole of July.

Please contact Simon Smith for further information:

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