

CALDBECK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held via Zoom on Monday 18 May 2020 at 7:00pm.

Councillors Present: Tim Cartmell (Chairman), Norman Atkinson, John Brown, Paul Doherty, Paul Graham, Angela Glendinning, Alastair Macfadzean, Alan Tyson, Alison Young Poole
Also Present: Tony Annison, Allerdale Borough Councillor, Geoff Davies, National Park Member, David Ward, Rachael Kelly, Parish Clerk Above Derwent, and Simon Smith (Clerk).

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Ian Shaw and Mike Johnson, County Councillor.

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 13 May 2019

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13 May 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented his report on the activities of the Parish Council for the year ending 31 March 2020. He highlighted the Parish Consultation undertaken in December last year and the continuing support for the footpath between Hesket Newmarket and Caldbeck. The Parish Council had received an encouraging Opinion from Counsel and is discussing how progress might be made to establish the footpath with Allerdale Borough Council. The purchase of National Park land including the various car parks has been delayed following the Coronavirus pandemic. With staff returning to work it is hoped to move things forward. The good news is that the Parish Council has been offered an anonymous private donation to fund the purchase costs. The Parish Council continues to work on other projects - street lighting, the Caldbeck Public Toilets, affordable housing, lobbying for Highways repairs and investment, and commenting on planning applications. The Chairman thanked all Councillors for giving their time and effort, the Clerk for giving many more hours to the work of the Council beyond those for which he is paid, and all the volunteers who help in the community to make the Parish a great place to live. The Chairman's full report is on the website:

<http://www.caldbeck.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Chairmans-Annual-Report-2020.pdf>

4. Annual Accounts

The Clerk reported on the Parish Council's finances. Receipts were some £5,000 in excess of payments, in large part because a grant from Allerdale had been received for affordable housing but had not yet been drawn down. Also there had been little call on contingencies, given the mild winter. Balances at the end of the year had increased to £128,300, £98,200 being for the footpath. The Parish Council had earmarked reserves for the affordable housing project, potential legal costs in relation to the footpath and National Park land purchase, and a grant to Northern Fells to help support the Coronavirus related extra work. These earmarked reserves had already been partly drawn down in the first weeks of the new financial year. The reserves provided the funds for a number of significant projects and when projects were concluded, reserves would be in line with the requirements of similarly sized parish councils. The Parish Council's finances were therefore sufficient to support plans and standard activities.

5. Public participation

No issues were drawn to attention other than an expression of thanks for the information reported which provided a comprehensive record of the Parish Council's activities and finances.

The meeting closed at 7:25 and was followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.