

LANGWATHBY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

Dear Parishioner,

Here is a brief account of your Parish Council's work over the past year. I hope you find it interesting – it is one of the ways the Council is accountable to the people it serves in Edenhall and Langwathby.

William Mounsey, Chairman

Grants

We have made grants to a number of local activities, including The Fellrunner Village Bus (£320), Langwathby & Edenhall First Responders (£200), The Memo (£200), £200 each to Edenhall and Langwathby Parochial Church Councils for churchyard maintenance and £100 to the Great North Air Ambulance.

Recycling Centre

The Parish Council runs the recycling area at the Village Hall on behalf of Eden District Council and gains a useful income from the value of materials collected (£1,744 last year). We have just signed a new agreement to 2014. Our thanks to Campbell Little and Peter Longstaff for trying to keep the area clean and tidy – please help them to do so by placing material in the correct bins and not dumping stuff by the containers.

Citizen of The Year

A "citizen of the year" award at the annual Langwathby May Day recognises outstanding service to the village. This was started by the late Jack Williamson (former Chief Constable of Northampton) in gratitude for the kindness shown to his family by Langwathby residents during his childhood in the village. At the request of the Williamson family and with a generous endowment of £2,550, the annual award

has now been taken over by a charitable trust set up and administered by the Parish Council.

Car Park

A formal licence has been concluded with Enterprise Inns and the Shepherd's Inn landlords to enable the village green car park to continue to be used by pub patrons. The Cumbria Probation Service kindly agreed to refurbish the post and chain fence as part of their "community punishment" programme.

Village Hall

The improvements to the Hall have been much appreciated as borne out by increasing numbers of bookings. Fire precautions and equipment have been upgraded during the year. It has been good to see some new members of the Hall Committee and their hard work in running the Hall is much appreciated.

Tennis Court

We had hoped to upgrade the tennis court area at the back of the Village Hall but were unable to attract any grant funding. If any residents would be interested in forming a tennis club, this would increase the possibility of improving the facilities.

Come to a meeting!

The Parish Council meets 6 times a year. Meetings are open to residents, who are encouraged to raise any matters of concern or to make suggestions – agendas are placed on the notice boards and dates are available from our website www.langwathby.org

Fishing Path

The Parish Council holds the fishing rights on the Langwathby side of the river for 265 metres upstream of the bridge. We have obtained permission from Natural England to clear a number of areas on the river bank to make it easier for parishioners to fish.

Planning

The Council has made comments on 11 planning applications during the year and only objected to one – the proposed

housing development off Eden Straits, which was subsequently refused by Eden District Council (outcome of planning appeal awaited)

Roads and Footpaths

We regularly identify problems with road surfaces, drainage, signs etc and take these up with the highway authorities. We were also able to secure extra grit bins, which proved invaluable during last winter's extreme weather.

A new footpath to Edenhall Sports Ground from the bridge has been promised, arising from the Langwathby Community Travel Plan.

Street Lights

We have pressed the District Council to rectify a number of problems with the street lighting caused by ageing equipment. Funding to replace obsolete lamps is a problem, increased by restrictions on placing new lamps on telegraph poles.

Volunteers

Our thanks are due to the many volunteers who help with village organisations, maintain the war memorials, mow the sports ground, help with the village hall or the scarecrow festival, pick up litter or help in any other way to make our villages attractive and vibrant places to live.

Finance

The Parish "precept" (the Parish Council's share of the Council Tax) was increased from £8,500 to £10,000 in 2009. This was due to the cost of repaying the loan of £80,000 taken out towards refurbishment of the Village Hall. The Council sought to minimise the increase and to spread it over two years. (The precept has been increased to £11,500 in 2010)

The Village Hall Committee is meeting half the cost of repaying the loan and has been grateful for the proceeds of another successful Scarecrow Festival.

Inevitably, money to spend on other items has been limited but ongoing services like grass cutting have been maintained.

The following is a summary of the Council's accounts for the year to 31 March 2010 (previous year's figures in lighter type). The balance carried forward at the year end was £5,933.

	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Precept	10,000	8,500
Grants received	0	0
Village Hall Committee	8,583	53,203
VAT recovered	1,869	22,360
Cemetery fees	525	400
Recycling credits	1,744	1,197
Loan	0	79,972
Other income	313	3,636
Total Receipts	23,034	169,268

PAYMENTS

Village Hall-general	4,614	7,366
Village Hall-refurb	7,452	133,353
Insurance	2,038	1,737
Administration	2,827	3,989
Village greens, bus shelters, etc	1,257	1,146
Grants made	1,234	1,485
Sports/play areas	549	598
Cemetery	256	501
Other payments	203	651
VAT	606	23,520
Total Payments	21,036	174,346

We are grateful to Gwen Veitch for once again undertaking the internal audit of the Council's accounts. The external auditor is BDO Stoy Hayward LLP.

Parish Councillors 2009/10

Edenhall:

Mr W.H.Benn, 1 The Courtyard; Mr I.S.Harrington, Helm View; Mr T.W.Metcalf, Home Farm; Mr W.F.Mounsey (Chairman), The Luham.

Langwathby:

Mr D.H.Banks (Vice-Chairman), The New Mill; Mr J.M.Holliday (District Councillor), Townhead Farm; Mr P.M.Jackson, Powley's Farm; Mr G.C.Little, Auchenbrae, Salkeld Road; Mrs C.Merrie, Caroline Cottage, Back Lane; Mr S.J.Peet, Kegstones, Salkeld Road.

Parish Clerk:

Mr R.J.Wager, Langley House, Langwathby.
Tel: 01768 881628

E-mail: langwathbypc@dsl.pipex.com