

# LANGWATHBY PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

*Dear Parishioner,  
It is my pleasure to present this  
report on the activities of your Parish  
Council over the last year.*

*William Mounsey, Chairman*

### **Overview**

We have not had any major projects or issues this year. Rather it has been a case of "business as usual" - maintaining the high standard of environment in Edenhall and Langwathby, responding to consultations on planning applications and other matters, and carrying out the Council's services.

### **Grants**

We have made grants to a number of local activities, including "The Memo" parish magazine (£200). £200 each was given to Edenhall and Langwathby Parochial Church Councils for churchyard maintenance. We increased the grant to The Fellrunner community bus to £400.

### **Planning**

The Council has commented on 18 planning applications during the year and welcomed the Planning Inspector's decision to refuse planning permission for housing development on the north side of Eden Straits.

### **Car Park**

The post and chain fence was renewed with the assistance of Cumbria Probation Service's "community punishment" programme.

### **Tennis Court**

We are grateful to Cumbria County Council for a grant of £1,000 towards refurbishment of the tennis court area at the Village Hall.

### ***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](http://www.langwathby.org)

### **Roads and Footpaths**

The condition of road surfaces has been of great concern following the severe winter. Major works were undertaken on the A686 in Langwathby and any highway problems have been taken up with the highway authorities. The support of our County Councillor, Mary Robinson, has been much appreciated.

The hoped-for new footpath to Edenhall Sports Ground from the bridge has been delayed, due to land acquisition problems, but we hope it will go ahead before too long.

### **Housing Needs Survey**

Thank you to all residents who completed the housing survey in September – there was an excellent level of response.

Cumbria Housing Trust, who undertook the survey, concluded that 14 households could need affordable housing over the next 5 years. The survey also identified several situations where adult children living "at home" would like their own accommodation and where elderly people wished to downsize into single-storey accommodation.

The Council believes that any additional affordable housing should be restricted to people with a clear local connection and should be small-scale.

### **Review of Primary Education**

Towards the end of the year, the Parish Council responded to the County Council's consultation on the proposed expansion of Culgaith School to an all-through primary school. Members were concerned at the adverse impact on Langwathby School through reducing its size and budget and decided to object to the change.

### **Thank You**

We would like to record our appreciation of the work, often unpaid, undertaken by many people to provide important local services or maintain the appearance of our two villages. Examples are cleaning the Recycling Centre, maintaining the cemetery and war memorials, running the annual Scarecrow Festival and May Day and managing the Village Hall.

It has been good to see people joining the litter-picking team.

Our "First Responders" group unfortunately had to be wound up during the year but the work of the team over a number of years is much appreciated.

### Parish Clerk

Ray Wager has bowed out after 11 years as our Parish Clerk and we are pleased that another local person, Sarah Fairlamb, has taken on the role.

### Finance

The Parish "precept" (the Parish Council's share of the Council Tax) was increased from £10,000 to £11,500 in 2010. 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 spread it over two years. (The precept has been held at £11,500 in 2011) The Village Hall Committee is meeting half the cost of repaying the loan and has again been grateful for the proceeds of another successful Scarecrow Festival.

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

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

The following is a summary of the Council's accounts for the year to 31 March 2011 (previous year's figures in lighter type). The balance carried forward at the year end was £7,069.

### Summary of Parish Council Accounts 2010/11

	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Precept	<b>11,500</b>	10,000
Grants received	<b>1,000</b>	0
Village Hall Committee	<b>10,819</b>	8,583
VAT recovered	<b>857</b>	1,869
Cemetery fees	<b>250</b>	525
Recycling credits	<b>1,294</b>	1,744
Other income	<b>232</b>	313
Total Receipts	<b>25,952</b>	23,024

<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Village Hall-general	<b>6,932</b>	4,614
Insurance	<b>2,064</b>	2,038
Administration	<b>2,978</b>	2,827
Village greens, bus shelters, etc	<b>2,095</b>	1,257
Grants made	<b>1,000</b>	1,234
Sports/play areas	<b>882</b>	549
Cemetery	<b>229</b>	256
Other payments	<b>204</b>	203
Loan repayment	<b>7,452</b>	7,452
VAT	<b>980</b>	606
Total Payments	<b>24,816</b>	21,036

### Parish Councillors 2010/11

#### Edenhall:

Mr W.H.Benn, 1 The Courtyard; Mr I.S.Harrington, 20 Salkeld Road, Langwathby; 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.

**From March 2011:** Mrs S.Fairlamb, 7 Low Farm, Langwathby

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