

LANGWATHBY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-9

Dear Parishioner,

It has been my pleasure to serve as Chairman of your Parish Council over the last year. I feel we have made some significant improvements to village services, thanks to the hard work of many local people.

William Mounsey, Chairman

Village Hall

Our main project this year has been refurbishment of the Village Hall and this has greatly improved the facilities available to our community as well as attracting more bookings. As the project was undertaken by the Parish Council, it was possible to recover the substantial amount of VAT otherwise payable. Funding came from a loan of £80,000 that will be repayable over the next 15 years and a substantial contribution from the Village Hall Committee, raised from grants and fund-raising events like the Scarecrow Festival. Our thanks are due to Fran Flower and the Committee for all the practical effort they put into making the refurbishment a success. We were pleased to nominate Fran for an Eden Local Heroes Award.

Roads and Footpaths

Mrs Carol Merrie has been appointed link-person to liaise with the new highway steward and we have been pleased with the success of this new scheme.

Any highway problems, such as the flooding on the A686 at The Luham, are regularly taken up with Capita or the County Council.

A Community Travel Plan was launched at the Annual Parish Meeting in 2008 and villagers came up with various ideas for improving our highways. As a result the

County Council has adopted the suggestion of a footpath from Langwathby Bridge to Edenhall Sports Ground and will also be looking into the cause of accidents at the Culgaith Road junction.

We have been working with the County Council to get some improvements to the footpath over Briggie Beck and hope to see various works undertaken this coming summer.

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), £350 each to Edenhall and Langwathby Parochial Church Councils for churchyard maintenance and £100 to Eden Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Police Cover

Following publication of the Policing Pledge, the Council pressed for enhancement of the police cover for our area. We have been pleased to welcome PC Alison Taylor as our local police officer.

Recycling Centre

For several years the level of activity at the Village Recycling Centre has grown and grown. Last year nearly £1,200 was received for the waste collected, which goes towards Parish expenditure. Following completion of the Village Hall, Eden District Council has provided a new, enlarged facility, and all users are thanked for their recycling efforts. Just a few are abusing the facility by dumping items not suitable for recycling or failing to put items in the correct bins – please recycle tidily!

Village Improvements

We are grateful to Mrs C.Hunsdale for the gift of a seat in memory of Mr and Mrs Balmer, who lived in Langwathby for many years. The seat will shortly be placed on Langwathby green. Thanks to Campbell and Steven Little for restoring "Walter's Seat" on Eden Straits and to Bill Benn for giving the Edenhall war memorial a facelift and replacing the gate on the Pinfold. Proposals have also been agreed for restoring Edenhall's parish pump. Michael

Holliday carried out improvements at the Parish Cemetery and we hope soon to have an area for the burial of ashes. Thanks to the WI for the gift of an oak sapling planted in Edenhall.

Volunteers

Our thanks are also due to the many volunteers who enhance community life, whether through maintaining the war memorials, mowing the sports grounds, helping with the village hall or the scarecrow festivals, picking up litter or in a myriad of other ways.

Planning

The Council has made comments on 16 planning applications during the year.

Fishing

We are still waiting for the County Council to process our application to register parish fishing rights on a short length of river under and for a short distance downstream of the bridge. The Parish Council already owns the fishing rights for 150 yards on the upstream side of the bridge (Langwathby side) and is seeking a meeting with the Environment Agency to clarify what improvements might be undertaken without detriment to wildlife (as the river is a protected area).

Langwathby on the Web

The Parish Council's website is www.langwathby.org. Check out the website for notices of meetings, minutes, details of information available to the public and links to other local sites.

Finance

The Parish "precept" (the Parish Council's share of the Council Tax) for 2008/9 was held to the same level as the previous year but has had to be increased to £10,000 in 2009. This is due to the cost of repaying the loan of £80,000 taken out towards refurbishment of the Village Hall.

The following is a summary of the Council's accounts for the year to 31 March 2009 (previous year's figures in lighter type). The balance carried forward at the year end was £3,935.

RECEIPTS	£	£
Precept	8,500	8,500
Grants received	0	0
Village Hall Committee	53,203	9,796
VAT recovered	22,360	1,994
Cemetery fees	400	200
Recycling credits	1,197	816
Loan	79,972	0
Other income	3,636	188
Total Receipts	169,268	21,494

PAYMENTS

Village Hall-general	7,366	10,026
Village Hall-refurb	133,353	0
Insurance	1,737	1,681
Administration	3,989	3,317
Village greens, bus shelters, etc	1,146	1,476
Grants made	1,485	1,420
Sports/play areas	598	1,826
Cemetery	501	247
Other payments	651	240
VAT	23,520	2,035
Total Payments	174,346	22,268

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 2008/9

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 (from March 2009), Kegstones, Salkeld Road, Ms S.Ripper (to January 2009), Eden Bank Cottage.

Parish Clerk:

Mr R.J.Wager, Langley House, Langwathby.

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