

BLAWITH & SUBBERTHWAITE PARISH COUNCIL

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2016 - 17 saw progress on many of the issues noted in last year's annual report, but some unfortunately saw little action.

The **Kirkby Moor Wind Farm Repowering** planning application, which was rejected by SLDC, was not appealed, however a separate request to perform an environmental survey in relation to a future application to retain the existing turbines for a further 8 years was submitted. Your council's views that there is no merit in retaining the existing turbines beyond the end of the current planning permission which expires in 2018. RWE has already stated that they had reached the end of their useful economic life. We see this simply as an attempt to keep a foot in the door in the hope that economic conditions or government policy will be more favourable at the end of the period, so that another attempt can be made to install the monsters originally proposed. We will strongly oppose any move to retain the turbines and believe that SLDC are of a similar mind.

Planning permission has recently been granted to Burlington Slate Ltd to extend the life of the **Burlington slate quarry** from the end of this decade to around 2050. This will result from an expansion of the existing site into Kirkby Moor with the site being restored and landscaped over the quarrying period with an end to operations resulting in an enhanced natural environment as the land is restored to heather moor and grassland. Your council supported the application but with many conditions, most of which are included in the 45 included in the final grant by Cumbria CC. We are most concerned that local people and environmental agencies should be included in the restoration of the site and have approached Burlington with a view to putting this proposal on a more formal basis.

The **National Grid consultation** continues about plans to create a new transmission line from the North of the county to Heysham, across Morecambe Bay. At present their preferred route is overland down to Barrow then under the sea to Heysham. Locally, this will mean the replacement of the current pylons which run close to Broughton and very close to Kirkby in Furness with new structures twice as tall as well as unsightly sub stations at each end of the route. Your council has always preferred the underground option for the whole length of the line from Sellafield. Whilst this will be more expensive it is considerably more environmentally friendly.

It was a pleasure to join our local MP and around 300 locals including many families on New Year's Day for a march against the giant pylons organised by an independent campaign group, Power without pylons, (who are responsible for the many pink signs displayed across the area) and Furness Labour Party. As intended the march received large coverage in the press and BBC on what is normally a slow news day. Over the last year South Copeland and bordering South Lakeland parishes have established an effective pressure group (PCCG) which will have a say at the future public enquiry. The fact that all political parties in the local elections are opposing the current plan indicates the strength of feeling and I am hopeful that this will be taken on board and the marginally more expensive (less than 10%), underground option adopted.

The proposed **power station at Moorside** appears to be running into problems due to the poor trading performance of Toshiba, the owners of Nu Gen continue to voice our concerns about this development, particularly the lack of proposed infra-structure developments in the South Lakes area and how this will affect local people during the construction period.

Your council reviewed several planning applications in the period, details of which are shown below.

I regret to say that there has not been as much progress on highways as I hoped, despite the best efforts of our District and County councillors. Some recent changes in the structure of the highways department offer hope including a new reporting site and a recent request for parishes to report problems with drainage and gullies. This resulted in such a good response that it may take up to two years to resolve all the issues identified. We continue to lobby for improvements to local roads and road infrastructure in Cumbria with some recent successes.

You may be aware of the recent government proposals for taking the implementation of superfast broadband forward, which included changing the relationship between BT and its subsidiary Openreach. This has delayed the implementation of phase 2 of the rollout which would affect those excluded from the original scheme on economic grounds. Your council continues to push for as full as possible coverage in the area.

The X112 bus service has continued to operate thanks to the generous support of local people and the parishes along the route from Coniston to Barrow, including ourselves. It was therefore difficult to understand why Cumbria CC returned several million pounds to the government which had been provided for the support of rural bus services on the grounds that it did not fit in with council policy. We hope that the new County council will review its plans given the outrage that this was met with by many people in rural areas.

This year the council will focus on two additional areas as well as the above. **Litter and its impact on the local environment** has been identified as a concern in this area, not just in our villages but in layby's, footpaths and at the roadside throughout the Crake Valley and beyond. We will be arranging a meeting with SLDC open to all surrounding areas to discuss this matter and identify solutions that we and SLDC can put in place. We are also looking to put in place a **Parish Plan**. These are a useful aid to planners and the parish council in that they set out the community view on what types of development are acceptable

within the parish and what its priorities are. If you are interested in helping put this together please contact the Parish Clerk.

Councillors also represented the Parish on several local committees and action Groups including:

High Furness Local Area Partnership

Cumbria Association of Local Councils

The inappropriate and Illegal use of the Countryside Working Group

Coniston Water Association

Coniston & Crake Catchment Partnership

PCCG

I would like to thank all the councillors and members of the public who have attended meetings this year. I hope that Gill Wardle who was co-opted onto the council after last year's elections has enjoyed her first year with us.

Details of how to contact the council along with minutes and agendas as well as useful links are available on our website

www.bspc.btck.co.uk

or via the Crake valley website on www.crake.org where details of neighbouring councils can also be found.

Please contact us or, better still, come to a meeting, (public comments are first on the agenda), if you want to raise any issues or discuss those above.

Finally thanks also to our District Councillor Anne Hall, County councillor, David Fletcher, the Police and all others who have made regular contributions to the work of your council.

EXPENDITURE

	2016/17 ACTUAL	2017/18 BUDGET
VILLAGE HALL HIRE	194	200
CLERK SALARY	1674	1700
CLERKS EXPENSES	158	160
CALC SUBSCRIPTION	106	120
INSURANCE	273	280
OTHER ADMIN (COURSES ETC)	20	20
AUDIT	50	50
PAYE	56	60
EGTON PCC (FOR PARISH NEWS)	30	30
BUS DONATION	250	
REMEMBRANCE WREATH	17	20
CHAPEL	120	120
MISC	10	50
LENGTHSMAN		100
TOTAL	2958	2910

INCOME

PRECEPT	£2,750.00	£2,950.00
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PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

4 APPLICATIONS – PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE OF NO OBJECTIONS

1 APPLICATION – PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE ON NO OBJECTIONS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

1 APPLICATION – PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE OF SUPPORT

1 APPLICATION – PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE OF SUPPORT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

+ KIRKBY WIND FARM APPLICATION AS DETAILED ABOVE