

The Gill

**Welcome to the April 2018 Edition of the
Newsletter for our community brought to you by
Hethersgill Parish Council**

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

We would like to invite you to our annual parish meeting - where you can come along and raise any matters about our parish that you would like the Council to consider. The meeting will take place on:

Tuesday 15th May 2018 at 7.30pm, Parish Hall

The meeting is an opportunity for you to raise questions and provide feedback to us, outside a Council meeting. We would urge you to come along and have your say.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Looking back over the year, the weather stands out as a predominant feature. The snow we experienced earlier this year presented us with some of the most extreme conditions we have had to face in many years. Although there was little that could be done at Parish Council level to help, the County Council did extend an offer of assistance and this was communicated through our Facebook page. If you haven't already given it a "like" then I would urge you to do so to keep up to date with news in our community.

Communicating with our residents is an essential part of our work. We are pleased to welcome growing numbers of the public at our Parish Council meetings and offer the invitation to

any residents who wish to view our team in action! We continue to hold our meetings on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

We have also set up a brilliant new website (www.hethersgill.org.uk) for our whole community to publicise our events and news. This was fully paid for by the Hallburn Windfarm Grant scheme and we would like more content from you to put on there. The website allows each Councillor to have their own email address so it is even easier for you to get in touch with us directly too.

A challenge for the coming year is the ever increasing and burdensome legislation we are forced to comply with. You will no doubt have heard of GDPR in the mainstream news and our Parish Council is subject to the regulations the same as larger Council authorities. This will no doubt mean some changes in the ways in which we work and in the way in which we communicate with you, as well as potentially some quite significant expenditure needed. The Clerk is working on updating our policies and procedures to ensure we are compliant as a Council as a whole.

Going back to my opening point of the snow, it has caused further long-term problems with our roads. Many were already in a terrible state and the extreme weather has certainly exacerbated matters. We continue to report faults as they are communicated to us and we urge you to do the same, either by phone or website to the Highways agency. Unfortunately their budgets are limited so we can only hope that our roads are prioritised along the way.

In other maintenance news, we have appointed a new grounds maintenance contractor for the grass at Sand Hole. We are also paying to cut the grass at the crossroads, although this

does not actually belong to the Parish Council. We will continue to do so as long as this remains financially viable.

Superfast broadband remains on our agenda each meeting. We participated in a joint workshop, held in Crosby-on-Eden in February and remain in touch with the Connecting Cumbria team. Please contact Cllr Houston or Cllr Barrett if you wish to discuss any issues you have.

Planning applications were on the increase from previous years with 11 being commented upon by the Council this year. We welcome your views on planning matters too.

Financially the Council made the tricky decision to keep our level of precept the same for a further year. This decision was not taken lightly as we have lost a large proportion of our income stream and we are faced with ever increasing costs. We are however fortunate now to have the Hallburn Windfarm grants available to our community groups. We have however still made significant donations to the Parish Hall to support them in their refurbishment works and also our regular donations to the Parochial Church Council and the Great North Air Ambulance.

We continue to have a full cohort of nine Councillors. Thanks are offered to each of them for their service to our community. Appreciation is also given to our City and County Councillors for their work in supporting us. Finally, thanks are offered to the Clerk for her continuing administrative efforts.

Harry Kay, Chairman, Hethersgill Parish Council, May 2018

ACCOUNTS

We have provided for you a summary of our accounts for the year later in this newsletter. Please note that as yet, these

are unaudited and therefore are subject to change. All of our accounting information is published on our website.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The dates for our Parish Council meetings in 2018/19 are as follows:

Tuesday 15 May

Tuesday 17 July

Tuesday 18 September

Tuesday 20 November

Tuesday 29 January

Tuesday 19 March

Please note the slightly later than normal January meeting.

All meetings take place at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall and a copy of the agenda will be on our new website and on the notice boards. At every meeting we have a **Public Participation** section on our agenda. This item allows you to bring any items that are of relevance in the Parish to the attention of your Parish and District Councillors.

HALLBURN WIND FARM GRANTS

The second round of grants have been awarded to local organisations. Details are published on the Hallburn website (a link is provided on our community website) but we are pleased to see organisations that are either based in our parish or that benefit our community being awarded sizeable sums.

The Parish Council do have a grant budget but we do ask that, if you are eligible, you apply to Hallburn in the first instance.

We will, of course, consider support for large projects where additional funds are required or where groups cannot apply.

The next deadline for grant applications for the Hallburn fund is August 8th and then again on January 9th.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

By now we are pretty certain you will have heard of the *General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)* that are being implemented across Europe.

The regulations are going to affect the way in which the Parish Council works and, although they may seem unnecessary and overly bureaucratic, they are effectively to protect your personal information and as such, we are committed to becoming compliant with them as soon as possible.

We are in the process of updating our policies and procedures to ensure we are ready for the implementation date. These will be approved at our May meeting and we'll get them onto the website after that.

One change you will find is that, if you contact us, we will need you to complete a form to enable us to hold your details. We will also need any of you who receive this newsletter by email to confirm you wish to still continue to do so.

BORDER RAMBLER BUS SERVICE

The Border Rambler on a Thursday travels from Laversdale, Newtown, Irthington, Hethersgill, Smithfield, Scaleby, Houghton Hall, Brunstock, Linstock, Rickerby and Carlisle returning.

All are welcome and you can use your NOW card on the bus. For information visit their website (we have provided a link on ours or go directly to www.borderramblerbus.co.uk).



Bewcastle Group



Here we are after Easter and hopefully some better weather. We have had to cancel a number of evenings over the past couple of months

because of it so news is quite limited. We have been out and about over the area using different venues in order to give the young people

different experiences. These have included a visit to John Deere forestry at Carlisle Airport and Pets at Home in Carlisle. Following half-term we had an evening making and cooking pancakes. This was set according to the children's level e.g: the younger Cubs/Beavers cooked on normal stove but the Scouts had a greater challenge in the open utilising the fire left over from Hethersgill hall hedge tidy up. We had a night hike in the forest at English Kershope...but enough of the past what of the future.?

We have a number of activities planned over the coming months including a swimming session, pioneering using poles and ropes, canoeing at Talkin Tarn and off-road cycling. We are going to assist Natural England at Bolton Fell Moss with some of the planting. Hoping that we will give the young people a better understanding of the habitat of the area. We are also going to help Cumbria Wildlife Trust with wild meadow construction following a particular request by 2 of the scouts. This all sounds like work so to counter it we are hoping to join up with Brampton Group for a BBQ as we get nearer the school summer holidays in the spirit of cooperation. The cubs are taking part in the district camp with the theme of a year in one weekend culminating in a big Christmas dinner.

Finally we are struggling for leaders/helpers so if anybody thinks they might have a couple of hours to spare and would be willing to help I would love to hear from you. If you want a chat to get some more information please don't hesitate to contact me.

That's all from me for now good scouting until next time.
Simon Barrett Group Scout Leader (01228-675717)

Bewcastlescouts@gmail.com

2016/17	Accounts for the Year	2017/18
Income		
£7,000.00	Precept and CTRS Grant	£7,000
£3,291.00	Grants	£1,875.94
£0	Newsletter Advertising	£0
£247.88	VAT reclaimed	£393.25
£10,538.88	TOTAL	£9,269.19
Expenditure		
£507.72	Administration	£414.96
£2,997.44	Clerk's Salary	£3,042.12
£2,500.00	Parish Hall Projects	£1,700.00
£500.00	Parish Church Grant	£500.00
£3,112.00	Donations & Grants from other Bodies	£900.00
£605.88	The Gill	£423.68
£164.25	Insurance	£168.00
£1,103.31	Equipment and Maintenance	£744.75
£190.41	VAT Incurred	£202.84
£0	Website	£676.00
£11,681.01	TOTAL	£8,772.35
Summary		
£3,807.31	Balance Brought Forward	£2,665.18
£10,538.88	Add receipts	£9,269.19
£11,681.01	Less payments	£8,772.35
£2,655.18	Balance at 31 March	£3,162.02

Parish Councillors, your Clerk & Useful Contacts



Chair	Cllr H Kay harry@hethersgill.org.uk	675910
Vice Chair	Cllr A Sisson alison@hethersgill.org.uk	675378
	Cllr S Barrett simon@hethersgill.org.uk	675717
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