

BROUGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

AGM 16th MAY 2016

Chairman's Report

The Council's policy continued to be to try to retain the rural charm & character of Brougham and to set a low precept based on minimum expenditure.

The ongoing major issue is the state of the narrow lanes damaged when used by the traffic diverted following the closure of Eamont Bridge. Despite a considerable effort the only commitment received from Cumbria Highways is that repairs are included in their 2017 – 2018 budget. A planning application for a scheme to protect Brougham Castle Bridge through the winter was approved and the work to complete the repair is scheduled for this summer.

Objections were lodged, largely on the grounds of cumulative environmental impact, against the proposal for a further 34 lodges at Center Parcs. At the year-end a decision on the application was awaited.

There were no other major issues during the year though there was no shortage of matters requiring Council action.

I would like to thank the Clerk Janet Jennings, Highways Co-ordinator Sarah Harden, Webmaster Richard Stables, Internal Auditor Ron Wood, District Councillor Henry Sawrey-Cookson and County Councillor Gary Strong for their continuing assistance during the year.

Financial Officer's Report

Income for the year was significantly higher than budget as a Government grant was unexpectedly obtained to cover the cost of developing a website. Expenditure was slightly higher than budget. A positive cash flow was maintained and the year-end balance increased from £1294 to £1380.

A budget of £735 was set for 2017 – 2018. The resulting precept of £240 was unchanged from last year and remains one of the lowest in the district. There was no requirement for a Special Expenses budget.

The 2015 - 2016 Audit was approved without qualification. The 2016 - 2017 Audit has passed internal audit and has been submitted to BDO.

The annual reviews of the Financial Regulations, Risk Analysis and the Insurance Risk were conducted. No changes were considered necessary this year.