

Egremont Town Council,

Market Hall Offices, Market Street, Egremont, CA22 2DF

Annual Report 2006/07

Councillors for the term were:

Colin Jackson (South Ward) served 1999- 2007 Chair 2001/02 and 2006/07

Committees: Finance, Personnel and Planning

Elaine Woodburn (North Ward) served 1995-2007 Chair 1997/98, 1998/99 and 2002/03

Committees: Finance, Personnel and Cemetery.

Michael McVeigh (South Ward) served 1998-2007 Chair 2003/04

Committees: Personnel, Cemetery, Allotments & Market Hall.

Mark McCabe (North Ward) served 2003-07

Committees: Cemetery, Personnel & Market Hall.

Jean Lewthwaite (North Ward) served 2000-07 Chair 2005/06

Committees: Bowling Green, Finance, Personnel & Market Hall.

Gerard McKendry (North Ward) served 1991-2007 Chair 1993/94

Committees: Appeals & Allotments

Michael Tebay (South Ward) served 2003-07

Committees: Appeals & Market Hall.

June Bland (South Ward) co-opted April 2005-2007

Committees: Finance, Planning, Cemetery, Appeals, also Fair Trade representative.

John Killip (North Ward) co-opted July 2005-07

Committees: Allotments, Cemetery, Appeals & Market Hall.

Robert Merrett (South Ward) co-opted July 2006-07

Committees: Appeals & Market Hall.

I would like to thank the above for their work and support over the year.

The Town Council are responsible for the Market Hall, the Cemetery, Bowling Green, War Memorials at Egremont & Moor row, Cemetery House and the allotments at Bridge End and East Rd, also the management of those at Sandholes. Grass cutting is also carried out within the town and at Bigrigg, Woodend and Moor Row. We employ 4 people to carry out these duties as well as contracting some services (mainly grass cutting) out, we also employ 2 administrative staff and I would like to thank all of the staff for their efforts during the year.

The Market Hall continues to be an important community centre within the town used by many groups for a wide variety of activities.

We have a long term plan to upgrade facilities there, with the toilets next on our list, hopefully this next financial year, followed by improved lighting and sound stage facilities.

The cemetery continues to receive favourable comments about its upkeep but there are some problems in the future. Because some of the lower area is liable to flooding the usable area is reducing fast and we are having to look at using adjacent areas though they

may not be much better. However the area for cremated remains is fine for the foreseeable future. In order to preserve space, we may have to restrict use by non inhabitants but this is an area which needs careful consideration and consultation but one which needs to be considered very soon.

The two chapels in the grounds are listed buildings and are showing signs of weather deterioration. We are investigating what action we can take and possible funding, but to get this we may have to bring at least one of them into some sort of use and that is another ongoing consideration which really means a business plan will need to be drawn up once a way forward is agreed.

A small plot of land which is within the cemetery walls and belonged to Copeland has been purchased and this together with all the other property owned by the Council has been registered.

Although we have overall responsibility under Copeland for the bowling green and own the clubhouse there, the day to day running is done efficiently by the associated bowling club. We have recently negotiated a 10 year lease with Copeland for the land and a 5 year agreement with the bowling club for the use of the green and facilities. It is still much under used as a public facility.

We are currently upgrading facilities in the cemetery house to maintain this to a good standard.

The Town Council continues to support various bodies with the town and surrounding villages either with financial support or with free use of facilities. We also provide awards for the allotments competition judged by Miss Armitage and a Good Citizens Award which this year went to Callum Scott for his work on setting up Wyndham gardening club and on his allotment. It is nice to see a young person do something for the community and we hope it will encourage others to participate. We have worked closely with the Regeneration partnership both with ideas and as far as possible practical help.

We provide accommodation and facilities to allow CAB and the Credit Union to operate and some Regeneration sponsored activities are also accommodated.

In partnership with the local police, and with the Cumbrian Probation Service carrying out the work, the council financed the clearing of the overgrown area of Skirting Back, trimming trees and cutting the undergrowth and generally tidying the area so leaving more open space and making the people who use the path feel less vulnerable.

The council are very conscious that the Egremont precept, that is the amount of money raised by this council per household, is higher than most of the other councils. This is because of the additional services we provide and we do try to keep this as low as possible. This year the increase is less than 2% and over the last 10 years it has averaged 2.8% which is far below district or county levels. We are constantly monitoring our

spending patterns and looking for best value amongst our suppliers. We held a work day with representatives from Cumbria Association of Local Councils to look at our methods and following this we intend to change working procedures so that each councillor is given a portfolio in order to increase accountability and commitment.

The chairman and clerk attended meetings regarding the County's proposal for a unitary authority and the Districts alternative. In the main we favoured the Districts model and made this and our own views known.

Although the council has no powers in planning matters we are consulted on those which are for our area and we have commented on these and attended some on-site visits by the district planners to make our views known.

Colin Jackson (Chairman)