

## ORTON PARISH COUNCIL

### From the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010

**Present** Cllr K Blue (Chairman) Cllrs S Dunning, D Smith, W Parker, E Potter,  
M Lewis, M Coates  
Clerk, C J Elphick Internal Auditor, Jane Arckless  
County Councillor Peter Thornton, District Councillor Margaret Wilcox,  
Jack Ellerby representing Friends of the Lake District.  
More than 30 members of the public

#### **Proposed Designation of Orton as part of National Park**

An unprecedented number of members of the public had attended this parish council meeting to gather information on the proposals for designation of all or part of the parish as National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Natural England is the public body responsible for conserving and enhancing the natural environment in England and is currently considering whether certain areas between the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks should be designated in this way. This study has been going on since 2004 and is continuing from earlier works as far back as the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1947.

Following thorough analysis it has been concluded that the area described loosely as the Northern Howgills and the Orton Fells, which includes the parishes of Orton and Ravenstonedale, have the necessary qualities of natural beauty and opportunities for open-air recreation, and that they should be designated as extensions to the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks. The purpose of the current consultation is to seek residents' views on whether these areas have the qualities necessary to be in a National Park and whether they should be given National Park status.

Chairman, Kyle Blue gave a comprehensive appraisal of the positive and negative aspects of inclusion within a National Park or AONB plus the logic for being included in either the Yorkshire Dales or the Lake District National Park. He then invited comments and questions from the public.

The prospect of significant economic advantage was acknowledged by the meeting, and Mr. John Dunning spoke about the potential of this at some length. The general public discussion relating to the implications of inclusion involved topics as diverse as altering boundaries to include Tebay village, and windfarm development.

A show of hands indicated that an overwhelming majority of those in attendance considered entry into a National Park to be beneficial for the parish. There were no votes for an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or for the status quo to be maintained.

Further information, including the detailed analysis which led to these recommendations, is available from the project website: [www.lakestodaleslandscapes.org.uk](http://www.lakestodaleslandscapes.org.uk)

The closing date for comments to arrive is Wednesday 17th March 2010.

Christopher J Elphick - Clerk to Orton Parish Council Telephone: 015396 20605

e-mail: [chriseiphick@aol.com](mailto:chriseiphick@aol.com)