

Ainstable Parish Council

Serving the villages of Ainstable, Croglin, Newbiggin, and Ruckcroft,
the communities of Dale and Longdales, and the surrounding farms and houses

Chairman: Nigel Vear,
Tel (01768) 896360 - chairman@ainstable.org.uk

Ordinary Meeting of Ainstable Parish Council

held in Ainstable Church Institute at 7:30pm on Tuesday 20 January 2015.

Present: Cllr Vear, Cllr Bellis, Cllr Collinge, Cllr Thirlwall, Cllr Miller & Cllr Smith

Draft Minutes

1. **Open Meeting** - for discussion of matters of general parish concern (10 mins).

A member of the Village Hall Committee addressed the meeting. She explained that they had submitted letters regarding the heating and lighting, with the last cheque being received in 2010 (£1000) (Jubilee monies came into the Village Hall accounts (for the celebrations)). Cllr Vear said that he had spoken to the chairman and explained that in some situations the parish council would prefer to pay an invoice. The member of the public said that she was disappointed as the group are volunteers doing it for the community.

Parish Council Meeting

2. **Declaration of interests**

Grant application from Flix (Cllr Miller & Cllr Vear)

3. **To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr Little, Cllr Ritchie, Cllr Guise & Cllr Findlay

4. **It was resolved to accept the minutes of the following meeting as a true record:**

- a. The last ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 18 November 2014
(proposed by Cllr Miller, seconded by Cllr Bellis, all present in favour).

5. **To discuss the co-option of new councillors-** No volunteers

6. **To receive a report from County Councillor Robinson** - Unable to attend.

Cllr Vear said that local groups are invited to apply for funding from the Community Fund.

7. **To receive an update on Neighbourhood Planning**

Cllr Vear reported that the advert should have gone out. A survey company in Battersea has been in touch offering their services. It was suggested that a sub-committee is needed to bring the document together. Cllr Vear said that many documents already exist but they need to be drawn together to produce the draft Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that the draft needs to be ready in about 6 months. Consultation will then take place (via public meetings) to look at where development is desired. Cllr Vear said that there is a template document (councillors should have received a copy of the document). It was noted that planning applications still have to comply with regulations but the actual approval of the development is done at parish level. Cllr Vear said that he was happy to produce the document with support. Cllr Bellis offered to help. It was agreed that other parishioners from outside the parish council could be co-opted onto the committee and volunteers should be sought.

8. **Report from attendance at outside bodies-** None

9. To receive a report on crime in the Parish

None specifically in the parish, but it was noted that there have been a lot of thefts in surrounding parishes.

10. To discuss any Highways matters arising

Cllr Bellis reported that quite a lot of work has been carried out recently filling holes and repairing the edges of roads, but the white lines have yet to be repainted. Cllr Smith reported problems around Broomrigg. Cllr Miller reported that everyone was very pleased with the work that had been carried out on the stretch from Bargh to The Dale. It was noted that the drainage has been repaired as well.

It was noted that the Neighbourhood Watch sign near the Methodist Chapel, Ainstable needs to be repaired. Cllr Thirlwall reported that the light at the top of Croglin is still not working. Cllr Smith reported that the silt trap in the near the Two Castle properties in Ainstable blocks easily, and floods the centre of the village.

Cllr Bellis to report all the faults and problems to Cumbria Highways for comment and action.

11. To discuss public access to Broomrigg Plantation

Cllr Vear explained that this point came about as he had received reports that some people had been stopped walking in the woods, but that the Parish Council had no first-hand accounts as yet. It was agreed that it would be possible to apply for a Right Of Way. Research had shown that there has been a permissive path through the woods since 1821, plus it has been well walked for the last 20 years. Councillors agreed that perhaps it was not necessary to do anything further at present (proposed by Cllr Collinge). Cllr Miller reported that the gate is closed to large vehicles and now there is access via small gates for people and horses. Councillors agreed to leave the matter as it is at present.

12. To receive an update on the repair of traditional road signs in the Parish

Cllr Vear reported that we are still waiting for the Northsceugh signpost to be painted and reassembled. It was noted that all repaired sign posts have now been adopted by Cumbria Highways and will be maintained by them on a rolling repainting programme.

Cllr Vear said that when the Parish Council drafted the initial plan, there was interest in trying to gain funding for four new signs. Ainstable crossroads has been achieved, the parish council was asked for their opinion on progressing this project for Croglin, Newbiggin, and at the triangle by the old Armathwaite chapel. It was agreed that this work could only be funded from external sources due to the £4000 cost to replace each sign. Cllr Vear said that Friends of the Lake District may look at further project in a year or so, but the parish council would have to apply for other grants as well to proceed in this project.

13. To receive a report on the Millennium Green

It was reported that Neil Ruddick has planted bluebell bulbs, cut shrubs back and has put plastic collars around all of the play equipment.

14. To receive an update on Croglin Educational Foundation- Nothing

15. To discuss superfast broadband in the Parish

Cllr Bellis reported that they have started digging in the roads. There is no base for the cabinet as yet but it is hoped that the cabinet will be live in about 6 months. Cllr Thirlwall said that the digging has been underway in Croglin for 2 weeks now. It is still unclear as to when it will happen. Cllr Bellis said that boxes (from Sam Knows) are available to monitor the upload/download speeds.

16. To discuss the provision of a defibrillator in the parish

Cllr Vear said that seven defibrillators would be needed to cover the whole parish at a cost of approximately £1750-£2000 each. Ainstable village has a privately funded defibrillator in place, but this still needs sign to show where it located. The clerk was asked to find out what the correct signage would be from the Ambulance Service.

The parish council discussed the need for defibrillator in the rest of the parish, and agreed that this project was to be the main parish council project. It was also agreed that this type of equipment could possibly be financed by public subscription, as well as by grant applications. It was noted that some models need an electricity source whilst others are battery powered, which may limit where the equipment could be placed. It was agreed to put the installation of new signposts and noticeboards on hold, and apply for grant funding towards the total cost of £12500 to cover the whole parish, and to leaflet households to ascertain public interest for public subscription. It was agreed to look at the life span and maintenance costs of the equipment, and to ask for advice from Cumbria Ambulance Service.

17. To receive an update on special projects:

- a. Newbiggin bus shelter- It was noted that the benches have now been installed and parishioners in Newbiggin are giving good feedback.
- b. Parish noticeboards- to be put on hold at present, and progress the defibrillator project. Cllr Bellis to progress getting quotes for later discussion.
- c. Flooding in Croglin- Cllr Collinge said that he was concerned that if the parish council fund the gate then we would become responsible for it. It was explained that County Cllr Robinson had suggested that the Parish Council apply to the Community Fund and then the County Council would be responsible for it. It was resolved that the clerk would seek further information and detail about this project.

18. To discuss any matters relating to communications

- a. Website- four minutes papers are missing from the website at present. The Clerk agreed to check which are missing and forward them to Cllr Bellis
- b. Councillors are reminded to send all emails to both the Clerk and the Chair, so that a full archive can be built up.

19. To consider planning applications made and other planning matters

- a. No new planning applications.

20. To notify the Council of planning decisions received

14/0652 Mr & Mrs Robson, Site Adjacent Holly House, Ainstable, Carlisle	GRANTED
14/0786 Mr & Mrs Jackson, Brookside Farm, Croglin, Carlisle CA4 9RZ	GRANTED
14/0943 Mr T Sessford, Holme House, The Dale, Ainstable, Carlisle CA4 9RH	GRANTED

21. To consider correspondence received

The Chair read through the correspondence received.

22. To discuss finances

a. To pay bills due

Clerk's Salary & Expenses £495.65 (Chq No: 100682)
(Proposed by Cllr Miller, seconded by Cllr Vear, unanimous vote)

b. The Chair went through the cash flow/projection spreadsheet, and explained which were statutory, which were obligatory, and which were purely voluntary grants. It was agreed that those grants which were considered to be whole parish funding would be moved from grant applications to parish council costs.

- i. Licencing for Ainstable Church Institute
- ii. Fell Runner Bus
- iii. Pride of Cumbria – Air Ambulance
- iv. Churchyard grass cutting

Cllr Vear explained that as the precept has remained unchanged for a number of years, but there are now new houses in the parish, then the amount per household is effectively reduced. It was resolved to re-visit the precept next year with a view to raising it to maintain the per household level. It was also noted that a minimum reserve has to be kept, but the parish council did have some spare money.

c. Grant application policy- Cllr Vear explained that most councils and grant awarding bodies have clearly defined application policies already in place. It was agreed that there are very limited funds available from the parish precept and that the parish council was itself already applying for outside grants. It was felt that the parish council should encourage those in local groups to support themselves by applying for grant funding externally. This should then lead to more money coming into the parish as a whole.

Cllr Vear tables a draft grant application policy and application form which was discussed and adopted by the parish council for all future grant applications. Copies were given to the representative of Ainstable Church Institute. The letter received from Croglin Village Hall requesting outline grant support was replied to with copies of the new policy..

d. To discuss grant applications-

Ainstable Church Institute (Grant) £500.00 (Chq No: 100683)
(Proposed by Cllr Collinge, seconded by Cllr Miller, unanimous vote)

e. The Clerk reported that Barclays Bank did not recognise some of the signatures which we had – councillors will need to sign new bank mandate at the March meeting, when all councillors are present.

23. Points to be raised at the next meeting

- Usual agenda points

24. Date of the next meeting

7.30pm on Tuesday 17th March 2015 in Ainstable Church Institute

Signed: *R.E. Lytollis*

Clerk to Ainstable Parish Council

30 January 2015

The meeting closed at 8.52 pm