

# 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**

The ordinary bi-monthly meeting of  
**Ainstable Parish Council**

held at Ainstable Church Institute at 7:30pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

Present: Cllr N Vear (Chairman); Cllr D Bradshaw; Cllr G Proud; Cllr H Proud; Cllr M Robinson; Cllr D Smith;  
Cllr C Sproat

Eden District Cllr for Heskett Ward, D Ryland

Ainstable Parish Council contractor N Ruddick

2 members of the public

The Clerk was absent due to illness

1. Open Meeting - for discussion of matters of general parish concern

Members of the public asked about the status of the Rights of Way in Coombs Wood. The Chairman updated them as to progress following the Extraordinary Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

## Parish Council Meeting

2. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr H Bellis and Cllr A Ritchie.

3. To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Smith declared an interest in item 16 a)

4. **RESOLVED:** to accept the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 19th November as a true record. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

5. **RESOLVED:** to accept the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 7th January 2020 as a true record. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

6. To receive updates on current projects and issues: (Chairman)

- a. Newbiggin fingerpost – the position of the post being considered by Highways.
- b. Croglin Village Gateway – Highways have finalised the design and it should be implemented in the next financial year.
- c. Benches – the new benches have been delivered, one to go on the Millennium green, the other to replace the log bench above Bank Farm.  
**ACTION:** The Chairman to liaise with Eric Bell regarding installation
- d. Noticeboards – The Chairman has asked Mortons to look at a better surface and for a price and design for a new noticeboard at Croglin.
- e. Holme Holt – a letter has been received from Heskett Parish Council requesting further information.  
**ACTION:** The Chairman to respond to this letter.  
Cllr Bradshaw has been working on a leaflet and as soon as it is complete, it will go into the next possible parish magazine.
- f. Light in Ruckcroft shelter – it was agreed that a solar light is needed in the Ruckcroft shelter.

7. To discuss the Ainstable Millennium Green Trust (Chairman).

- a. To receive an oral report on the finances.  
In the absence of the Clerk, it was agreed to defer this item to the March meeting.
- b. Neil Ruddick addressed the meeting regarding the replacement of damaged logs in the log walk.  
**RESOLVED:** to accept Playdale's quote for supply of the new logs. Neil Ruddick will install them.  
**ACTION:** The Clerk to place the order.
- c. Any other matters relating to the Millennium Green.  
Eric Bell to install the new bench.

8. County Councillor Driver reported on several items, including:

- Overnight closures to the emergency treatment centre in Penrith – it is recognised that a more sustainable solution is required and this will be discussed at the Carlisle and Eden Forum.
- The Unthank weather station now up with other weather cams on the county council website.
- Rural health and wellbeing is being looked at in various meetings, with a focus on improving services and access to services.
- The Rural Issues focus group is to look at rural crime.

9. District Councillor Robinson reported on several items, including:

- There will be climate change event in March.
- The district council has some complex budget process – the finances are a mess but slowly being sorted out – Eden transformation project happening will refocus what the council should do and how to do it.
- Various initiatives happening in the tourist network – money from the Leader Project to promote tourism but a tight timetable – review of employment sites none in Penrith – rest of district will be picked up as the process goes along.
- Roll out of CCTV in Penrith and Alston, which should help with crime levels.
- Local enterprise – work towards coming out of Brexit to help local businesses – work is happening
- Broadband should be going into Newbiggin – trial – vouchers have doubled which makes it all more affordable.

10. Members' Briefing.

Councillors had not attended any external meetings.

11. To discuss any Highways matters arising, and consider actions:

- a. Newbiggin village gateway. Highways have been asked to look at this idea as the bridge has received quite a few hits and there are often near-misses.
- b. Planters for village gateways. It was agreed to defer this item until the March meeting.
- c. Any other Highways matters arising. There are potholes in Croglin up the main road in front of the church and beyond. In Longdales there is water on road. There have been floods on the main Coombs road.

12. To discuss any Rights of Way matters arising, and consider actions:

- a. To receive an update regarding Coombs Wood. – start of meeting with public

- i. To consider forming a committee to help facilitate a footpath application – local residents have formed a group but it was felt that there was no need for a formal committee of the parish council.
- ii. To discuss a leaflet regarding the application – the residents’ group is creating a leaflet.

b. Any other Rights of Way matters arising.

**ACTION:** The Chairman to raise the following issues with Footpaths officers:  
 Bridleway from Vicarage Farm to Townhead – to check what is happening  
 Kissing gate on the Towngate to Oatlands path  
 Newbiggin – bridge and path from bend in road to Townhead

13. To consider assuming responsibility for trees at Ainstable Methodist Chapel and Newbiggin “green”.

The councillors think that these trees are the responsibility of Highways and not the parish council, and therefore will not be assuming responsibility of their health and maintenance.

14. To discuss matters relating to banking and finance:

a. A verbal report on the bank account balances was received.

b. The following payments were noted:

November

Date	Payee	Amount	Empowering Legislation
28th	CPSL - SI-5286	£ 14.40	Local Government Act 1972, s.151

December

Date	Payee	Amount	Empowering Legislation
9th	CALC - Cllr Sproat training course	£ 80.00	Local Government Act 1972 s.111
12th	ICO	£ 35.00	Data Protection Act 1998
13th	K Lawson - salary	£ 303.42	Local Government Act 1972 s.112 (1); Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963, s.5
16th	Lloyds Bank plc	£ 3.00	Local Government Act 1972, s.151
31st	Unity Trust Bank	£ 18.00	Local Government Act 1972 s 151

January

Date	Payee	Amount	Empowering Legislation
15th	K Lawson - salary & expenses	£ 332.47	Local Government Act 1972 s.112 (1); Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963, s.5

c. To note receipts:

Date	Received from	Amount	Empowering Legislation
31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Unity Trust Bank plc	£ 12.59	Local Government Act 1972, s.151
8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	HM Land Registry	£ 30.00	Land Registration Act 2002 ss 4 and 58

d. The bank reconciliation for Q3 was received.

e. A budget reconciliation for Q3 was received.

f. To consider the budget for the financial year 2020/21.

**RESOLVED:** to accept the proposed budget with a precept of £14,000, which keeps the Band D contributions under £60 per household.

- g. Any other matters relating to banking and finance.  
Cllr Sproat was added to the banking mandate.

**RESOLVED:** to pay the following bill:

Cheque no. 300058 £40 Royal British Legion Local Government Act 1972, s 137

15. **RESOLVED:** To adopt the following policies for the coming year. The policies were signed by the Chairman:

- a. Grants Policy.
- b. Heritage Policy.

To discuss any matters relating to communications. (Chairman)

The parish council's website needs to be revamped.

**ACTION:** All councillors to make suggestions and provide feedback.

16. To consider planning applications made and other planning matters. (Chairman)

- a. To consider the parish council's response to the following application(s):

19/0672 & 19/0673	Armathwaite Place	Subdivision of residential annex to form 2 residential annexes & Listed building consent to enable subdivision of residential annex to form 2 residential annexes.
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The parish council has already submitted its support for these applications to planning.

19/0923	Heather Glen	Erection of building for ancillary uses associated with Heather Glen Country Hotel and ancillary storages.
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Concerns were expressed that the proposal is very different to any other building in the village and occupies a prominent position. However, it was also noted that the site is not in a conservation area and will help to safeguard local employment as its primary purpose is to provide staff accommodation.

**RESOLVED:** To support this application. Cllrs H & G Proud abstained.

- b. To receive an update regarding application 19/0760 Peak Power Generator – it was agreed to defer this item until the March meeting.
- c. Any other planning matters – none.

17. To discuss VE Day celebrations within the Parish.

**RESOLVED:** that the parish council will not specifically mark VE Day in the parish

18. To receive a verbal report on crime in the Parish.

It was reported that the new police inspector, Mike Taylor, will try to attend parish council meetings, to improve public relations.

19. To consider correspondence received.

The Correspondence register was received.

20. Points to be raised at the next meeting.

Date of the next ordinary meeting – Tues 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at Ainstable Church Institute.

*Dist Vean*  
*17 March 2020*