

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,
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The ordinary bi-monthly meeting of
Ainstable Parish Council
held virtually via MS Teams at 7:30pm on Tuesday 19th January 2021.

Present: Cllr N Vear (Chair); Cllr H Bellis; Cllr H Proud; Cllr G Proud; Cllr D Smith; Cllr C Sproat; Cllr D Bradshaw; Cllr M Robinson; Cllr A Ritchie

In attendance: Kimberley Lawson (Clerk); Rea Psillidou, EDC; Gary Brady, Census Engagement Manager; Hannah Jackson; County Cllr Claire Driver

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

Minutes

2. There were no apologies for absence.
3. Cllr Ritchie declared an interest in item 16.2.
4. **Resolved:** To accept the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tues 17th November 2020 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd December 2020 as a true record.
5. Gary Brady, Census Engagement Manager for North Cumbria, addressed the meeting. The key points he made regarding the Census were:
 - Census day is Sunday 21st March.
 - This will be primarily a digital Census. However, analysis suggests that about 25% of the population of Cumbria may struggle to complete the Census online for various reasons.
 - There are non-digital alternatives: Paper forms will be available on request. A telephone helpline can also be used to provide your information. If Covid-19 restrictions allow, physical completion events may be able to take place. In Eden, there are 26 “field force” members of staff available to assist members of the public.
 - Residents will begin to receive postal announcements from 8th February. The Census packs will be delivered between 5th – 12th March. This will contain an individual online code and instructions for completion.
 - Parish Councils are being asked to publicise the Census and the availability of non-digital options.
 - Completion of the Census is a legal requirement and there is a £1,000 fine for non-compliance.
 - It is important for a county of Cumbria’s size and age of population for individuals to be counted in order to access funds from central government.

Cllr Vear said that Ainstable Parish Council would publicise the Census via its website and noticeboards. The information can also be provided to a couple of local Facebook groups.

Action: The Clerk to update the website.

Gary Brady left the meeting.

6. To receive updates regarding the Neighbourhood Plan for Ainstable.

6.1. To receive an oral report about SHENA from Rea Psillidou, Eden District Council (EDC) Planning Policy Manager.

Rea explained that the SHENA is a prime piece of evidence for local plan review – it sets the development requirements that EDC needs to accommodate for review of the local plan, which will look to the period up to 2040. It looks at how much housing and employment land will be needed district-wide into the future. It doesn't directly affect Ainstable's Neighbourhood Plan, other than to provide contextual information regarding housing and employment in the area. Ainstable Parish Council will be able to compare the results of its own housing needs survey against the SHENA and identify whether its survey shows different needs for Ainstable than district wide.

Action: The Clerk to recirculate the link to the SHENA.

Rea went on to say that the government's planning white paper is proposing to retain neighbourhood plans but it is not clear what the role of local and neighbourhood plans will be; potentially the role could be diminished. Rea's advice was to not allow the white paper to influence or stop the parish council in its progress. But the council should be aware of what might be coming in the future.

Cllr Vear thanked Rea for attending the meeting.

Rea Psillidou left the meeting.

Resolved: to move item 16.2 up the agenda to allow Hannah Jackson to participate in a timely manner.

16.2 To discuss and consider a response for the following application:

Application No.	Location	Scheme
20/0984	Church Cottage, Croglin	Proposed rear and side extensions

There was some discussion about the application. Councillors discussed the North Pennines AONB's concerns about the design; the potential effect on the settings of Grade 2 listed Croglin church and Croglin war memorial; and the potential effect on the character of village. Concern was expressed about the quantity of timber in the proposals, particularly in the 2-storey garage extension, and councillors agreed that they would prefer to see this in stone, perhaps set back from the existing house. Councillors noted that several other properties in Croglin have rear balconies such as the one in this application and expressed support for retaining local families in the parish.

Hannah Jackson spoke about her hopes that the house would become her family home. She also stated the plan to replace the existing timber with larch or cedar, which would be more attractive.

Resolved: to support the application but requesting that the garage be faced in stone.

Action: Cllr Vear to draft a response and circulate before sending to planning.

Hannah Jackson left the meeting.

6.2. To receive an oral update on the housing needs survey.

There was a short discussion. Councillors are happy with the survey and accompanying letter and asked if it could be posted out as soon as possible, suggesting a 6-week return time.

Action: The Clerk to contact Kate Skillicorn at EDC to get this underway.

7. County Councillor Driver made her report, updating councillors on Covid vaccinations and arrangements for patient transport. She also spoke about the DWP winter welfare payment and encouraged anyone to contact Cumbria County Council with concerns about vulnerable individuals.

8. District Councillor Robinson reported that EDC is busy with track and trace, and interpreting and paying grants from central government. She has also been working on the Newton Rigg project.
9. Councillors received updates on current projects and issues:
 - 9.1. Superfast broadband – Cllr Bellis reported that BT have quoted for the Ruckcroft scheme but removing the property at Aiketgate has made no difference to the price. He is now looking at the Gigabit scheme to provide fibre to the premise. He pointed out that Kirkoswald are working with Barn and Ainstable should keep an eye on progress. Cllr Bellis expressed the view that currently, any other scheme in this area is a financial non-starter.
 - 9.2. Solar Lighting – The Clerk reported that she has not heard any news about this grant, although a decision is due to be made this month

County Councillor Driver left the meeting.

- 9.3. Shelter/noticeboard at Croglin – it was noted that the existing noticeboard and bench at Croglin are quite tatty. There was some discussion around the possibility of improving the noticeboard at Croglin along the lines of the one at Ruckcroft. Cllr Ritchie reported that village social media feed responses have been largely supportive of this but suggesting a different location be found, due to road safety concerns. It was noted that the parish council would need to liaise with Fellrunner and the school transport team before providing a shelter, and that school transport collects primary school students from their homes. In the absence of an immediately obvious location for a shelter, councillors discussed possible locations for an upgraded noticeboard and the edge of the churchyard was suggested, as a central location without the road safety issues of the current noticeboard.
Action: Cllr Vear will write to Neal Andrews and the PCC to make enquiries.
- 9.4. Holme Holt – the first batch of leaflets have gone out in the Eden Local. Cllr Vear has leaflets for areas that don't get the Eden Local but these cannot be delivered until lockdown restrictions are lifted. So far, 90 survey responses have been received, which are fairly evenly split for and against the proposal.
Action: Clerk to post anonymised comments on the website.

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

- 10.1. Croglin traffic calming measures – this work is due to be carried out in Jan/Feb depending on what other work Highways have to do. Cllr Ritchie expressed concern that the measures will be insufficient as they don't include a warning that there may be pedestrians on the road. Cllr Robinson stated that a 30mph zone for Newbiggin had been requested some time ago and asked if there is any news? Highways have also said they will provide village markers for all the villages on the Newbiggin/Croglin road. Need to enquire as to progress.
- 10.2. Dropped curb on Armathwaite bridge – this work is on Highways' list to be done but the site was not accessible due to parked vehicles last time a team was on site.

Cllr Robinson reported that the grit heaps need replenishing urgently. She also asked if it is possible to have a grit bin at the bottom of the fell at Newbiggin, and at Croglin bridge.

Action: Cllr Vear encouraged all councillors to report any highways issues such as these via the CCC website. He will enquire about the grit bins.

Resolved: to extend meeting under Standing Order 3x to allow time to complete the agenda.

11. To discuss refuse collection.

Cllr Vear reported that there have been problems in Ainstable with blue bags not collected; he has been in contact with Stephen Hill at EDC, who has had words with the contractors.

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

- 12.1. Damaged stile on footpath 301007, Newbiggin – Footpaths Officer has placed this on the top on his list of inspections to carry out in the next few weeks.
- 12.2. Condition of surface on Bridleway from Vicarage Farm - works have been ordered with a contractor to import stone to raise the surface, this will happen once the ground conditions allow.
- 12.3. Kissing gate on footpath 301015, Towngate – Footpaths officer reports that this kissing gate will form part of a larger project with Fellfoot Forward to revamp a long-standing self-guided circular walk. They hope to have the programme of works commissioned before the end of March.

13. To discuss matters relating to Ainstable Millennium Green

- 13.1. The Clerk reported that the Charity Commission annual return has been completed.
- 13.2. The Clerk reported on the quarterly interest payments for Q3. Cllr Vear stated that Robert Proud is aware that wall needs repairing and that he will carry out this work in due course.

14. To discuss matters relating to banking and finance (RFO):

- 14.1. The Clerk reported on the bank balance.
- 14.2. Bank reconciliations for Q1, Q2 and Q3 were received.
- 14.3. The report from the external auditor was received. There were no issues highlighted by the auditor.
- 14.4. The following payments were noted:
November

Date	Payee	Voucher No.	Payment Method	Amount	Empowering Legislation
30th	PKF	041	EP	£ 240.00	Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003
30th	Neil Ruddick	040	EP	£ 290.00	Highways Act 1980, s.96 (5)

December

6th	CPSL	042	DD	£ 14.40	Local Government Act 1972, s.151
7th	SLCC	044	EP	£ 95.00	Local Government Act 1972 s.111
11th	ICO	045	DD	£ 35.00	Data Protection Act 1998
15th	K Lawson	043	EP	£ 309.66	Local Government Act 1972 s.112 (1); Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963, s.5
16th	Lloyds Bank plc	039	DD	£ 121.45	Local Government Act 1972, s.151
31st	Unity Bank plc	046	DD	£ 18.00	Local Government Act 1972, s.151

- 14.5. **Resolved:** To pay the following bills due:

Payment details	Voucher No.	Amount	Empowering Legislation
Neil Ruddick Maintenance of Millennium Green 2019	048	£ 760.00	Public Health Act 1875, s.164
Neil Ruddick Maintenance of Millennium Green 2020	049	£ 780.00	Public Health Act 1875, s.164

14.6. There was some discussion regarding the Newbiggin defibrillator. It was noted that this defibrillator and cabinet had been donated to the parish council some years ago. Neither make or model is recommended for Public Access use by the Community Heartbeat Trust.

Resolved: to purchase a new defibrillator with an unlocked cabinet from the Community Heartbeat Trust for Newbiggin.

Action: Cllr Vear to speak to Mr & Mrs Miller to gain their permission to replace the cabinet. The Clerk to finalise the price with CHT prior to placing the order, to ensure the same make and model of cabinet as the others in the parish.

14.7. **Resolved:** that the rent on the field at Ruckcroft remain unchanged for the next financial year.

14.8. **Resolved:** To adopt the budget proposal for FYE 31st March 2022

14.9. There were no other matters relating to banking and finance.

15. **Resolved:** to adopt the following policies and procedures for the forthcoming year:

15.1. Disciplinary policy

15.2. Grievance policy

15.3. Grants policy

15.4. Heritage policy

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

16.1. The decision(s) for the following application(s) were noted:

Application No.	Location	Scheme	Decision
20/0459	Armathwaite Place	Retrospective installation of biomass wood pellet boiler to replace old oil boiler.	Granted
20/0751	Slack Cottage, Ainstable	Lean to extension to existing agricultural shed for housing sheep and crop	Granted
20/0773	Middle Farm, Croglin	Proposed rear extension and alterations to existing side	Granted

16.2. There were no other planning matters

17. The tree survey was received and recommendations noted.

Action: Cllr Bradshaw will undertake the required remedial work to the oak tree at Ainstable Church Institute.

18. The correspondence register had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising.

19. Points to be raised at the next meeting – to be sent to the Clerk.

20. Date of the next ordinary meeting Tuesday 16th March 2021.

Meeting closed at 22:25