

Ainstable Parish Council

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

Heritage Policy

Introduction

Ainstable Parish Council exists to serve the villages of Ainstable, Croglin, Newbiggin, and Ruckcroft, the communities of Dale and Longdales, together with the surrounding farms and houses. The Parish Council recognises that it has a responsibility to protect, wherever possible, the local historical and archaeological heritage of the parish for current and future populations to use and enjoy.

Community Benefit & Involvement

To achieve this aim Ainstable Parish Council aims to protect and conserve the historical and archaeological assets of the parish, whilst making these available for the enjoyment and use of the current and future populations. The Parish Council would like to encourage the entire local population, and visitors, to both understand the past events and history which have formed the current parish, and to become more involved in helping to run the parish and to take a positive interest in the future of the parish.

Examples of current and previous initiatives have included:

- Local history project researching the parish
- Exhibitions of local historical photographs in village halls
- Responding to enquiries about the parish from members of the public
- Ensuring all Parish Council documents are available on the website
- Making the map archive available for public inspection
- Developing information panels in key locations throughout the parish
- Supporting community art and sculpture exhibitions

The Parish Council would like to encourage and support, wherever possible, any local or national initiatives which will assist in furthering the aims of this Heritage Policy.

Working Documents

There is a long historical archive of Parish Council documents which details past decisions and events throughout the parish. Whilst these were considered working documents in the past, these are also an historical record of the parish and the local population.

The Parish Council holds and creates many documents including, but not limited to:

- Agendas and Minutes of Parish Council meetings
- Surveys and research documents
- Standing Orders, policies, and procedure documents
- Contracts and legal agreements
- Manorial and other historical documents
- Planning applications, and the associated documents

These documents are the working documents of the Parish Council, and as such need to be kept available for use by the Clerk and Councillors. The Clerk is responsible for the production, maintenance, and retention of the working documents of the Parish Council.

When working documents are no longer of foreseeable use in the work of managing the parish these will be lodged with Cumbria Archive to help ensure the long term protection and future availability. Wherever possible all new documents will be created in digital form, and all existing documents will be scanned in and digitised to make them more readily available for future use via the parish website.

Maps

The Parish Council holds copies of both current and old historical maps of the parish, and the surrounding area. Whilst these maps provide useful information, and can help to explain land ownership and rights of way issues, they are also becoming very fragile.

The Parish Council will work with Cumbria Archive, and other agencies, and will aim to have the maps both scanned in and digitised, and physically conserved to ensure these are available for the foreseeable future.

Public Sector Mapping Agreement

The Parish Council will maintain a registration under the Public Sector Mapping Agreement (PSMA), and will use all maps and mapping data within the bounds of that agreement.

Place Names, Roads, and Rights of Way

The history of the geographic area of the parish is often recognised best by the local place names, and the roads and rights of way which have evolved to support the changing needs of the local population. These local place names and the routes used for roads and rights of way have over time created in themselves a living history of the parish, and in particular the way in which people lived and worked.

The Parish Council holds definitive maps of the parish which, together with other documents and oral history, serve to record the routes of the roads and the rights of way.

The Parish Council will work with Cumbria Highways, and with the Footpaths and Rights of Way Officers at Cumbria County Council, to preserve and maintain these place names and routes for future generations.

Road Signs

Ainstable Parish has 25 signposts within the parish of which:

- 5 date from the late 1890s – cast iron, unmarked
- 9 from the early 1900s – cast iron, marked Cumberland County Council
- 5 from the 1970s – aluminium
- 5 from the 2000s – reproduction 1900 style
- 1 new 2014 – cast iron traditional signpost – marked Ainstable Parish Council

Unfortunately back in the 1960s and 1970s many of the old ‘traditional’ cast iron signposts were simply seen as old fashioned and tatty. Rather than try and repair them many of these signposts were removed for the scrap metal, and replaced with pressed aluminium signs.

The parish council successfully completed a renovation project for the existing traditional cast iron signposts between 2012 & 2014. The work was carried out by a specialist local company with the assistance of Cumbria Highways. Having completed the first part of the project, the parish council has long wanted to complete the second part with the replacement of the known missing traditional signposts.

At least 3 of the 1970s signposts would originally have been 1900s Cumberland style signposts that were scrapped in the 1970s. The Parish Council would like to reinstate the missing traditional cast iron signposts to bring the parish roads back to what they were and could be again.

The aim of the Parish Council is to improve the local physical environment, while at the same time preserving and conserving the heritage of these unique historical signposts.

Listed Buildings

Ainstable Parish has a number of buildings which are listed on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE).

The Parish Council recognises the need to preserve and document listed buildings, and will work with the owners, and with any suitably qualified individuals, organisations, agencies, and local and central government to ensure these buildings are, wherever possible, preserved for future generations. The Parish Council recognises that at times this will not be possible and that current and future use of sites will have to take priority.

Where it will not be possible to preserve any listed buildings the Parish Council will make every effort to support recording and documenting of the historical and archaeological evidence before it is lost.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Ainstable Parish has a number of scheduled ancient monuments and historical sites including:

- Stone circles
- Standing stones
- Bronze age cairns
- Medieval buildings
- Ancient field patterns

The Parish Council recognises the need to preserve and document these sites, and will work with any suitably qualified individuals, organisations, agencies, and local and central government to ensure these sites are, wherever possible, preserved for future generations. The Parish Council recognises that at times this will not be possible and that current and future use of sites will have to take priority.

Where it will not be possible to preserve any scheduled ancient monument sites the Parish Council will make every effort to support recording and documenting of the historical and archaeological evidence before it is lost.

Industrial and Technical Archaeology

Ainstable Parish has a number of industrial heritage sites including:

- Water mills
- Weirs and mill races
- Early hydroelectric sites
- Early farming sites and buildings
- Local light industrial and artisan sites

While the Parish Council would like to see the industrial and technological heritage preserved for future generations, we recognise that at times this will not be possible and that current and future use of sites will have to take priority.

Where it will not be possible to preserve industrial and technological heritage sites the Parish Council will make every effort to support recording and documenting of the historical and archaeological evidence before it is lost.

Historical Photos, Film, Videos & Documents

The Parish Council recognises that there are many sources of historical information including:

- Photographs
- Film
- Video
- Personal Documents

The Parish Council does not in itself have the resources to archive and preserve collections of historical interest. We will though work with individuals, organisations, agencies, and local and central government to help, wherever possible, in the identification and preservation of these assets for future generations.

Expert Advice

The Parish Council recognises that, whilst it has the best intentions to protect the local historical and archaeological heritage of the parish, it does not have the technical, academic, or legal knowledge to ensure the protection of all of the assets.

The Parish Council will therefore work with suitably qualified individuals, organisations, agencies, and local and central government, to take advice and to help ensure where possible the adequate protection and conservation of the local historical and archaeological heritage of the parish.

Responsibilities

The council recognises and accepts its responsibility, where possible, as detailed in the Heritage Policy, for the protection and conservation of the local historical and archaeological heritage of the parish.

The Clerk to the parish council assumes the day to day responsibility of ensuring the Heritage Policy is reviewed annually, maintained and adhered to. The Clerk will work with Councillors and other individuals, organisations, agencies, and local and central government to ensure that, where possible, our procedures follow accepted best practice for the protection and conservation of the local historical and archaeological heritage of the parish.

This policy will be reviewed annually, and may be revised, added to or modified when required.

Signed

Date

Signed

Date

Clerk to Ainstable Parish Council

Chairman of Ainstable Parish Council

DRAFT