

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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Meeting of
Croglin Church Feasibility Committee
held at Croglin Village Hall at 7:30pm on Tuesday 2nd October 2018.

Present: Cllr Mary Robinson (Chairman); Cllr Angela Richie; Helen Little; Alexandra Carrick; Sarah Hope; Eileen Hope; Gladys Fawcett; Ruth Lawley; Ian Butler; Tom Bowman; Madge Shaw; Chris Gray; Neal Andrews, Carlisle Diocese

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence were received from Emma Gray.
2. Introductions.
3. The Chairman clarified the role of Ainstable Parish Council, which wishes to support the community to move forward with a successful outcome for the church.
4. After a strong turnout from the community at the previous Parish Council meeting, those present were disappointed there were not more people attending and concern was raised that perhaps some people had left the previous meeting before the date for this meeting was set.

Tom Bowman clarified that he had spoken to the two churchwardens and the new vicar, Rev. Catherine Butterfield, who had confirmed there was no possibility of the church at Croglin reopening for services.

Neal Andrews confirmed the Diocese has put any future sale on the backburner for the time being in order for the community to have some time to formulate a way forward. That said, a timescale would need to be agreed and the longer the building was not being used the more the fabric would suffer.

Discussions around using the church for a village hall included having the means to fundraise for ongoing maintenance as it was felt it would be difficult to fund the running of two community buildings. Whilst the church has a relatively sound structure, the village hall has some issues with the long-term sustainability of the roof and a kitchen which is not really up to the standards needed for catering.

Alternative use of the village hall site for affordable housing was discussed and Mary Robinson reported that she had discussed with the chairman of Eden District Councils Heart of Cumbria. This is a commercial company owned by the Council and is already providing affordable rented properties in Penrith. It will be looking at providing affordable homes in Eden's villages when opportunities arise. He was very supportive of the concept and wished to be kept informed about what decisions the community makes in the future.

It was thought that good use could be made of the church and the comment was made that if the community really want it to be saved then everyone needs to get behind it.

Chris Gray explained the trustees for the village hall are himself, Terry Irving, Robin Bell, John Thirlwall. He agreed to investigate the articles of association and the deed. The Annual General Meeting for the hall is on 14th November 2018 at 7.30. There will be a vacancy for a new chairman as Bruce Bennison, the current chairman, had said he would stand down at this year's meeting. It

was felt the trustees and hall committee need to fully understand the residents' opinions and the will of the people.

The Parish Council could be approached about assisting with a consultation.

There is the possibility the Church could be transferred to the community as a community asset at little or no cost.

There was genuine concern whether there is anyone in the community who would drive such a project forward.

Questions were asked as to whether the church had been surveyed and if there is a Conditions Report available. Neal Andrews thought there was one carried out in 2010 rather than an older one which people were aware of which was carried out in 2003. Neal Andrews advised the cost of maintenance on the church had been nothing.

There is electricity and mains water already in the church.

5. It was agreed all residents of Croglin and Newbiggin be invited to attend the AGM and probably a good idea if Scarrowmanwick, Scales and Renwick were also invited as residents from these villages do use Croglin Village Hall for events.

It was felt by those attending the meeting there needed to be some details given on the importance of attending the AGM and Mary Robinson agreed to discuss with Didi Bennison, the secretary of the village hall, and was happy to write up a short summary to go out with the invitations to all residents.

The Croglin Facebook page will be used to spread the word.

6. Date of the next meeting will be set after the AGM.