

AINSTABLE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Nigel Vear, Ainstable (01768) 896360 ~ chairman@ainstable.org.uk

CLERK: Rachel Lytollis (01228) 670451 ~ clerk@ainstable.org.uk

Meeting of Ainstable Parish Council held in Ainstable Church Institute at 7.30pm on Tuesday 19th March, 2013.

DRAFT MINUTES

OPEN MEETING- For discussion of matters of general Parish concern (10 mins)

PRESENT: Cllr Guise, Cllr Bellis, Cllr Thirwall, Cllr Smith, Cllr Miller, Cllr Findlay, Cllr Collinge & Cllr Vear

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

1. **Declaration of interests:** Cllr Bellis (Planning)
2. **To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr Brown & County Cllr Robinson
3. **To resolve to accept the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 15th January, 2013 as a true record** : It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15th January, 2013 as a true record (proposed by Cllr Smith seconded by Cllr Vear, unanimous vote). The Clerk agreed to forward a copy of the minutes to Cllr Bellis.
4. **To discuss the co-option of new councillors onto the Parish Council-** No volunteers.
5. **To hear a report and discuss the protection of red squirrels in the Parish**

Mr Richard Dykes of Penrith & District Red Squirrel Group kindly agreed to speak to the meeting. He reported that red squirrels are still living naturally in Cumbria and Northumberland but grey squirrels have now moved into the area as well. It was noted that there are 120 000 red squirrels in the UK, predominately in Scotland with only 12 000 in England and Wales. By contrast there are approximately 2m grey squirrels in the UK. The grey squirrels carry the squirrel pox virus which isn't a problem to them but is always fatal to red squirrels. The Penrith & District Red Squirrel Group was set up 20 years ago group set up and now conserves the red squirrel population using grey squirrel control. It has been found that red squirrels will readily repopulate controlled areas and the group provides traps, training and food in order to do this. Northern Eden Valley is one of five patches that the group looks after. They cover 600sq miles and now employ red squirrel rangers who have the expertise to bring the grey squirrels to them. Mr Dykes explained that finance needed to cover the costs of rangers is £1500 per month, along with the cost of feed and traps etc.. The level of grey squirrels is such as that the numbers can be managed and reduced and positive results are being seen through the group's work..

Councillors expressed their thanks to Mr Dykes for coming to the meeting. It was agreed to put a grant request on the agenda for November when payments for the year 2014/15 will be decided and to make a grant payment in May for 2013/14. It was agreed that the squirrel catcher's number be placed in forthcoming newsletters and also an advert calling for volunteers to help the group..

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

It was reported that the Friends of the Lake District have promised that some funding will be available towards the project and have said that they can be quoted as sponsors. Cllr Brown had reported that the initial application to apply for Heritage Lottery Funding has been successful, and we have been given permission to go ahead with a detailed application. This application is waiting for a 3rd quote, which we have to provide, plus we are looking for some commitment from the local schools as the Heritage Lottery Fund likes to have an educational element to all applications.

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman signed the application to the Neighbourhood Forum for a grant on behalf of the Parish Council. It was also agreed that Cumbria Highways Department should be contacted to enquire whether we would be allowed to ask individuals and companies to sponsor road signs.

7. **To receive a report on crime in the Parish** : None reported.

8. **Report from attendance at outside bodies**

- Neighbourhood Planning- local meetings are currently taking place.
- Footway lighting- Cllr Vear reported that he had attended the local meeting held at Kirkoswald Church Institute- details below.

9. **To discuss any Highways matters arising**

- Winter planning/ grit- Cllr Vear reported that some extra grit has appeared in the centre of Ainstable and Cllr Thirlwall said that there was some between Croglin and Newbiggin. Cllr Collinge said that the Highways Department have done well this winter and it was noted that the grit bins are being regularly refilled.
- Holes and damage- Cllr Bellis and Cllr Vear reported that they have begun a survey of potholes in the parish. Cllr Bellis noted that the holes are being mended as fast as they are being reported. Cllr Bellis agreed to take on highway maintenance as a special project. It was agreed that speeding should also be looked at.
- To discuss footway lighting: Cllr Vear briefed the meeting regarding the removal of footway lights. Cllr Thirlwall proposed that the council object to the removal of all street lights in Croglin. Councillors looked through the list of streetlights in Ainstable which are under threat and agreed that most are necessary. It was agreed that all lights in Newbiggin should also stay. Cllr Vear agreed to reply to Eden District Council on behalf of the Parish Council.

10. **To discuss the maintenance/ renewal of benches and noticeboards**

The Clerk promised to bring a Broxap street furniture brochure to the next meeting. It was noted that it may be possible to make a bid for Lottery funding towards the cost of the project.

11. **To discuss the request for a bus stop shelter for Newbiggin**

Cllr Vear reported that there has been a request for a shelter for children waiting to catch the bus in Newbiggin. Cllr Thirlwall reported that school buses picking children up and dropping them off in Croglin often park at the road end on a blind corner, forcing other drivers to go out into the road. Councillors agreed that without any parishioners from Newbiggin on the Parish Council it is more difficult to take local projects through.

12. **To discuss the possibility of a playgrounds for Newbiggin and Croglin:** Councillors agreed that they would support such a project if it was wanted in the area but without any councillors representing the Newbiggin area they didn't feel that they knew villagers' feelings. It was agreed that Newbiggin and Croglin parishioners are desperately needed as councillors and councillors appealed for volunteers to come forward.

13. **To discuss the renewal of Parish insurance policies:** It was resolved to renew these policies when it becomes due shortly.

14. **To receive a report on the Millennium Green and its maintenance by Eden District Council**

Cllr Smith reported that he has not as yet had a site meeting with Eden District Council. It was agreed that two new signs are needed for the Millennium Green (£150 each). It was resolved that a quote be obtained to cut the rough grass, clean out the bird boxes and cut back the bushes. It was agreed to proceed with the work if it

