

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

Annual General Meeting of
Ainstable Parish Council and Ainstable Millennium Green Trust
held in Croglin Village Hall at 7:30pm on Tuesday 20 May 2014.

This was followed by the ordinary meeting of Ainstable Parish Council.

Present: Cllr Vear, Cllr Thirlwall, Cllr Guise, Cllr Smith, Cllr Findlay, Cllr Bellis & Cllr Little

Draft Minutes

1. **Open Meeting:** for discussion of matters of general parish concern.

Croglin Flood Defence Group- Mrs Helen Little spoke to councillors. She said that a group of residents have set up a group to try to tackle the flooding problem following advice to do so by Highways Dept. representatives at a local meeting. The parishioners complained that there had been no members of the parish council present at the meeting. Cllr Vear explained that although there should be four councillors from the Croglin and Newbiggin ward, despite considerable advertising of vacancies to residents (on noticeboards, in minutes and in parish council newsletters which had been hand delivered to properties in Newbiggin and Croglin) there was only one councillor, Cllr John Thirlwall, specifically representing that area. Cllr Thirlwall said that he could not leave his farm for an evening during lambing season and so hadn't been able to attend the Flooding Meeting in early April. Cllr Vear asked that parishioners from Croglin and Newbiggin volunteer to be councillors so that they could represent the needs of the ward and the parish council would then be able to take on problems like flooding on their behalf with a full understanding of the situation. By doing so he said, they would realise that the parish council has been trying for years to work on these problems on their behalf. Councillors agreed that they would stand by the residents of the Croglin on flooding but they also needed help from them to do this. Cllr Vear said that he was trying to represent Newbiggin residents at present even though he lives in Ainstable and has, with other councillors, organised to have a community shelter installed to create a dry space for children waiting for school buses. Councillors told residents that the parish council meets in Croglin for three meetings per year (March, May and July), but virtually no parishioners from Newbiggin or Croglin have ever come to the Croglin meetings. Councillors tried to stress that it is only by having local volunteers come onto the parish council that the issues specific to Newbiggin and Croglin can be fully represented as the volunteer councillors from Ainstable simply don't know what is happening in the ward on daily basis.

Cllr Vear said that situations such as flooding etc. are dealt with on a regular basis by the parish council and therefore councillors have contacts in various departments of Eden District Council and Cumbria County Council. Cllr Vear suggested that a parish council subcommittee would have far more influence than a group of residents would and perhaps this would be a better way ahead.

Parishioners said that they were particularly concerned as the roads and properties in the village are flooding after only medium levels of rainfall. It was agreed that Cllr Bellis take the flooding document forwards to Highways Dept. on behalf of the group.

Annual General Meeting

2. To elect a Chairman for Council Year 2014/15:

Cllr Thirlwall proposed that Cllr Vear remain as Chair. This was seconded by Cllr Findlay and councillors voted unanimously in favour.

3. To receive the Chairman's signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office:

The Chair signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. To elect a Vice Chairman for Council Year 2014/15:

Cllr Smith proposed that Cllr Thirlwall remain as Vice Chair. Cllr Findlay seconded this and councillors voted unanimously in favour.

5. To receive apologies:

Cllr Miller (away), Cllr Collinge (away/ working) District & County Cllr Robinson (attending meeting).

6. To resolve to accept the minutes of the last AGM held on Tuesday 21 May 2013 as a true record:

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the last AGM held on Tuesday 21 May 2013 as a true record (proposed by Cllr Guise, seconded by Cllr Smith, unanimous vote from those present).

7. To discuss co-opting new councillors to fill any vacancies where necessary:

Mrs Helen Little (who has lived in village for 7 years) introduced herself. Cllr Thirlwall proposed that she be co-opted onto the parish council. This was seconded by Cllr Findlay and councillors voted unanimously in favour.

8. To appoint representatives to outside bodies: CALC – Cllr Miller

9. To appoint committees and sub-committees:

Croglin Flood Subcommittee - Cllr Little, Cllr Thirlwall & Cllr Bellis (proposed by Cllr Vear, seconded by Cllr Smith, unanimous vote).

10. To discuss changing from a bi-monthly to a monthly parish council meeting:

Councillors discussed arguments for and against the idea. Some councillors felt that items can lapse due to time gaps but other felt that they would rather spend the additional time that would be spent in meetings working on special projects. It was agreed to keep six ordinary meeting per year but to add in extraordinary meetings and email communication as often as necessary.

Ainstable Millennium Green Trust AGM

11. To receive apologies: as above

12. To resolve to accept the minutes of the last AGM as a true record:

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the last AGM held on Tuesday 21st May, 2013 as a true record (proposed by Cllr Thirlwall, seconded by Cllr Smith, unanimous vote by those present).

13. To receive a presentation of finances:

The Clerk and Chair reported that there had been problems trying to close the account. The Chair signed a letter to Barclays Bank asking them to send a cheque for the closing balance of the dormant account. As the other trustee of the account, Cllr Collinge also needs to sign the letter. Cllr Vear said that he would ask Cllr Collinge to do so.

Parish Council Meeting

14. **Declaration of interests:** None

15. **To receive apologies for absence:**

Cllr Miller (away), Cllr Collinge (away/ working) District & County Cllr Robinson (attending meeting).

16. **To resolve to accept the minutes of the following meetings as a true record of these meetings:**

a. **The last ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 18 March 2014**

Proposed by Cllr Bellis, seconded by Cllr Guise, unanimous vote by those present.

b. **The extraordinary meeting held on Tuesday 6 May 2014**

Proposed by Cllr Guise, seconded by Cllr Bellis, unanimous vote by those present.

A member of the public asked the reasons that the parish council had given for objecting to the wind turbine application.

17. **Report from attendance at outside bodies:** None

18. **To receive a report on crime in the Parish:**

The Clerk reported that a number of quad bikes have been stolen in neighbouring parishes and there have been reports of poachers in the area. A councillor reported that a letter box has recently been blown up and the Clerk said that a grit box has been tipped over.

19. **To discuss any Highways matters arising:**

- The Chair reported that he, Cllr Bellis and County & District Cllr Robinson had carried out an inspection of all of the roads in the parish.
- Potholes have been filled
- It was noted that the road surface around the Methodist Chapel to Towngate area near Ainstable is in need of work.
- Cllr Bellis said that the Give Way markings are missing from many junctions in the parish. These have been reported.
- It was noted that that the Give Way sign at Hazelgill is damaged.
- Cllr Vear said that Highways Dept. visited the area on Thursday- It was agreed that the Millennium Green should be marked with a playground sign.
- Councillors agreed that speeding is still a problem in Ainstable area and parishioners are reminded to report any ongoing problems.

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

Cllr Vear explained for the benefit of the public present that it is an ongoing project that the parish council is working on. The parish council has been building up reserves of capital over the last few years to renovate 25 Cumberland cast iron sign posts. The renovation is being carried out by a company at Lanercost. He said that the new sign for Ainstable is now in the workshop and Highways Dept. are scheduled to install it shortly. It was noted that the parish council is spending £17000 on the project with £3500 coming from Friends of the Lake District and grants coming from other bodies as well. It was reported that some more modern signs will also be painted to look more traditional. It was suggested that the road signs in Croglin and Newbiggin need replacing- permission has been given to do this but funding is still needed. Cllr Thirlwall reported that a nearby sign post is still missing a finger. Cllr Vear agreed to look into this.

21. **To discuss Friends of the Lake District:**

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to CALC who had advised that parish council shouldn't become members of such groups. The Chair said that he would speak to Mr Jack Ellerby about the situation and also arrange a photo opportunity when the sign is installed.

22. To receive a report on the Millennium Green:

The Chair reported that the maintenance of the site is now being carried out by Neil Ruddick and councillors agreed that it is looking much smarter. He said that the annual inspection of the equipment has now been carried out and a maintenance invoice is due shortly (£875 to cover the next 5 years). The Chair asked councillors to have a look at the state of the benches on the site. These can then be discussed at the July meeting.

23. To receive an update on Croglin Educational Foundation:

Clr Thirlwall reported that the trust's work is ongoing with applications await for the next academic year. He explained that the rental income from a piece of land held in trust is accrued, to be given in grants to students between 16 and 25 years old who are going into further and higher education. It was noted that applicant must live in the Croglin or Newbiggin area.

24. To receive an update on special projects:

- a. **Newbiggin bus shelter** The Chair reported that Highways Dept. and the Police are happy with the position of the proposed shelter, with the design being similar to that in Ainstable. It was noted that it will be open towards the B road with plastic windows and two benches. The installation will be carried out over the summer holiday. Councillors asked where the buses stop in Croglin. One councillor said that the children get wet when waiting. It was asked if there is there space to put one in the centre of the village. It was noted that a telegraph pole has been installed near the bench.
- b. **Newbiggin bench**- The Chair reported that Mr Eric Bell now has the bench to install. Clr Guise said that the bench at Ainstable Church is too near the hedge. The Clerk reported that the bin will be installed after the bench is in position.
- c. **Parish noticeboards**- It was noted that there are six parish council noticeboards. Councillors reported that they had been looking at the possibility of installing recycled plastic boards that looks like wood as they have a long life with little treatment needed. Councillors noted that the parish would need to apply for funding.
- d. Clr Little asked that the parish council help buy a small number of emergency use sandbags at a cost of £119 + VAT for a box of 12 snakes – referred to finance section of the meeting.

25. To discuss dog fouling in villages:

Clr Findlay said that fouling is again becoming a problem in Ainstable. The public are reminded to clear up after their dogs and Clr Findlay said that he was happy to act as a go between between the parish council and the Dog Warden. It was noted that dogs are being walked in the Millennium Green. It was agreed to look into drawing up a bye law to prevent this. Parishioners are asked to either let the Dog Warden or the parish council know of any fouling.

26. To discuss holding litter picks:

Clr Findlay said that it was a little late this year to hold one as the grass on the edges of highways is now too long. Clr Vear said that Mr Alan Brown had given him the equipment he had used in the past (tongs and hi-vis jackets). It was resolved to hold a winter Boon day later in the year.

27. To discuss any matters relating to communications:

- a. **Website**- Cllr Vear and Cllr Bellis are to work together on it.
- b. **Parish news**- Councillors asked that it also include meeting dates, as well as contact details.
- c. **Newsletter**- Cllr Vear said that another newsletter will be put together shortly and asked for stories to be included (sign posts, benches and flooding to be included). It was agreed to again include a request for volunteers to be co-opted onto the parish council.
- d. **Parish File**- up to date

28. To consider planning applications made and other planning matters: None

29. To notify the Council of planning decisions received: None

- Wind turbine application, near Ainstable: Cllr Vear reported that it is hoped that the Planning Committee meeting will be held in Ainstable as the Church Institute is able to accommodate far more people than the meeting room in the district council buildings in Penrith. County and District Cllr Robinson is taking this forward.
- Landscaping around the static caravan at Faugh Head, Ainstable- Councillors asked when will the static caravan be moved?

30. To consider correspondence received:

The Clerk read out the correspondence received. It was noted that the council had received a copy of the Croglin Flooding document from Sarah Hope.

31. To discuss finances:

The Chair gave out copies of the spending projection statement.

- a. To approve the Annual Return 2013/14- It was resolved to approve the Annual Return 2013/14 (proposed by Cllr Thirlwall, seconded by Cllr Smith, unanimous vote).
- b. To pay bills due: It was resolved to pay the following bills (proposed by Cllr Vear, seconded by Cllr Thirlwall, unanimous vote):

Clerk's Salary & Expenses	£ 543.06	(Chq No: 100660)
Mrs J Dawes (Audit)	£ 65.00	(Chq No: 100661)
Mr N Vear (Domain name)	£ 13.19	(Chq No: 100668)
Morton Garden Building Ltd	£ 767.50	(Chq No: 100669)
AON Insurance Ltd	£ tbc	(Chq No: 100670)

It was also resolved to contribute £500 in order for the Croglin Flood Group to buy an initial supply of emergency 'sand bags' (proposed by Cllr Vear, seconded by Cllr Thirlwall, unanimous vote) with further funds being secured by grants.

- c. To pay grant cheques approved in January 2014
(proposed by Cllr Vear, seconded by Cllr Thirlwall, unanimous vote):

Croglin Village Hall	£ 500.00	(Chq No: 100662)
Eden Valley Flix	£ 250.00	(Chq No: 100663)
Fellrunner Village Bus Ltd	£ 135.30	(Chq No: 100664)
Croglin Church Yard	£ 250.00	(Chq No: 100665)
Ainstable Church	£ 700.00	(Chq No: 100666)
Great North Air Ambulance	£ 500.00	(Chq No: 100667)

32. To receive a report from County Councillor Robinson:

Cllr Robinson sent the following report:

“Can you please encourage applications to the Eden Community Fund especially village halls and one off events as there is funding available. Roads- we are still waiting for patching to take place and I am chasing Mr Banks. School transport 16-18 concerns me and I am following it up, Alston are preparing a case study for me which will go to SPARSE in London. Sparse is all the rural authorities from across the country and lobbies, educates and works with civil servants and ministers to improve funding for rural authorities. This case study will be used in that manner”.

33. Points to be raised at the next meeting

- Flooding in Croglin
- New project- new Croglin bench/ noticeboard
- Co-option of new councillors
- Clerk to speak to BT regarding the new poles installed in Croglin
- Clerk to explore funding for Croglin Flood Group with Cumbria County Council

34. Date of the next meeting : 7.30pm on Tuesday 15th July, 2014 in Croglin Village Hall

Signed: *R.E. Lytollis*

Date: 20 May 2014

Clerk to Ainstable Parish Council