

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

An Ordinary Meeting of
Ainstable Parish Council

held in Croglin Village Hall at 7:30pm on Tuesday 16 September 2014.

Present: Cllr Thirlwall (Vice Chair), Cllr Little, Cllr Bellis, Cllr Guise, Cllr Findlay, Cllr Vear (Chair), Cllr Collinge, Cllr Ritchie, Cllr Miller and County & District Cllr Robinson

Minutes

1. Open Meeting - for discussion of matters of general parish concern (10 mins)- No members of the public wished to speak.

Parish Council Meeting

2. **Declaration of interests**- None
3. **To receive apologies for absence**- Cllr Smith (away on business)
4. **It was resolved to accept the minutes of the following meeting as a true record:**
 - a. The last ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 15 July 2014 (proposed by Cllr Guise, seconded by Cllr Little, unanimous vote by those who had been present).
5. **To discuss the co-option of new councillors**- No one present.
6. **To receive a presentation from Mr Fergus McMorrow (of Eden District Council) on Neighbourhood Planning**- Mr McMorrow addressed the meeting about Neighbourhood Planning. He said that there is a lot of information available on the subject but that Eden District Council was pretty unique among north western councils in actually having a Neighbourhood Planning Officer of its own. Also Mr Gordon Nicolson, leader of the council is a National Neighbourhood Planning champion. Mr McMorrow said that his role was to support communities and the central idea of the plans is about empowering local people to have a greater say over planning development and land use. With this comes big responsibilities. Legislation already puts power into the hands of parishes but writing a plan will give parish councils greater influence on decision making. It was noted that Neighbourhood Plans are optional (Neighbourhood Development Plan) and a key aspect of a plan is to guide the nature of local development and supplement Local Plans. Mr McMorrow said that the second option is to draw up a Neighbourhood Development Order. These allow councils to grant planning permission in advance for specified forms of developments across the area as agreed by the local community or grant planning permission for a specific development/ use of a specific site. Finally there is the option to agree a Community Right to Build Order which allows appropriately constituted local community groups (such as parish councils) to grant planning applications.

Mr McMorrow said that consultation is the key part of the plan writing process and formal approval process and parish councils must be able to show that they have consulted and taken into account the views of parishioners. An External Examiner is appointed, not to look at policies

but at the basic conditions. A referendum is then held within the parish and 50% of those who vote must vote in favour.

It was noted that central government funded grants are available to assist in the writing of the plan. The neighbourhood plan can cover a broad range of topics or be limited to topics covered by the plans i.e. to those that are relevant to the specific parish area. It was noted that the plan could be devised by a local steering group working with the parish council. Mr McMorrow said that professional help is also needed to ensure that policy wording is very clear and 'water tight'. It was noted that the plan must allow the number of properties designated within wider planning policies. Any potential liabilities are faced by the district rather than parish council, and this is why the document is checked thoroughly by the local authority.

Mr McMorrow said that Neighbourhood Plans are being taken into account even before they are formally approved and Eric Pickles MP is considering them when looking at planning appeals. It was noted that the plans last indefinitely and are only superseded by a new plan. Other parishes in the Eden area have already begun the process. Mr McMorrow agreed to send a sample documents for a similar sized parish to Cllr Vear to forward to other councillors. It was noted the Neighbourhood Plans can be used to promote schemes and prevent others, in line with community views.

Mr McMorrow said that the first step to becoming designated is to show possible intention (no time limit) and a proforma document (to be sent by Mr McMorrow) is available to do this. It was agreed that the topic be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to vote upon designation. Councillors thanked Mr McMorrow for his time and coming to speak to them.

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

- Cllr Bellis reported that he had been to the Hub Coordinators meeting. It is expected that the Croglin Exchange will begin to operate during December 2014. It was agreed that this will be good news for those living near the cabinet who will get a much increased speed of service. Those properties in excess of 1.5 miles from cabinets might not get it. Cllr Bellis said that there is now a push to ask for extra cabinets (with power) and with cabinets in Croglin, Newbiggin and Ruckcroft. There are currently 330 cabinets in Cumbria and BT have signed up to increase this to 500 cabinets. It was explained that fibre optics are needed from the exchanges to the cabinet boxes. It has been reported that the cabinet in Kirkoswald is being done at present. Cllr Bellis agreed to investigate where populations are to indicate where extra cabinets are needed within the parish.
- CALC Meeting- parking meters in towns.

8. **To receive a report on crime in the Parish**- County & District Cllr Robinson said that she was Chair of the Community Safety Plan Committee and spoke to councillors about the implications of the recent murder in the parish. It was noted that there had recently been a hit and run incident.

9. **To discuss any Highways matters arising**- It was noted that the roads have been marked up for repair work, suggesting that it is imminent.

10. **To receive an update on the repair of traditional road signs in the Parish**- Cllr Vear reported that many of the signs are now complete, including most of the traditional signs, and showed

photos of some of them. It was acknowledged that it had been a considerable project which had been 2 years in the execution.

11. **To receive a report on the Millennium Green**- It was agreed that maintenance of the site is going well. United Utilities had asked for permission to trim trees to prevent damage to cables. Cllr Collinge said that some additional pruning is needed on the site but it was noted that the winter maintenance programme would include pruning. It was agreed to leave the scheduling of work to Neil ? as he is doing a good job. It was agreed that the sign to the Millennium Green is in need of renovation.
12. **To receive an update on Croglin Educational Foundation**- Cllr Thirlwall said that there had been four awards made this year to students going into higher and further education. A trophy cup was given to William Howard School and some prize money had been given for sports in Croglin.
13. **To receive an update on special projects**-
 - a. Newbiggin bus shelter- Cll Vear reported that the shelter is now in place. It was noted that the two internal bench seats and plaque were still to be installed. The new bench and litter bin on the verge have also been installed.
 - b. Parish noticeboards- It was agreed to start a next major funding project to buy noticeboards. Councillors were asked to consider whether they are currently in the right places.
 - c. New noticeboard & bench in Croglin- It was agreed that there is no other suitable position to site the bench and board. It was acknowledged there is there is no spare money at present but the Parish Council could apply for funding for a project like this. The Clerk agreed to get photos of noticeboard, shelter and bench installed in Great Salkeld.
 - d. Flooding in Croglin- It was noted that two properties have had to use some of the Hydro Snakes so far.
 - e. Letter to Rory Stewart from Helen Renyard of Cumbria County Council's boss was read out to councillors. It was noted that the recent jetting of the drains has helped a lot in some areas of the village but more is needed. It was noted that the authority have a statutory duty to do the work agreed. Cllr Collinge proposed that Cllr Vear contact Highways Dept. Cllr Ritchie and Cllr Little were asked to send details of the matter to Cllr Vear and he would contact the relevant people.
14. **To discuss dog fouling in villages**- It was noted that the new bin is in place but is not being emptied. It was agreed that there are still problems in some areas. The Clerk agreed to speak to Cumbria County Council to make sure that the bins (in Croglin, Newbggin and Ainstable) are included on the refuse collection schedule.
15. **To discuss any matters relating to communications**
 - a. Website- functioning- Cllr Bellis said that digital pictures of councillors are still needed. He and Cllr Vear now need to up load any remaining agendas and minutes.
 - b. Parish news- It was agreed that it seems to be working well.
 - c. Newsletter- It was agreed to draw up a new newsletter. It was decided to include good news stories covering subjects such as benches, signposts and Hydrosnakes. Councillors were asked to submit draft stories (including broadband and flooding (include photos)). Cllr Vear agreed to put them together and print the newsletter.
 - d. Parish File- up to date.

16. To consider planning applications made and other planning matters-

14/0652 Mr & Mrs Robinson- Site Adjacent to Holly House, Ainstable- It was noted that this application had already been discussed by email and Cllr Vear outlined the history of the site. He said that a number of people had already carried out a lot of work on the application and councillors discussed residents' concerns. County & District Cllr Robinson reported that it was understood that the application has now been withdrawn from the September Planning Committee meeting. It was agreed that this may be better in the long run, although it was acknowledged that it was disappointing for those parishioners who were going to the meeting to speak. It was agreed that Cllr Findlay represent the Parish Council at the meeting. It was resolved to object to the application (proposed by Cllr Collinge, seconded by Cllr Findlay, one absention).

17. To notify the Council of planning decisions received

14/0575 Mr P Hutcheson, Fellside Cottage, Croglin, Carlisle CA4 9RZ	Granted
14/0544 Mr D Smith, Heather Glen Country House Hotel, Ainstable CA4 9QQ	Granted
14/0261 Mr D Nelson, Hedwynds, Ainstable, Carlisle CA4 9QN	Granted

18. To consider correspondence received- The Chair read out the correspondence received.

19. To discuss finances.

a. To pay bills due

Clerk's Salary & Expenses	£496.01	(Chq No: 100676)
Morton Garden Buildings Ltd (Newbiggin Shelter)	£767.50	(Chq No: 100677)

20. To receive a report from County Councillor Robinson- Community funds for noticeboards etc are available (it was noted that the closing date is quite shortly and matched funding would be a condition).

21. Points to be raised at the next meeting

- Budgeting- to decide upon grants and set the precept for 2015/16
- Neighbourhood Plan- to vote on becoming a designated area
- Defibrillator

22. Date of the next meeting- 7.30pm on Tuesday 18th November, 2014 in Ainstable Church Institute

Signed: *R.E. Lytollis*

Clerk to Ainstable Parish Council

16 September 2014