

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

Extraordinary Public Meeting of
Ainstable Parish Council
held in Croglin Village Hall at 7:30pm on Monday 1 June 2015.

Present

CLlr N Vear, CLlr J Thirwall, CLlr H Bellis, CLlr A Ritchie, CLlr C Guise,
CLlr H Proud, CLlr G Proud, CLlr H Little, & CLlr D Bradshaw

Minutes

1. Declarations of interests.

None

2. To receive apologies for absence.

CLlr D Smith

3. To discuss the co-option of a new councillor for Newbiggin.

The Chairman outlined the co-option process, and encouraged everyone to put the word out that we still have a vacancy for a councillor to represent Newbiggin.

4. To discuss the appointment of a Clerk to Ainstable Parish Council.

Councillors were presented with a draft job description for the role of Parish Clerk for them to read and pass their thoughts back to the chairman over the next week.

5. To approve the Annual Return.

Councillors were presented with the Annual return to read and approve
Proposed by CLlr H Bellis, Seconded by CLlr J Thirwall – approved unanimously.

6. To discuss potential plans for the development and use of St John's Church, Croglin.

The chairman outlined the position with regard to St John's Church Croglin, and explained that following the meeting, with Mr Norman Bilsborough from the Church Commissioners, at the church, and feedback from other councillors and the community, the parish council had objected in principle to the residential development of the church building and graveyard.

The meeting was opened up to the public for discussion – following notes of main comments:

James- should be turned over to the people of Croglin – library – let out as workshop – not residential.

Tom Bowman – church warden – sad but brought about by lack of use – Church has no sympathy with community – no attendance – raised comments about how much money had gone out of the parish due to sales of church land etc – money should come back to the community.

PCC no objection to use as residential – concerned with building – new owner would be granted rights of way along pathway – plus for drains and electricity etc.

Geoff – to turn it into a residential is a no starter – can't even come around the building to clean windows – residential option will not work.

The majority of the village would like to retain the building as it is – no support for residential option.

Mandy Jackson – to retain it as a community building – what grants are available – this may dictate what it can be used for?

The chairman outlines some sources of grants, and explains how grants had been used for previous parish projects including the Millennium Green, and Flix Cinema Club.

Stuart Jackson – new residents in Croglin – we had a dream to use sheep and dogs to help people connect with themselves – not quite moved in yet – could this be a place of reflection – could it be a training centre – the building and Croglin needs to reach out and not be inward looking.

Sara Hope – could be an uphill struggle to maintain 2 community buildings – we would need funding from outside the village – there is a lot of sensitivity about the grave yard – even with a community project we would need a plan to work around graves.

Could the church become the village hall?

This option raised a fair amount of discussion, and questions about how the current village hall trust works – would it be possible to sell off the site of the existing hall – do we need 2 village assets?

However the church is going to be used it would need to make money and support itself.

Lots of graves which need protecting – is there a plan of what graves are where?

To be turned in a residential building would cost – but there is a waiting list of people who would like this type of property.

If it didn't sell could it be demolished?

The Church Commissioners have had a listed building status put onto the church to protect the structure and appearance.

How do we go forward?

Do we know if they have a building survey – to be requested from the Church Commissioners

A Sub Committee of the parish council was established to discuss the various options, and to examine funding sources to see if there is a viable option which would gain community approval.

Sub Committee – Cllr Angela Ritchie – Cllr Helen Little – Cllr John Thirwall – Stuart Jackson – Sara Hope – Peter Hutchinson – George Ritchie – Adam Newell – Mandy Jackson – Gladys Fawcett

The chairman was asked to write to Mr Norman Bilsborough of the Church Commissioners to confirm the parish council and community objection to the residential development of St John's Church Croglin.

7. Points to be raised at the next meeting.

Councillors and members of the public were asked to forward any agenda items to the Chairman.

8. Date of the next meeting.

Tuesday 21 July 2015 – Croglin Village Hall

Signed: *Nigel Vear*

Chairman of Ainstable Parish Council

6 June 2015