

Ainstable Parish Council

Serving the villages of Ainstable, Croglin, Newbiggin, and Ruckcroft,
the communities of Dale and Longdales, and the surrounding farms and houses

The minutes of the proceedings of the **September Bi-Monthly Meeting** of Ainstable Parish Council (APC) held on **Tuesday 15th September 2015** at 19:30hrs in Croglin Village Hall.

Present

Chairman: Nigel Vear (NV)

Councillors: Hazel Proud (HP), Geoff Proud (GP), Dennis Smith (DS), Angela Ritchie (AR), Helen Little (HL), Richard Bradshaw (RB), Howard Bellis (HB), Chris Guise (CG).

Clerk: Lindsay Nicholson (LN)

Also in attendance: County and District Councillor Mary Robinson

Members of the Public: 1

2015/001 Open Meeting – for discussion of matters of general parish concern (10 mins)

One member of the public in attendance. There were no points raised for discussion.

2015/002 Declarations of Interest

None

2015/003 Apologies for Absence

Councillor John Thirwell.

Resolved: to receive the above apologies

2015/004 Co-option of a new Councillor for Newbiggin

There was no-one present to consider for co-option. The Newbiggin vacancy remains.

2015/005 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes were confirmed as a correct record.

Resolved: to accept the minutes and the recommendations contained therein.

2015/006 County Councillor Report

Cllr Robinson reported that she had been working with DS in regard to the beck flooding. Gullying work has been undertaken and will be ongoing. There is also gullying work being undertaken in Ruckcroft.

The drains in Ainstable had been cleared the week previous to the meeting.

The road markings around in the viaduct in Armathwaite are faint and in need of replacement. Councillor Robinson indicated that these would be attended to as part of the ongoing programme of works.

Resolved: to receive the information

2015/007 Standing Orders and Procedures

NV reminded the council of the need to be acting in accordance with Standing Orders and Procedures. The clerk reported that she had been unable to find the Councils current Standing Orders and Procedures and enquired if anyone held copies of the documents.

NV indicated that the clerk would be looking at renewing these documents over the next few months.

Resolved: to receive the information

Action: LN

2015/008 Transparency Code

NV summarised the information that had been received about the Transparency Code Legislation that will come into effect in the new financial year. NV indicated that he didn't feel the Council was far from meeting the requirements. Of note the Parish Council needed to establish what land in the local area was in Parish Council ownership in order to publish a comprehensive list on the website. Dennis Smith indicated he would be happy to look through some of the archived information.

Resolved: to receive the information

Action: DS

2015/009 Annual Return 2014/15

The Annual Return 2014/15 has been returned to clerk with outstanding issues. The clerk was able to correct the outstanding issue about assets. This will incur a £30 administration fee from BDO. BDO also required minuted evidence of the financial risk assessment. As this was not completed in 2014/15, the Council's Annual Return will receive a qualified Issue this year and as a result the Parish Council will not be able to apply for quality parish status in 2015/16.

Resolved: to receive the information.

2015/010 Financial Risk Assessment

Following the previous agenda item NV indicated that it was essential that the Parish Council put in place a Financial Risk Assessment for 2015/16. The clerk was tasked with drafting the document for consideration by the Council.

Resolved: to receive the information

Action: LN

2015/011 Outside Body Reports

Update on Broadband to be delivered later in the meeting.

2015/012 Crime in the Parish

In general the summer months had been relatively quiet. A brief discussion was held about an incident of poaching within the parish. Councillors and members of the parish are encouraged to ring 101 if they witness non-emergency crime in the parish.

Resolved: to receive the information

Action: All

2015/013 Highways Matters

Since the last meeting repairs to the highway have been made on King Harry Road, Broom Rigg Road, the Switchbacks and the road to Dale. The surface has found to be slippery in places.

HL reported that the Give Way sign at Hazel Gill is still being held on by a bungee.

It was reported that the 2 grit bins in Ainstable are split. The bin at the Cross Road has been previously reported but the bin at the bridge hasn't. The clerk was asked to report the bins.

The road verge from Wilson's to the Chapel has been washed out along the side leaving a large drop. The clerk was asked to report the problem.

Resolved: to receive the information

Action: HB

2015/014 30mph Limit in the Village

NV reported that there has been a change in the policy for 30mph limits. He felt it may be worth the parish reapplying to have the 30mph limit extended in Ainstable. The clerk was asked to write to Highways copying in Paul Dodson and Mary Robinson.

Resolved: clerk to contact Highways

Action: LN

2015/015 Development of Broadband in the Parish

HB reported that the plans for Ainstable had been delayed by a further 3 months. Information suggests that if you are within 1 mile of the cabinet you should be able to receive superfast broadband. It was indicated that superfast broadband would be installed within Croglin with fibre optic installed to some properties. Work to commence this is scheduled for spring 2016. At present it doesn't look as though the superfast service will be extended to Ruckcroft and Newbiggin although this may be possible in phase 2.

Resolved: to receive the information

2015/016 Financing of the Millennium Green

A discussion was held about the Millennium Green in Ainstable. The Millennium Green holds funds in its own name. Some councillors felt that this fund should be used for maintenance of the green and the play equipment. Other councillors felt that money should be held for the replacement of the play equipment when it comes to the end of its useful life. Cllr Mary Robinson indicated that Alston Parish Council had a similar Trust for their play area but this was handled independently of the Parish Council meeting. The clerk agreed to find out further information about this relationship.

Resolved: to receive the information

Action:LN

2015/017 Croglin Educational Foundation

No report provided

2015/018 St John's Church, Croglin

NV had received an email from the Arch Deacon. The Arch Deacon was happy to meet with the parish council if the local community had plans for development of the site. However the church was looking to restart its plans to dispose of the church if there was not local interest in taking on the building.

Recent efforts by the local community had not come to a conclusion. NV offered to meet with the Arch Deacon. AR agreed to attend with NV to outline the community plans to date. The preferred position was for the Church to retain the property for High day and holiday celebrations. NV would email the Deacon then liaise with AR regarding times and dates.

Resolved: to receive the information

Action: NV

2015/019 Streetlights at Croglin and Towngate

The work to decommission some of the streetlights in the local area has begun. This has resulted in some areas where more vulnerable residents live being unlit. Some Councillors felt that the streetlights should be taken over and paid for by the Parish Council. There was some confusion as to which lights were to be retained and which were to be decommissioned. The clerk was asked to contact Amanda Wood for the current list of lights to be retained. There was also a need for the cost of running and maintaining a light to be sought so the practicalities of adopting lights could be assessed.

Resolved: to receive the information

Action: LN

2015/020 Neighbourhood Plan

NV reported that limited progress had been made in regard to the plan. It was not clear if the process of designation had been completed. It was agreed to hold this item over to the next meeting

Resolved: to defer to next meeting

2015/021 Parish Noticeboards

It was reported that the noticeboard at Longdales was no longer safe and had been propped against the adjacent wall. It was agreed that the board was rotten and could not be made safe. The clerk was asked to gather information about the Cumwhitton noticeboards for discussion at forthcoming meetings.

It was agreed that the community would be consulted on how many noticeboards are used and needed in the future so that a replacement programme can be developed where needed.

Resolved: Longdales board to be removed to make safe. Clerk to find details of Cumwhitton boards. **Action: LN & HB**

2015/022 Flooding in Croglin and Ruckcroft

The flooding in Ruckcroft is now under control as the vegetation has started to grow back and is acting as a sink.

In Croglin the new pipe has relocated the problem to lower down in the village near to the village hall and Bridge End Cottage. The current drainage infrastructure appears to be insufficient. The clerk was asked to write to Paul Dobson, Helen Renyard, John Banks, David Spence and Mary Robinson in regard to the problem.

Resolved: clerk to write to the above mentioned **Action: LN**

2015/023 Defibrillators

HL and AR, have been working towards providing a defibrillator for Croglin village. The British Heart Foundation will fund the unit but fundraising would be required to pay for the weatherproof cabinet to house it in. HL and AR plan an envelope collection in the village to raise funds for the housing. NV wished to encourage other areas of the parish to do the same.

Resolved: to receive the information

2015/024 Communications

NV reminded all councillors to copy himself into all communications sent regarding the parish council. NV indicated that work to the website would be required to meet with the new website access initiative.

Resolved: to receive the information

2015/025 Planning Applications and Decisions

NV updated the council that application 15/0072 had been granted full planning permission.

Resolved: to receive the information

2015/026 Correspondence

None

2016/027 Finance

The clerk indicated that currently she had no access to the accounts and financial information, and that Barclays were forwarding the appropriate forms to resolve this. HB and CG are currently the only signatories.

Resolved: to receive the information **Action: LN**

2016/028 Pay Bills

A request was made from NV for £26.38. He had paid personally for the Website Hosting (£13.19) and Domain Renewal (£13.19). This was approved.

A request was made by AR on behalf of the churchyard for £250 for grass cutting. AR was asked to request the amount in writing and it would be considered at the next meeting.

Resolved: to approve the above payment. Clerk to forward payment **Action: LN**

MR left the meeting at 22.27pm

2016/029 Points to be raised at the next meeting

No additional items

2016/030 Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 17th of November 2015 at 7.30pm.

Resolved: to receive the information

NV closed the meeting at 22:33 hrs

Please note: all Parish Council meetings are open to members of the public.