

# 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**

The ordinary bi-monthly meeting of  
**Ainstable Parish Council**  
held at Croglin Village Hall at 7:30pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Present:

Cllr N Vear (Chairman); Cllr G Proud; Cllr H Proud; Cllr J Thirlwall; Cllr M Robinson; Cllr A Ritchie; Cllr C Guise; Cllr D Bradshaw; Cllr D Smith

In attendance: Neal Andrews, Carlisle Diocese; Kimberley Lawson (Clerk)

31 members of the public

- 1) Open Meeting - for discussion of matters of general parish concern (10 mins).  
None

## Parish Council Meeting

- 2) There were no declarations of interest in matters on the agenda.
- 3) **Resolved:** to receive, and accept the reasons for, apologies for absence from Cllr Bellis.
- 4) **Resolved:** To accept the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tues 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018 as a true record.  
The minutes were signed by the Chairman.
- 5) No one asked to be considered for co-option to the parish councillor for Croglin/Newbiggin ward, although several individuals are thinking about it. The Chairman encouraged people to become involved to help make decisions affecting Croglin and Newbiggin and welcomed an informal chat with any prospective candidates.
- 6) The Chairman introduced the subject of the future of Croglin Parish Church building. His main points were:
  - The church closed for services several years ago, due to reduced numbers in the congregation.
  - The parish council held several meetings with local residents at that time regarding the future of the building but no consensus was reached.
  - The parish council became involved because it did not feel able to comment on planning permission for change of use for the church building without first consulting with residents. If a viable use can be found for the building, the parish council will have no further involvement.
  - The parish council cannot take on the building itself but will provide help and advice to any group wishing to do so.

The Chairman introduced Neal Andrews from Carlisle Diocese. His main points were:

- The diocese's initial proposal was for the church and part of the churchyard to be sold as suitable for conversion to residential use, and raised many objections.
- In 2015, the diocese published a revised scheme for residential conversion, excluding the churchyard. Residents were still opposed to the building being sold for residential use and some

suggestions for alternative uses for the building were made. However, no one came forward to put any of these suggestions into action.

- The diocese does not have the means to look after closed churches and keeps them for a short term as a “use finding” period. Its duty is to find the most appropriate use and it is not necessarily looking for a financial return.
- As a Grade-II listed building, the church cannot be demolished if a viable alternative use can be found. Residential use is a viable long-term use for the building and the diocese’s current plan is still to put the building on the market as suitable for residential use subject to planning permission. It has received an expression of interest in buying the building for residential conversion.
- Croglin church does not meet the criteria of the Churches Conservation Trust to be maintained as a closed church.
- The glebe lands inherited by the diocese are for the upkeep of the incumbent only, not the building. Croglin glebe lands net approximately £6K per annum.
- The churchyard is the responsibility of the local PCC until it closes, when it comes under the care of EDC. The diocese is responsible for only the building. If it was to reopen as a church, the upkeep of the building would pass back into the responsibility of the local parish.
- The diocese has already sat on this for a lot longer than it should have done and a decision will now have to be made within months rather than years.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Neal Andrews for all his responses to emails and questions on this issue, and for attending the meeting.

After some discussion between members of the public and the parish council, it was

**Resolved:** to appoint a Croglin Church Feasibility Committee, chaired by Cllr Robinson. The date of the first meeting to be Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 7.30pm Croglin Village Hall.

Neal Andrews left the meeting.

- 7) The Chairman outlined the parish council’s progress in creation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the parish.
- 8) **Resolved:** not to accept any devolved footway lights from Eden District Council.
- 9) To receive updates on current projects and issues: (Chairman)
  - a) Triangle of land at Powsy Sike – the Clerk confirmed that this land belongs to Two Castles housing association. They have so far been unwilling to allow the parish council to use this land.
  - b) Community Shelters – The Ainstable shelter has been installed but is still awaiting its new noticeboard. The concrete slab for the Ruckcroft shelter is being laid in the next couple of weeks.
  - c) Benches – two new benches are due for delivery to Eric Bell next week.

Cllr Ritchie left the meeting

- d) Grit bins – the Clerk has reported damaged grit bins to Highways. They will be replaced as part of the refilling programme starting in September.  
**Action:** Clerk to ask for one to be installed at Townhead, Newbiggin
- e) Finger post at Newbiggin – the Chairman has been successful in being awarded a grant of £2K from Friends of the Lake District. The total cost of the signpost will be £5,650. The Clerk will apply for other grants.  
**Resolved:** the Parish Council is prepared to contribute £1,500.

10) The Chairman outlined the hope that a public access defibrillator can be installed in the Ruckcroft community shelter. The cost will be approximately £1,700. Cllrs G&H Proud have agreed in principle that the power can be supplied from their neighbouring property.

11) Cllr Bradshaw reported that the legal agreement regarding the land for the proposed car park is in the hands of Mr Ecroyd's land agent.

**Action:** the Car Park committee needs to meet to progress a planning application for the project.

12) To discuss matters relating to banking and finance (RFO):

- a) The Clerk was unable to provide a verbal report of the bank balances as she did not have the bank statements with her.
- b) The Clerk reported that the external auditor had signed off the audit for FYE 31/03/2018 with no issues.
- c) The following receipts were noted:

July  
 13th        06        Groundwork UK        £ 5,460.00  
 17th        05        Electricity North West    £ 17.08

- d) The following payments were noted:

Date	Payee	Payment Method	Amount	Empowering Legislation
<b>July</b>				
16th	Lloyds Bank	DD	£ 85.54	Local Government Act 1972 s 151
17th	Ainstable Church Institute	300050	£ 79.00	Local Government Act 1972 s 134 (4)
23rd	HMRC Cumbernauld	SO	£ 39.60	The Income Tax (Pay As You Earn) Regulations 2003 s 21
<b>August</b>				
9th	CPSL - SI-4015	DD	£ 14.40	Local Government Act 1972 s 151 Local Government Act 1972 s 151
15th	K Lawson - salary	SO	£ 271.60	Local Government Act 1972 s 112 (1); Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963, s 5
16th	Lloyds Bank	DD	£ 19.63	Local Government Act 1972 s 151
23rd	HMRC Cumbernauld	SO	£ 39.60	The Income Tax (Pay As You Earn) Regulations 2003 s 21
29th	CPSL - SI-4042	DD	£ 14.40	Local Government Act 1972 s 151
<b>September</b>				
15th	K Lawson - salary	SO	£ 271.60	Local Government Act 1972 s 112 (1); Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963, s 5

- e) **Resolved:** to award a grant of £200 to Fellrunner
- f) Two cheques for £30 each were signed at the Clerk's request, for £30 for Land Registry fees.

13) To discuss the Ainstable Millennium Green Trust (Chairman)

- a) Ownership of dry-stone wall – this item to be postponed until the next meeting.

14) To discuss any Highways matters arising, and consider actions:

- a) The Clerk has asked Highways what traffic calming measures might be possible on the B6413 north of Croglin and is waiting to hear from them.

**Action:** In response to a concern raised by a local resident, the Clerk will report to the area engineer frequent accidents and near misses over the bridge on the B6413 south of Croglin, where the road is narrow and vehicles are going too fast. Some local school children are walked along this road to and from the bus pick up point. The owner of the nearest property has agreed to keep a record of any incidents she witnesses.

b) Potential movement of Ainstable village signs – this item to be postponed until the next meeting.

15) A Croglin resident has reported frequent dog fouling in Croglin on the verge – Helen Little reported an issue with dog mess left on verge by her house. The Chairman advised that all such incidents should be reported to the Dog Warden at EDC. The parish council can do this on residents’ behalf.

**Action:** The Clerk to report this issue and ask for dog fouling signs to be erected.

16) To receive a verbal report on the development of Broadband in the parish. (Cllr Bellis) – this item to be postponed until the next meeting

17) **Resolved:** To adopt the Data Protection Policy, Data Register and Privacy Notices for the coming year. The policies were signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

18) To discuss any matters relating to communications. (Chairman)

a) Newsletter for Ainstable ward - this item to be postponed until the next meeting.

19) To consider planning applications made and other planning matters. (Chairman)

a) The decision for the following planning application was noted:

18/0466	Dale Mill House	Conversion to holiday property	Granted
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b) The parish council has already discussed and responded to the following applications:

18/0636	Barn to the east of Laburnum House, Heads Nook	Change of use of a barn to a dwelling and associated operations including the installation of a package treatment plant.
18/0612	Riverside Cottage, Heads Nook	Certificate of Lawfulness for the continued use of a garden building for ancillary domestic use

c) There were no other planning matters raised

20) To discuss parish land - this item to be postponed until the next meeting.

21) No report has been received from County Councillor Driver and she was not present at the meeting.

22) District Councillor Robinson had nothing to report.

23) To discuss any Rights of Way matters arising, and consider actions:

a) Dog gates on stiles (Cllr Proud) - this item to be postponed until the next meeting.

b) Change stile to gate on footpath 301004 in Newbiggin (Cllr Robinson) - this item to be postponed until the next meeting.

c) U3077 in Dale has now been confirmed as a road. A dispute is ongoing between two owners of land adjacent to the road.

24) No crimes have been reported in the Parish.

25) Cllr Smith and the Clerk have attended a CALC training on planning. The Clerk to circulate the notes.

26) The Correspondence Register was received.

27) Any points to be raised at the next meeting should be emailed to both the Clerk & Chairman.

28) Date of the next ordinary meeting – Tues 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at Ainstable.

The meeting closed at 9.32pm.

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