

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 virtually via MS Teams at 7:30pm on Tuesday 16th March 2021.

Present: Cllr Vear (Chair); Cllr Bellis; Cllr Smith; Cllr G Proud; Cllr H Proud; Cllr D Smith; Cllr M Robinson

In attendance: K Lawson (Clerk)

5 members of the public

Minutes

1. Open Meeting – no matters were raised.
2. Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr Driver
3. Cllr Robinson declared an interest in item 17.3
4. **Resolved:** To accept the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tues 19th January 2021 as a true record.

Resolved: to move item 17.3 up the agenda as the applicant was present at the meeting.

17.3 After some discussion, and questions to the applicant regarding the position of the proposed house on the site, and the hedging, it was

Resolved: to support the application.

Action: the Chairman to circulate a statement for Planning to all councillors for agreement prior to it being submitted.

5. To receive updates on current projects and issues:
 - 5.1. Shelter/noticeboard at Croglin – Cllr Vear has been in touch with the PCC who will consider the parish council's request to place a noticeboard at the edge of the churchyard.
 - 5.2. Housing Needs Survey – this has now been circulated and has been posted on a local Facebook page.
 - 5.3. Newbiggin defibrillator – Cllr Vear reported that Mr & Mrs Miller are considering the parish council's request to change the cabinet. It was suggested that the pub might be a better location for the defibrillator.
Action: Cllr Vear will follow up with Mr & Mrs Miller.
 - 5.4. Remedial work to the oak tree at Ainstable Church Institute – Cllr Bradshaw has carried out the work but is still to go back and remove the wood.
6. Cllr Driver had sent apologies but expects to circulate her usual video report.
7. District Cllr Robinson made her report, which included the administration of business grants, and local government reorganisation. There will be a By-election in May for two wards.

8. Cllr Vear has approached Highways regarding solar lighting, and has carried out a site visit with their preferred supplier. The supplier's recommendations are:
- A pole at Towngate is possible but will need some tree work first. It was noted that this work will have to wait until after the nesting season.
 - The 1m bollards are too easily run over by 4x4s and don't tend to work very well in Cumbria. The supplier suggested a standard-sized pole by the corner post of the fence at Ainstable and replacing a 30mph sign at the side of the car park in Croglin.
 - They will revert with an answer regarding the shelters. The Ruckcroft shelter is under trees so may not get enough sunlight.
 - A quote is awaited.
9. Cllr Bellis outlined the B4rn broadband scheme. It was noted that, under the current arrangements for vouchers, there are no suitable options with BT for the parish. It was agreed to monitor the B4rn installation at Lazonby and Kirkoswald before deciding whether to look at them in more detail.
10. Cllr Robinson reported that there is no play area along the fell edge. A play area in Newbiggin would be in walking distance from Croglin and Cumrew. A patch of waste land at the top of village opposite Brookside has been suggested as a potential site.
Action: Cllr Robinson to approach the landowner.
11. To discuss any Highways matters arising, and consider actions:
- 11.1. Croglin traffic calming measures – Cllr Vear reported that this work had been due to be carried out in February but it has not yet been done. The Newbiggin speed limit work has also not been done.
Action: Cllr Vear to follow up with Highways.
- 11.2. Dropped curb on Armathwaite bridge – work not done because of parked cars on the bridge.
Action: Cllr Vear to raise again with Highways.
- 11.3. Parking issues on the Armathwaite /Kirkoswald road past Coombs Wood – Cllrs H&G Proud reported a number of vehicles, particularly vans, dangerously parked near the entrances to Coombs Wood, particularly at weekends. There is space for 4-5 vehicles to park off the road but once these are full, vehicles are being parked on both sides of the road, affecting visibility.
Action: the Clerk to write to the Forestry Commission and Highways to request extra parking at the top of Coombs Wood.
- 11.4. Grit bins – New ones have been installed at Cairnhead and Town Head, Newbiggin, but a number are broken. All councillors were encouraged to report broken ones on the Highways portal.
12. To discuss any Rights of Way matters arising, and consider actions:
- 12.1. Cllr Vear stated that, to progress the application process for the proposed extension to the public Right of Way in Coombs Wood, a public meeting is needed, to explain the application process to the public. Such a meeting is not possible under the current lockdown restrictions. It was noted that Armathwaite Place has been sold and it was suggested that the parish council approach the new owner, either in person or in writing, when their identity is known, to propose a negotiated right of way.
- 12.2. Any other Rights of Way matters arising.
- Cllr Robinson reported that there has still been no action on the footpath in the corner in Newbiggin.
Action: The Clerk to raise this with footpaths officers again.

- Cllr Bradshaw reported that the bridleway is flooded and walkers are using an alternative route which is causing damage to the land. The Clerk stated that Footpaths Officers have told her they are waiting for the weather to improve to resurface the bridleway.
- The Clerk reported on the Rambler’s Association “Don’t Lose Your Way” campaign to restore “lost” footpaths.
- It was reported that there is a footpath signpost missing from Croglin crossroads at the bottom of hill. Also the sign at Towngate pointing towards Armathwaite has lost a finger.
Action: The Clerk to report these to Footpaths.

13. To discuss matters relating to Ainstable Millennium Green

13.1. The letter from CCLA regarding the Trust’s investments was noted.

Action: the Clerk to investigate whether it is better to leave the Trust’s funds with CCLA or move them to another bank.

13.2. Cllr Vear has been approached by a local resident wishing to become involved with the Green. They work for Center Parcs and will talk to Neil about a possible grant application on behalf of Green.

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

14.1. A verbal report of the bank balance was made.

14.2. The following payments were noted:

Date	Payee	Voucher No.	Payment Method	Amount	Empowering Legislation
January					
15th	K Lawson	047	EP	£ 309.66	Local Government Act 1972 s.112 (1); Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963, s.5
18th	Lloyds Bank plc	048	DD	£ 25.50	
19th	Neil Ruddick - 2019	049	EP	£ 760.00	Public Health Act 1875, s.164
19th	Neil Ruddick - 2020	050	EP	£ 780.00	Public Health Act 1875, s.164
21st	CPSL - SI-6750	051	DD	£ 14.40	Local Government Act 1972, s.151
29th	CPSL - SI-6751	052	DD	£ 14.40	Local Government Act 1972, s.151
February					
8th	NALC	053	EP	£ 60.00	Local Government Act 1972 s.111
8th	Survey Monkey	054	EP	£ 384.00	Local Government Act 1972 s.111
15th	K Lawson	055	EP	£ 309.66	Local Government Act 1972 s.112 (1); Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963, s.5
15th	Lloyds Bank plc	056	DD	£ 3.00	Local Government Act 1972, s.151

14.3. The Clerk reported she is starting a free trial with Easy PC Accounts.

14.4. The Clerk reported that she has begun the process of removing retired Councillor Ritchie from the banking mandate.

15. **Resolved:** to adopt the following policies and procedures for the next twelve months:

15.1. Health & Safety

15.2. Code of Conduct

15.3. Freedom of Information

15.4. Training Policy

16. There was a discussion about possible topics of interest for in-house councillor training.

Action: The Clerk to recirculate CALC's list of options. Powers and Duties, and Planning were suggested.

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

17.1. The decisions for the following applications were noted:

Application No.	Location	Scheme	Decision
20/0845	Cairnhead Farm, Ainstable	Construction of a milking parlour	Granted
21/0029	The Harras, Ainstable	Erection of a silage clamp	Granted

17.2. The following applications, for which the parish council has already submitted a response, were noted:

Application No.	Location	Scheme
21/0044	Beck Brow, Ainstable	Erection of agricultural livestock shed to house Alpacas
21/0129	Middle Farm, Croglin	Proposed rear extension to dwelling

17.3. To discuss the parish council's response to the following application:

Application No.	Location	Scheme
21/0073	Land at Ainstable	Outline application for self-build dwelling, with all matters reserved

This item had been dealt with after item 4.

17.4. Any other planning matters

- The Clerk has received no update regarding the generator.
Action: Clerk to chase up the enforcement officer, cc'ing Cllr Robinson.
- It was noted that application 20/0918 has been withdrawn.

18. To consider correspondence received.

The Clerk has learned that NALC is encouraging all councils to write to their MP and the Secretary of State, requesting legislation to permit virtual meetings to carry on after 6th May. An extraordinary meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th April to enable the parish council to consider this matter.

19. Points to be raised at the next meeting.

The Chair stated that some items that would normally dealt with at the May meeting would be moved forwards to the April extraordinary meeting, to help keep the May annual meeting as short as possible.

20. An extraordinary meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th April. The Annual Parish Meeting, next ordinary meeting and Ainstable Millennium Green Trust AGM will be held on Tuesday 4th May 2021. Both meetings will be held via MS Teams.

Meeting closed at 21:26

DRAFT