

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,
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Action Plan – 2021-22

1. Administration

Ainstable Parish Council will continue to employ a Clerk for 6 hours per week to oversee the day to day running of the council, and to act as the Responsible Financial Officer.

This work includes organising and minuting meetings; managing the council's finances and completing the annual audit, applying for grant funding for projects, ensuring the council complies with all relevant legislation, maintaining the parish council's website.

The parish council will continue its membership of Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC), and will fund the Clerk's membership of the Society for Local Council Clerks (SLCC).

2. Meetings

The parish council will continue to hold bi-monthly public meeting to discuss and decide on local issues.

- We will continue to ensure that parish council meetings remain open to all members of the public, and that everyone has the right to appropriate participation.
- We will continue with virtual meeting when required by law.
- We will publish details of all public meetings on the parish website and notice boards.

3. Planning Applications

The parish council will examine and compare all planning applications to the Neighbourhood, District Council and County Council developments plans, and to national guidance and laws.

- Planning applications which the council all support will be dealt with internally via email.
- If we have any questions about the planning application we will invite the applicants to explain their proposals to the parish council in a public meeting, and will take a decision then.
- We will always provide Eden District Council Planning Dept with our written comments.

4. Neighbourhood Development Plan

The parish council will continue to promote housing and developments within the parish that are designed to provide the required balance of housing for the local community.

- We will continue to work towards a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the parish using the assistance of our development consultants – Kirkwells.
- We will carry out public surveys, and use the information from the census and other national and regional data, to help ensure the housing stock in the parish is suitable for the expected needs.

5. Noticeboards

The parish council will maintain and replace village noticeboards as required to help provide a useful communication media that is open to all users.

- We plan to move the Croglin noticeboard to a safer and more accessible location within the village.

6. Website

The parish council will continue to maintain and expand the parish website to provide public access to all relevant parish documents.

- We will update the content of the parish website as appropriate to ensure it is kept fully up to date, and compliant with the requirements of the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities, the Public Sector Bodies Accessibility Regulations 2018, and all other relevant legislation.

7. Training and Accreditation

The parish council will promote good practice through ensuring that relevant training is offered to both the Parish Clerk and councillors throughout the year, in line with its Training & development Policy.

- The parish council will seek to achieve the Foundation level of the Local Council Award Scheme.
- The Parish Clerk will complete activity and training through CALC and the SLCC worth at least 12 CPD points and continue to work towards CiLCA qualified status.
- The councillors will be encouraged to attend training events sponsored by CALC and other relevant bodies.

8. Ainstable Millennium Green Trust

Ainstable Parish Council is the sole Trustee of Ainstable Millennium Green Trust.

- We will continue to manage the Trust's finances, including completion of the annual return to the Charity Commission.
- We will continue to insure Ainstable Millennium Green, and the assets located there.

9. Playgrounds

The parish council recognises the importance of safe play areas for young children within the local community.

- We will continue to provide playground equipment on Ainstable Millennium Green, and will ensure the play equipment is maintained to a good standard
- We will ensure that all play equipment is regularly monitored and inspected, and has an annual safety inspection carried out by the manufacturer.
- We will explore additional locations where play equipment has been requested, or where we feel there is a gap in the provision.

10. Holme Holt Project

The parish council will continue to progress this project with a public consultation event as soon as it is safe, and we are permitted to do so.

- We will provide information regarding the proposed development to all households within the parish, and within the neighbouring areas, and invite public comment.
- We will conduct public surveys to try and gauge the level of public support for this project before making any final decisions. The survey results will be made available on the parish website.

11.Public Rights of Way

The parish council will continue to monitor all public rights of way within the parish, and will work with Cumbria Rights of Way officers to help ensure these are kept open for public use.

- We will seek to expand the public rights of way in the parish through dialogue with land owners, and through working in conjunction with Cumbria Rights of Way officers.
- We will provide information regarding any proposed changes to any rights of way to all households within the parish, and within the neighbouring areas. This information will detail the proposed changes, and invite public comment.

12.Benches

The parish council will continue to maintain, and expand, the provision of public benches at key locations within the parish.

- We will continue our programme of replacing old, damaged benches with low-maintenance recycled plastic benches, by replacing one old bench this year.

13.Broadband Provision

The parish council recognises the need for all households and businesses to have good reliable access to the internet.

- We will work with internet providers and community groups to promote improved access for all.

14.Shelters

The parish council will continue to provide and maintain community shelters where these are required.

- We will explore the possibility of placing a community shelter in Croglin, in a safe position.

15.Signposts

The parish council will continue to monitor, and arranging servicing for, all of the signposts in the parish.

- We will apply for grant funding for an additional two replacement cast-iron signposts in the parish, at Croglin and at Armathwaite Methodist Chapel.

16.Parish Land and Trees

The parish council owns, or is responsible, for a variety of plots of land and trees within the parish.

- We will have the parish land inspected annually to ensure it is properly maintained.
- We will have the trees, planted by the parish council, inspected twice yearly and any maintenance or remedial work carried out.
- We will continue to rent out the parish land at Ruckcroft.
- We will continue to explore whether any other land in the parish may belong to the parish council, or would be better managed by the parish council, for the good of the local community.

17. Footway Lighting

The parish council does not currently own, or take responsibility for, any public lighting. The parish council has though been awarded a grant to install additional solar lights in key locations in the parish.

- We will survey the public lighting needs and consult where appropriate with Cumbria Highways, neighbouring households, village hall committees, and other local organisations on suitable locations for the provision of solar lighting.
- We will invite quotations for the installation of solar lighting, and appoint a supplier to carry it out.
- The parish council will continue to monitor and report on the condition of all public footway and street lighting within the parish.

18. Defibrillators

The parish council will continue to manage the parish council's existing defibrillators through the Community Heartbeat Trust.

- We will explore additional locations where a defibrillator has been requested, or where we feel there is a gap in the provision.

19. Grants

The parish council considers all grant applications from local organisations in the January meeting, prior to setting the precept.

We will make awards to the following organisations:

- Eden Valley Flix – public performance licence for Ainstable Church Institute
- St Michael & All Angels, Ainstable PCC – maintenance of the parish burial ground
- Fellrunner Community Bus – provision of community bus service

20. Section 137 Expenditure

The parish council is entitled to make awards under the Section 137 Expenditure legislation for specific purposes.

We will make awards to the following organisations:

- Award an annual grant to the Great North Air Ambulance
- Purchase poppy wreaths for the war memorials in Ainstable and Croglin churchyards
- Maintain the parish council corporate membership of Friends of the Lake District

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