

**Minute of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of IRTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL held on 6th April 2011 at 7.30 pm at Newtown Village Hall**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors J. Harris (in the Chair), R. Bloxham, C. Guy, D. Rutherford, T. Moscrop, I. Gibson, M. Ridley and G. Beck.

**IN ATTENDANCE – The Clerk.**

Councillors Mrs. M. Bowman and J. Bainbridge, Carlisle City Council  
Councillor John Mallinson, Cumbria County Council

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillor Ogden**

**1 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Approved.**

**2 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Chairman J. Harris gave a report on the activities of the Council over the past year.

I have now completed four years as Chairman. Three of these years have been dominated by controversy over the development proposals for Carlisle Airport. This last year has been typical.

The year started with news of a legal challenge to the grant of permission for the second in a series of three proposals for the development of the Airport. This challenge was successful, and the grant of permission was quashed. This has now been replaced by a new development proposal, which is very much reduced in scope on the airside.

The consultation arrangements for this proposal were widely seen in Irthington as being very restrictive, which caused protests. As a consequence our council organised a meeting to enable public discussion and airing of views on this proposal. The meeting was very well attended and surprisingly well behaved. Following this meeting we formulated our views and submitted them to the City Council, pointing out that this is a departure from the Local Plan and recommending rejection. Since then the City Council has re-advertised this application as a departure, but we still await the decision of the Development Control Committee.

A major feature of the last twelve months has been our work to develop our Community Plan. A subcommittee of councillors held several meetings to develop a questionnaire to consult our parishioner’s views. Consultations were conducted with other interest groups such as local businesses, school children and the Women’s Institute. The questionnaire, distributed by the efforts of all our councillors, achieved a very good response, and formed the basis for an action plan, approved at the end of 2010. The final report remains to be issued.

Once again, we have survived a very hard winter. Thanks to the Rutherfords we were able to take delivery of a lorry load of grit-salt, and with the support of many volunteers our parish roads remained passable, by and large.

On a lighter note, upgrades to the stiles on the footpath from Newtown to Irthington were completed using finance from the County Council Parish Paths Initiative, and we published

a leaflet outlining a circular walk using this path, among others, also financed by the same source.

I am pleased to report that Newtown with White Flatt was again a prize winner in the “Cumbria in Bloom” competition, although this time it was a silver award. Nonetheless, all involved deserve congratulations for presenting such a wonderful effort on our behalf.

My thanks are due to the support I have received from all the council over the last year, but in particular to Margaret Ogden, our Vice-Chair, and to Allison Riddell, our Clerk. Their help and advice makes the Chairman’s role easier. I would also like to record my thanks to those councillors who have decided not to stand again. We have been very lucky to have such able representatives.

### **3 OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

**None**

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.