

Minute of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of IRTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL held on 4th April 2012 at 7.30 pm at Newtown Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Councillors J. Harris (in the Chair), M. Ogden, M. Ridley, A. Mulvey, D. Ransley, G. Beck, C. Adams and C. Davidson

IN ATTENDANCE – The Clerk

Councillors Mrs. M. Bowman and J. Bainbridge, Carlisle City Council

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillor I. Gibson

Councillor John Mallinson, Cumbria County Council

1 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 6TH APRIL 2011 WERE SUBMITTED.

RESOLVED to authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 6th April 2011, confirmed as true and accurate record.

2 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

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

I have now completed five years as Chairman of Irthington Parish Council. This last year has been one of renewal. We began, in an election year, by losing four members of the council who chose not to stand again. Only two new candidates offered themselves for election, so a ballot was not required, and all eight candidates were returned unopposed. This left us with two vacancies which we managed to fill by co-option over the ensuing three months. I am pleased to say that all four new councillors have settled in well, and all councillors have made valuable contributions to our work.

Our Community Plan was finalised, printed and distributed during the year, and we have already begun to implement some components of the plan. Despite the financial restraints we intend to press on with as much of the plan as we can.

Petitions requesting the introduction of speed limits for Newtown and for Laversdale were organised and submitted to the Local Committee of the County Council. We still await the outcome of their deliberations with a degree of impatience, as we see the traffic speed situation in these two settlements as unacceptable.

Work has begun to establish a children’s play area within the parish, led by Heidi Wright. We are supporting this work with advice and some modest financial backing. There is a long way to go before this worthwhile project comes to fruition, but a good start has been made.

The Village School continues to thrive. They have achieved a “Good” result from their most recent Ofsted inspection. This follows being listed in the top ten county primary schools in the league table published at the year-end. They have also started a Nursery for younger children, which is very well supported by parents. We are very proud of their achievements and will continue to offer all the help we can to reinforce their work, which is vital for the future of the parish.

We opposed the proposal to close the Brampton Household Waste Recycling Centre and are relieved to hear that it will remain open, albeit for only two days per week.

I cannot avoid mentioning the Carlisle Airport development application. This is still unresolved. After many months of correspondence between the developer's representatives and the Development Control officers this came to committee for decision last August. The officer's recommendation was for refusal of permission due to non-compliance with the Local Plan. The developer requested more time to present their case, and extensive and continuing correspondence between the parties resulted. We await a final decision on this long running issue.

Newtown with White Flatt achieved their now customary success in the Cumbria in Bloom competition. This time they obtained a silver-gilt award and were runners-up in their class. We congratulate them again.

One negative event this last year was the final closure of the Village Shop. Despite a valiant effort to keep this service going, Diane Davidson finally decided to retire. We offered thanks to Diane for her many valued services to the parish and hoped that her retirement will be long and happy.

I would like to pay tribute to the support and advice I receive from our clerk, Allison Riddell, and from Margaret Ogden our Vice-Chairman. Without their support, much of it "behind the scenes", the role of Chairman would be much more difficult. Finally, I commend the hard work of all my fellow councillors on behalf of parishioners.

3 OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

Alan Short, Secretary of Laversdale Village Hall attended the meeting and reported on the poor state of the building and how little use was being made of it. There was only 1 hire of the building last year and 1 hire of the tables and chairs. Carlisle City Council had carried out a structural survey and a lot of repair work was required. 3 trustees have also left. Mr. Short wanted to hold a meeting with remaining trustees and any other interested parties to discuss what to do with the building and would like a representative from the Parish Council to attend.

RESOLVED to note the report and that Mr. Short would inform Councillor Harris of the meeting date for someone to attend.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.