

**Minute of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of IRTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 at 7.00 pm at Newtown Village Hall.**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors M. Ogden (in the Chair), M. Ridley, C. Wills, G. Beck, C. Adams, I. Gibson and C. Davidson

**IN ATTENDANCE – The Clerk**

Councillor Mrs. M. Bowman, Carlisle City Council

**1 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 4TH APRIL 2012 WERE SUBMITTED.**

**RESOLVED** to authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012, confirmed as a true and accurate record after amending Shaw to Short under “other relevant business”.

**2 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

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

The new council year started in May with the election of me as the new Chairman and Ian Gibson as the new vice chairman at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

The organising committee for the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations must be congratulated for the excellent events at the beginning of June. The ball and hog-roast in the evening was very successful and the afternoon event was enjoyed by those who attended, distribution of commemorative medals from the parish council to the children up to the age of 11 was carried out.

Also early in the summer John Harris tendered his resignation from the council after 10 years of valued service, 5 of those acting as chairman. I would like to thank him for his contribution to the parish in that time and also for his newsletters which I know were read with interest by a lot of parishioners. Later in the year we also lost Alistair Mulvey from the council due to his on-going work commitments I thank him for his relatively short time on the council.

Once again Newtown and White Flatt are to be congratulated as winners in the Cumbria in Bloom competition. They were awarded a silver gilt award and received the Holmes of Natland Nurseryman’s Trophy as winners in the best hamlet section. They then went on to compete against all the other villages of various sizes in the county and won the Kimberly Clark Trophy for the best village overall. This was a remarkable achievement by everyone concerned who worked so hard to keep their gardens and village areas so nice despite the terrible summer weather.

At the August meeting we were asked to comment on the proposed upgrade of the waste water treatment works in Irthington. This will be a major project that will take approximately 8 months due to start in early 2013 although to date nothing has started. The plan is to decommission the existing waste water treatment works which were built in 1925 with a new pumping station which will pump the waste

across the river Irthing to the site at Brampton which is also to receive an upgrade This will remove the need for sludge tankers in the village and also increase the capacity of the site.

Sadly we learnt that Laversdale village hall has been taken out of use on advice from building control surveyors at Carlisle City Council. It was primarily the inside of the building that was causing the main concerns due to its level of deterioration. The building remains secure and out of use until any such repairs is implemented to make the building safe. It is very sad when things get to this stage as community amenities such as this if they are lost then they are never replaced.

Planning permission for the play area at Newtown was finally granted, and thanks must go to everyone who has given their time and effort to get to this stage, work is on-going to obtain the necessary funding.

Highways and safety are always a concern and this year was no exception. Plans for a reduction in the speed limit on the A6071 at Newtown and through the village are at the final consultation stage. Traffic surveys were also carried out in Laversdale for a similar reduction but considered not necessary however highways department have identified a problem with the number of HGV's cutting through the village and are considering a weight limit. Meetings were held in response to concerns raised over the possible de-trunking of the A69 and the trunking of the A689 which would affect us all. It has been acknowledged that reclassifying the A689 as a trunk road is not as simple as changing a few road signs as the road itself is dangerous in its present state without any additional increase in traffic. Also it would need to be brought up to an acceptable standard which would be very expensive. Whilst recognising this is very sad for the communities affected it was also recognised that perhaps a bypass for Warwick Bridge is the best solution whilst expensive it would satisfy all involved. It was agreed by all that a long term strategic approach was most sensible for dealing with this issue as there appeared to be no urgency due to the financial and legal constraints.

Once again the development at the airport was given the go ahead. This time the legal agreement was signed by the Stobart group which sets out the requirements they must fulfil before any work on the distribution centre starts. But once again this may be subject to another legal challenge. If this does happen then we could be looking at another lengthy legal battle once again. Finally I would like to say that the past year has been both a privilege and a challenge and would like to pay tribute to the help and advice I receive from our clerk, Allison Riddell without her support and guidance, much of it "behind the scenes", the role of Chairman would be much more difficult. Also I would like thank Ian Gibson for his support as vice chairman, our County Councillor John Mallinson and City Councillors Marilyn Bowman and James Bainbridge, and I commend the hard work of all my fellow councillors on behalf of the parishioners.

Councillor Beck reported that he had received several comments on how good the Chairman's Newsletter was.

Councillor Bowman reported that she had also received good comments on the Chairman's Newsletter and praised Councillor Ogden for charring meetings so well.

**RESOLVED** to note the report and comments received.

**3 OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

**RESOLVED** to note there was no other relevant business.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm.