

Minute of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of IRTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL held on 2nd April 2014 at 7.00 pm at Newtown Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Councillors M. Ogden (in the Chair), C. Davidson, C. Adams, T. Field, K. Meller, I. Gibson, G. Beck, D. Ransley and M. Ridley.

IN ATTENDANCE – The Clerk

Councillor Mrs. M. Bowman, Carlisle City Council
Councillor J. Mallinson, Cumbria County Council

1 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 3RD APRIL 2013 WERE SUBMITTED.

RESOLVED to authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2013, confirmed as a true and accurate record.

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 re-election of me as Chairman and Ian Gibson as vice chairman at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, we would like to thank our fellow Parish Councillors for their continued faith in our abilities to serve the Parish.

Resignations from two of our councillors were received Thomas Moscrop and Chris Wills, Thomas felt he was unable to continue to serve as a parish councillor due to his increasing work and family commitments and Chris was relocating to Scotland due to his wife's working commitments. We thank them for their time and effort during their time as councillors. We then co-opted two new councillors to serve on the Council, Keith Meller and Trevor Field, they both live in Irthington and they have brought experience from their working lives together with a desire to make a contribution to the Parish as a whole. Congratulations went to one of our former councillors Ray Bloxham who is currently serving as mayor of Carlisle. Another former councillor May Hetherington sadly passed away and we held a minutes silence in her memory. May was believed to be the oldest resident in Irthington and has made a big contribution to the life of the village and the Parish over several decades.

Our congratulations go to Newtown and White Flatt who were once again winners in the annual Cumbria in Bloom competition. They won the Cumberland News Trophy for the best tidy small village, together with the Holmes of Natland Trophy for the best hamlet, and overall they were awarded silver gilt for their efforts. Also in the summer we were treated to a wonderful display of very imaginative scarecrows and the first ever countryside games event which as well as being entertaining also raised funds for charity.

The proposed playground at Newtown continues to progress, most of the necessary funding has been obtained and it is hoped that the equipment can be installed by the summertime. Thanks again go to all the volunteers who helped

clear the site I think it proves that we have a tremendous community spirit within the Parish. Over the last year Ian Gibson has been working hard with several groups and Irthington School to arrange various events to commemorate the start of WWI.

Road safety and traffic issues once again dominated the year. Meetings were arranged by our MP Rory Stewart regarding the possible de trunking of the A69 through Warwick Bridge and the trunking of the A689 which goes through our Parish. The aim was to try to get the communities working together to find the best solutions for all concerned. Regardless of whether the A689 is ever upgraded to a trunk road we continue to press the highways authority in the interests of safety for improvements to the junctions at Newby East, Irthington and Laversdale. Concerns over the amount of heavy traffic passing through Laversdale is still an issue, although it is understood that a lot of the vehicle journeys are necessary so hopefully a solution can be found. Finally, after many years of campaigning by the Parish Council, Newtown got it's much needed speed limits in place, 40mph on the A6071 and 30mph through the village itself. This can only make things safer not only for the residents but also for the thousands of Hadrian's Wall walkers who pass through.

This would not be a summary of the year without mentioning the Carlisle Airport, at the time of writing the current planning application for a new freight storage and distribution facility has been quashed following a judicial review. Following the decision Stobart's have announced that they intend to submit a further application, this will be the fourth in seven years. We can only deal with the next application when it is submitted although I can't imagine it will be very different to the previous ones.

Finally I would like to say that the past year has continued to be 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 to 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.

RESOLVED to note the report.

3 OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

RESOLVED to note there was no other relevant business.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm.