

Minute of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of IRTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL held on 1st April 2015 at 7.10pm at Newtown Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Councillors M. Ogden (in the Chair), C. Adams, M. Ridley and R. Peart.

IN ATTENDANCE – The Clerk

Councillor Mrs. M. Bowman, Carlisle City Council

1 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 2ND APRIL 2014 WERE SUBMITTED.

RESOLVED to authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2014, 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. Christine Davidson resigned as a councillor and we thank her for her efforts during her time as a councillor, as a replacement we co-opted Ashley Vass.

After several years of planning and fund raising efforts the long awaited play area on Newtown Green was completed. The project all started with Heidi Wright's dream about 3 years ago, and with support of the Parish Council she finally made it a reality through a tremendous amount of dedication and hard work. There are numerous other people who have also made this possible who deserve our grateful thanks. Fund raising was probably the biggest challenge but this was finally achieved thanks to grants and donations from various organisations, businesses and our city and county councillors. The final push on fund raising was achieved in November with the race for the playground event which was a great success. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the whole project in some way it just goes to show what a tremendous community spirit we have. It has been a long process but worth the effort and at last we have a play area that children and families from the Parish can enjoy for many years to come.

Once again the residents of Newtown are to be congratulated for their efforts in this year's Cumbria in Bloom competition. They were winners of the best hamlet category and received a Silver Gilt award. Also in the summer we were treated to a wonderful display of very imaginative scarecrows, and the second countryside games event proved to be entertaining whilst also raising funds for charity.

Throughout the year Ian Gibson and the staff at Irthington School have taken part in various events to mark the 100 year anniversary of the start of World War One, a trip to Belgium and France being the highlight. They walked in the preserved trenches and tunnels, visited two of the memorials where two of the Irthington nine are commemorated and visited the grave of another in Artillery Wood cemetery.

They then laid a wreath at the Menin gate Ypres in front of several thousand people. They were invited to take part in a project organised by a charity in Ypres to make 600,000 small figures to represent those killed in Belgium during World War One, as they were the first school to participate it was quite an honour. Also during the year Ian organised the restoration of the war memorial in the churchyard and helped the children make ceramic poppies. Ian should be thanked for sharing his passion for history with the children something that will leave lasting memories of this historic world event.

We were informed that we were to lose our commercial bus service so Keith Meller set about working with other local parishes to set up a replacement bus service for our Parish and the surrounding areas. The ongoing plan is to provide a twice weekly service to either Brampton or Carlisle the scheme will be run purely by volunteers. Passengers will be able to use their existing bus passes, and Cumbria County Council will reimburse the fares. A lot of effort has been put into getting the scheme up and running and Keith should be thanked for his efforts so far.

Anyone passing through Irthington may have noticed the newly installed bench, this was generously donated by The Hetherington family in memory of Jack and May Hetherington who lived in the village and where involved with the Parish as a whole for many years. Laversdale also had a new bus shelter constructed thanks to funding from our County and City Councillors.

Since the demise of the Hadrian's Wall Trust we have been working with other Parishes during the year trying to resolve the common issues regarding the Hadrian's Wall Trail. Concerns have been raised about some of the gates and stiles, excessive wear on the path and the lack of toilet facilities. We are also working to get more information regarding our area on the website; hopefully by working together we will have a stronger voice.

This would not be an annual summary without mentioning Carlisle Airport, permission was finally granted to develop the site after many years of planning and legal wrangles, something that has divided opinion in the Parish and will continue to do so. It is time now for the Parish Council to build and maintain a good working relationship with the Stobart Group in the interests of the Parish for years to come.

Finally I would like to say that once again the past year has continued to be both a privilege and a challenge I have now served as chairman for 3 years and due to additional working commitments it is time for a new chairman to take the Parish Council forwards. I would like to pay tribute to the help and advice I have received from our clerk, Allison Riddell without her support and guidance, much of it behind the scenes, the role of Chairman would have been 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.

3 OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

RESOLVED to note there was no other relevant business.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.