

Minute of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of IRTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL held on 4th April 2018 at 7.00pm at Newtown Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Councillors C. Adams (in the Chair), A. Jordan, M. Ridley, M. Ogden, G. Beck, P. Storr, and H. Slack

IN ATTENDANCE – The Clerk

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

1 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 5TH APRIL 2017 WERE SUBMITTED.

RESOLVED to authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 2017, confirmed as a true and accurate record.

2 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

So we're all another year wiser.

It's been a steady year and as a 'fresher' to the role of chairman I am privileged and incredibly thankful to you all for being so available, considerate and downright decent about the local affairs of the parish and not having any fisticuffs. The Irthington Parish Council is effective because we all ultimately care about the parish and this is made possible because were guided through the loops and hoops by Allison Riddell, thank you.

The support of John Mallinson, Marilyn Bowman and James Bainbridge in clarification of council matters and with their generosity in financial subsidence to our requests is immensely important and enabling. On behalf of the Irthington Parish Council, thank you.

I would say it's been a very progressive year, our agenda is no longer dominated by the airport although it still features and unfortunately, perhaps, for the wrong reasons. We have considered more than 18 planning applications from a wide spectrum of applicants, April was all about making the pub bigger as it grows from strength to strength, and our first ever glamping barns! It's nice to see the increasing representation for domestic provisions and perhaps not so much from creeping commercialisation. If all these holiday homes keep occurring, we may even need a shop. My mind still boggles as a collective we have discussed a range of planning scenarios from RNAV for the airport, garage extensions and building on historic sites, all in a Parish Council's days work that was never in the Job Description.

It's a delight to see that Mrs Harrison is pushing the school to new heights with a planned and much needed extension. The Irthington Parish Council has in response established a working group to help where possible and when needed to help develop this agenda.

We are, as Irthington Parish Council back in the digital era, and we're very thankful to Hayley for all her efforts to make this happen. Next thing you know we will be offering facetime and snapchat.

One of the highlights for me this year was our discussions with Brampton & Beyond Energy on the AD plant and the event at the village hall. The hall was packed, the community we represent out in force. The outcome couldn't have been clearer. It's a clear signal that the community we represent are as passionate as ever and a signal that we don't hear much from them because, well, were doing ok. It's an unfortunate position as chairman to recall 2 independent fatal road accidents this year occurring on the A689. It is perhaps one of our most fundamental tasks going forward to understand how and why such events have occurred in such a timeframe and so close to home, this unfortunate type of event occurs somewhat historically uncorrelated and in isolation. We need be assured this is still the case.

The DEFIB was a topic for few months and we are still awaiting Rick Thompson on the adoption process for Irthington Parish Council, we haven't forgotten, but need his input.

It has been with some trepidation we have increased the precept, it is not an area we would like to exercise funding, but we require this in the absence of external funding – and the withdrawal of council funding - to service the community needs. Irthington Parish Council is subject to tri-tender quotes for expenditure where possible and we believe we offer a level of maintenance guided by a prudent fiscal policy.

The village green has been a source of much pleasure over the past several years with the playpark, Irthington Olympics, rounders competitions and endless 'football world cups' and justifies its substantial maintenance from the Parish Council coffers. We have incorporated the playground accounts into a protected account in the medium term. Going forward and with the ever-increasing demands on the Parish Council funds we may have to support the expenditure of the services for the village green and other green areas, including the playpark, with external sources, I will come back to this later.

We have loosely established an 'emergency planning' infrastructure for adverse weather and while in its infancy represents our continual forward-thinking approach to maintaining a status quo for the parish in times of need.

As hard as we try and as much as we do there are a few issues / areas we seemingly cannot change. Bullersyke lanning still floods, our roads are deteriorating, people speed through the village, there are too many wagons passing through the village. We shall continue to try and combat these issues and hopefully we will slowly but surely get the momentum and upper hand.

Financially the horizon for Irthington Parish Council has never been more difficult. The legacy of data protection, the withdrawal of council funding and the increasing costs of maintenance make for difficult reading on the Parish Council's financial projections. We have an amazing community. We are an amazing community. Our duty is to make sure we can allow the next generation of the Irthington Parish Council to prosper.

Going forward I believe we need to be more active in seeking and applying for external grant support to make provisions for the ever increasing demands on our finances and propose we include this as a rolling agenda item going forward.

All that is left to say is thank you all and I hope the coming year continues to be rewarding for you in your role on the Irthington Parish Council.

3 OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

RESOLVED to note there was no other relevant business.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.