

**Minute of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of IRTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL held in NEWTOWN VILLAGE HALL on 6th April 2022 at 7.00pm.**

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE – The Clerk**

**1 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 7TH APRIL 2021 WERE SUBMITTED.**

**RESOLVED** to authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 7th April 2021, confirmed as a true and accurate record.

**2 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Anne Jordan gave a report on the activities of the Council over the past year as follows:

We have all had a difficult year with the continuing outbreaks of Covid and a new strain to contend with although thankfully with the onset of vaccines and boosters developed to try and help us avoid hospitalisation I hope we have seen the worst of it.

In May sadly our long serving Councillor Margaret Ogden sadly passed away and is a big miss to us all.

I was elected chairperson again and Councillor Beck elected as Vice-chair. Councillor Ridley represents us on the Carlisle Parish Councils Association (CPCA) and also on the CPCA Executive Committee. Councillors Ridley, Storr and Beck also continue to serve on the village hall committee.

Also during May Councillor David Shepherd and Councillor Ridley met with Cumbria and Lancashire rivers trust to discuss the removal of the problematic Himalayan balsam which is in several areas of the parish.

We also agreed to pay the entry for The Cumbria in Bloom competition taking place in July and August and which Irthington village won a Silver prize thanks to Danny Poland and his team of helpers. Since then Irthington are also representing us in the Britain in Bloom finals later this year which is a fantastic achievement.

In June we had our first face-to face meeting in over a year which signalled some sort of normality for us all.

We also agreed to purchase a Memorial bench in memory of our late Councillor Margaret Ogden with her husband Tom's permission. Brian Ewart who lives in Irthington very generously agreed to make it for us free of charge. With the help of Councillor Ridley and Tom they have designed a beautiful bench which has just been placed outside our village hall.

With the prospect of more people working from home and during lock down when all school children were working at home several parishioners pointed out about the poor internet in Irthington village and Newby East.

Several parishioners have tried to get better internet connections through various sources and schemes which are available but can take a long time to put in place. At the time of writing this it is still on-going.

In July I attended a Climate Change course via zoom which highlighted how we can all do our bit for our environment. Electric cars are going to be the future and we are fortunately seeing more and more charging points around our area. However, as was pointed out ,electric cars are expensive to buy and since the increase in our electricity and gas recently they are out of a lot of peoples price range.

Unfortunately due to a lack of our councillors being unable to attend we had to cancel July's meeting. This highlights the need for us to have more new councillors on board and we welcomed Carole Robinson from Irthington recently but we are still requiring more people!

We also saw the return of the Border Rambler bus operating twice a week departing from Carlisle Airport and then various stops throughout the parish. I hope it continues to be supported by Parishioners and tourists alike as it is a valuable service for people who do not have transport or just want to leave their cars at home.

This year we have had a lot of varied planning applications most of which were relatively uncontroversial. That said we saw the controversial Gypsy site finally win their appeal to be allowed to stay.

We have also seen a local Government reorganisation which will see from April 2023 the current six district councils and Cumbria County Council being replaced with two new Unitary Councils.

In December several Parish Councillors participated in defibrillator training which we all found extremely helpful and made us aware of just how important a defibrillator is in saving lives.

We have also just got a new parish noticeboard outside Irthington Church and I would like to thank Councillor Mallinson for contributing towards the cost.

Talking of cost, we agreed to increase the precept by just 1% this year given that it has been an extremely tough year for a lot of people and we thought a bigger increase would be too great.

Looking towards the next month we are all looking forward to celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee with the lighting of a Beacon in our parish and we have also planted seven trees on the Village green as part of the celebrations.

Looking to the future of our Parish Council I hope we can all continue to be involved in keeping our Parish a safe environment to live in and I would like to see us start up our speed cameras again throughout our parish as there are still a lot of motorists driving at speed in 30mph areas.

Litter is also another issue and I think we need to try and address this problem too.

Lastly I would like to thank you all for your hard work throughout the year and your continued support and ideas are greatly appreciated.

### **3 OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

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

The meeting closed at 7.10pm.