

**IRTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of IRTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL held in NEWTOWN VILLAGE HALL on WEDNESDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2024 at 7.30pm.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs A. Jordan (Chairman), R. Armstrong, G. Beck, M. Ridley, C. Robinson and H. Slack

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Clerk  
Cumberland Councillor J. Mallinson  
1 member of the public

NB: At the start of the meeting a minute's silence was held in honour of ex-councillor Ray Milburn who had sadly passed away recently.

**151/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**152/23 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

**RESOLVED** to note that no requests for dispensation were received.

**153/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED** to note there were no declarations of interest.

**154/23 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd January 2024, confirmed as a true and accurate record.

**ACTION:** AJ

**155/23 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**155/23.1 FILLING OF VACANCIES**

A resident had expressed an interest in being co-opted to the council, background information from the applicant had been circulated to members by email.

Councillor Beck proposed that the applicant be co-opted.

**RESOLVED** to note that as the proposal was not seconded, the motion fell.

**156/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

Due to disruptive behaviour at the previous two meetings, the layout of the tables and chairs was altered to give a more distinct area for any public in attendance.

**RESOLVED** to note that the member of the public in attendance raised the following points:-

- Replacement of the ash trees on the village green
- The difference between the village greens at Newtown and Walton
- That timber from felled trees should be left on the green for residents and local wildlife
- That a hedge should be planted on the village green to separate it from the A6071
- Reduction of the speed limit through Newtown to 20mph

NB: The Chairman warned the member of the public about their behaviour during this item.

Members commented on local wildlife, areas on the green that had been left for local wildlife, that a request for the reduction in the speed limit through Newtown had already been sent to Cumberland Highways.

**RESOLVED** to note Cumberland Councillor Mallinson reported on the following:-

- Budget process underway
- Highways – difficulties in getting things done
- Grant funding
- 20mph speed limits and the ineffectiveness of speed limits if set too low
- Winter gritting – some routes had been deleted – requested consideration of Newtown to Irthington to be covered

#### 157/23 REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

None to report.

#### 158/23 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING -

Applications for planning consent were considered.

**RESOLVED** to advise Cumberland Council of the Parish Council's comments as follows:-

**158/23.1 ECM LTD., LAVERSDALE (24/0035) –** Erection of surface-mounted ancillary industrial building anchored to existing hardstanding.

No observations.

#### 159/23 NOTIFICATION OF DECISIONS

**RESOLVED** to note the following decision by Cumberland Council:-

- **23/0584 CUMRENTON FARM, IRTHINGTON –** Erection of 1 dwelling in lieu of dwelling approved under application 20/0002.  
**GRANTED**

#### 160/23 FINANCIAL MATTERS -

##### 160/23.1 BANK RECONCILIATION to 31.01.24

There was submitted a report by the Clerk on the reconciliation of the Council's financial records with its bank account statements.

**RESOLVED** to receive and note the bank reconciliation and balance to 31st January 2024 of £13,677.00, checked by Councillor Slack.

##### 160/23.2 EXPENDITURE TO APPROVE

**RESOLVED** to authorise the following expenditure for payment:-

Amount £	Payee	Detail	Chq/DP
362.68	A Riddell	Net wage to 5.02.24	DP
68.34	Cumberland Council	Annual play area inspection	DP
100.00	R&M Lowther	Tree felling (VAT)	DP
94.80	Adexa (Clerk reimburse)	Metal cupboard	DP

**161/23 NEWTOWN VILLAGE GREEN****161/23.1 REPLACEMENT OF ASH TREES**

Members considered the replacement of the village green ash trees following advice from Cumbria Woodlands, and what action to take with the stumps from the felled trees.

**RESOLVED** to replace the ash trees with the following:-

- 2 crab apple
- 2 wild cherry
- 2 silver birch

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk would ask R&M Lowther what could be done with the remaining stumps.

**ACTION:** Clerk

NB: During the above item, the Chairman reminded the member of public in attendance to not disrupt the meeting.

**161/23.2 ANNUAL PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT**

Members considered the annual inspection report carried out by The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) for the play area at Newtown.

**RESOLVED** to:-

**161/23.1** note the report;

**161/23.2** Clerk to ask RoSPA for recommendations to clean algae/moss and prevent strimmer damage; and

**161/23.3** Councillor Beck to look at the fence for projected fixings etc.

**ACTION:** Clerk/GB

**162/23 SPEED RESTRICTIONS THROUGH NEWTOWN**

**RESOLVED** to note that the request to Cumberland Highways to review the speed limit through Newtown had been passed to a Highways Team.

**ACTION:** Clerk

**163/23 CLERK'S REPORT**

**RESOLVED** the Clerk's report was received and noted. (Appendix 1)

**164/23 CALC**

**RESOLVED** to note that all CALC emails had been circulated to members and none required a formal decision.

**165/23 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE CLERK**

**RESOLVED** to note all correspondence had been circulated to members and none required a formal decision.

**166/23 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Dog fouling
- Defibrillator – consideration of installation of a defibrillator at Newby East
- Car charger at The Sally

Any further items for consideration should be submitted to the Clerk on or before 29th February 2024.

**167/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - Wednesday 6th March 2024, Newtown Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.17pm.

NB: At the close of the meeting, the Chairman again reiterated to the member of public in attendance to refrain from their aggressive and confrontational behaviour towards councillors and to the Clerk which also included personal and derogatory comments outwith her role as Clerk of Irthington Parish Council. The Chairman and Clerk requested several times that the member of the public should leave the meeting. The member of the public refused to leave initially and continued to be confrontational eventually stating they would wait outside for one councillor in particular. Outside, the member of the public was witnessed using abusive language, confrontational and threatening behaviour towards a councillor. Due to the ongoing, concerning behaviour displayed by the member of the public in and out of the meeting, the incident was reported to Cumbria Police.

## CLERK'S REPORT

Members **NOTED** the following matters

### **HIGHWAYS ISSUES (Response from Highways or other agencies detailed if received)–**

1 – Report EI/187973 – request for highways to consider lowering the speed limit through Newtown from 40mph to 30mph.

2 – Ref – 05215079 - Water running along the road from the airport to Laversdale reported to United Utilities. Notified on 31.1.24 that an engineer would attend to investigate. Nothing further received.

### **LIST OF CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED TO BE NOTED (Circulated to members by email)**

CALC –

- Partnership Information
- Procurement Threshold Changes from 1 January 2024
- Training courses
- S137 limits 2024/25 (£10.81)
- D-day 80 information
- New employment contract templates
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund & Rural England Prosperity Fund

### **OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

- Cumberland Council e-newsletters
- Connecting Cumbria Newsletter –January 2024
- Rural Services Network – Rural Market towns and latest bulletins
- Rural Funding Digest – January 2024
- ACT update – January 2024
- Netwise – end of year round-up. Mention of gov.uk emails – the push towards using these is again likely to be raised in this year's publication of the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG), usually released in March.
- Road closure – U1098 Newtown to Irthington – 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024.