

Minute of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of IRTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL held in NEWTOWN VILLAGE HALL on 15th May 2024 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors A. Jordan (in the Chair), R. Armstrong, G. Beck, M. Ridley, and H. Slack.

IN ATTENDANCE – A. Riddell, Clerk
Rebecca Stacey (speaker)
2 members of the public

1 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 17TH MAY 2023 WERE SUBMITTED.

RESOLVED to authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2023, 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:

This year has been another eventful one.

I was re-elected as Chairperson again and Councillor Beck re-elected as Vice Chairman also.

Councillor Ridley continued to represent the Carlisle Parish Councils Association (CPCA) as well as serving on the Exec Committee. In addition Councillors Ridley and Beck are also on the Newtown Village Hall Committee.

In June we agreed to purchase an Oak tree to commemorate the King's Coronation. We are also purchasing several species of trees as recommended by Cumbria Woodland Trust. These trees are to replace the ash trees which had to be felled due to having ash dieback. The trees will be planted once we have received them as they have been ordered from a local garden centre.

We also signed up to the Cumbria Wildlife's Trust Plan Bee pledge which involves where possible, avoiding the use of pesticides on our land as well as supporting and encouraging our community to create a pollinator friendly environment.

Concerns once again have been raised about speeding motorists within our Parish. We have seen traffic enforcement cameras installed along the A689 from the Linstock roundabout to the Brampton roundabout. From what I have seen the traffic has slowed down considerably. I am still hopeful we can reinstate our Speedwatch group again but this can only happen if we have more volunteers and we need more!

Discussions took place regarding celebrating D Day on June 6th. Our very own Councillor Robinson will act as bugler as part of the celebrations at Newtown Hall and as I write this plans are still in the making!

Councillor Ridley and myself along with our Clerk, Allison, attended a Community Panel Network Event at Downagate Community Centre. This was a very interesting event and we took part in some lovely discussions along with other local councillors on what our concerns were within our Parishes. Potholes were a big topic of conversation!

We had a request from a resident proposing the addition of local historical information on our Parish website and we thought this was a great idea and we look forward to reading it once he completes it for us.

We decided not to increase the Precept this year as I know times are hard for a lot of people with the cost of living crisis on going.

We had our annual inspection of the playground at Newtown which we also had to have some new fencing for and also Black Gap has had some new fencing installed.

We have dealt with some interesting planning applications this year also and we always try to make constructive comments where appropriate but ultimately decisions are made by Planning Officers not us.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support and hard work throughout this year and to our Clerk Allison, who with her knowledge and patience has helped steer us through another year.

3 PRESENTATION FROM REBECCA STACEY – WHY THE PARISH SHOULD DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY – WHAT CAN WE ACTUALLY DO?

Rebecca Stacey gave a short presentation highlighting the following:-

- Information had been circulated to town and parish councils on ways to tackle climate change
- Defra website was a useful resource with the tackling climate change document
- Other Parish Council's had looked at energy and housing insulation
- The Parish Council can be a force for good, encouraging a local climate group
- Encourage practical action by local people with designated Action Days
- Other Council's have saving energy as a standing agenda item
- Brampton2zero is a local group looking at reducing Brampton's carbon emissions and increasing resilience to climate change
- Consider reducing pesticides, promoting peat free compost and nature areas
- Illustrated the carbon footprint of Stanwix Rural Parish Council
- The Parish Council could consider getting involved in a community event, undertaking a survey to hear people's concerns and link with other parish councils and match what they are doing

4 PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Members of the public in attendance raised the following:-

- Concern at an ash tree suffering from dieback located near the public footpath in Newtown
Response – report to Cumberland Council
- Will there be any planting along the boundary of the village green?
Response – would prefer not to as the green is clearly visible from the road for drivers, any planting or fencing would prevent clear vision. The parish council is still trying to get the speed limit through Newtown reduced from 40mph to 30mph.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm.