

Allithwaite Upper Parish Council

Annual Report 2008/2009



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1) The Parish Council – An Overview

The Parish Council is a statutory local authority set up under the Local Government Act 1972. It operates in the area of a defined civil parish or group of parishes. In Cumbria there are three types of local authority - the County Council, the District or Borough Councils and the Town or Parish Councils.

Parishes are the smallest areas of civil administration in England Parish Councils provide the statutory tier of local government closest to the people. (Civil parishes should not be confused with ecclesiastical parishes and their Parochial Church Councils.)

Parish Councils are seen as an essential part of the structure of local democracy and have a vital role in acting on behalf of the communities they represent.

They:

- Give views, on behalf of the community, on planning applications and other proposals that affect the parish.
- Undertake projects and schemes that benefit local residents.
- Work in partnership with other bodies to achieve benefits for the parish.
- Alert relevant authorities to problems that arise or work that needs to be undertaken.
- Help the other tiers of local government keep in touch with their local communities.

The council is made up of councillors elected by the electors of the parish. Every year the council elects one of them to be the Chair of the council. The council has a paid officer who organises meetings and helps to carry out and implement the council's decisions, it is a dual role which also covers the financial management of the council's budget and finances in the capacity as the Responsible Financial Officer of the council - this officer is called the Clerk. The Clerk does not vote or make decisions; that is the role of the councillors.

Parish Councils have a range of powers and duties which essentially relate to local matters, such as looking after open spaces, play areas, street lighting, bus shelters, and much more. They also have the power to raise money through the council tax.

All meetings of the council and its committees are open to the general public and the press, except in very exceptional circumstances. The time and place of meetings is advertised beforehand - on the parish notice board.

You cannot speak while the normal business of the meeting is being conducted. However, some time is allowed at the meeting when members of the public may address the council on an issue that concerns them.

The council minutes are held by the council's Clerk and are available for public inspection. It is best to make arrangements in advance to see them. The Agendas for each meeting are placed on the Parish Council Notice boards by the Post Office in Lindale and the Village Hall in High Newton

The Parish Council is consulted by the relevant Planning Authority (which is, the National Park Authority) on all planning applications. Any views expressed by the Parish Council will be taken into account by the Planning Authority before a decision is made, providing the points made are relevant to the determination of a planning application. The final decision is made by the Planning Authority, **not** the Parish Council.

2) Parish Council Responsibilities

The Parish Council is responsible for the following within the Parish:

Lindale

- The Recreation Ground including the Skateboard area and the bridge over the stream.
- The two bus shelters.
- Wilkinson Monument.
- Coronation Tree Area.
- Yew Tree Green.
- The War Memorial.
- 13 benches around the village.
- Waterfall area railings.
- Cattle trough.

High & Low Newton

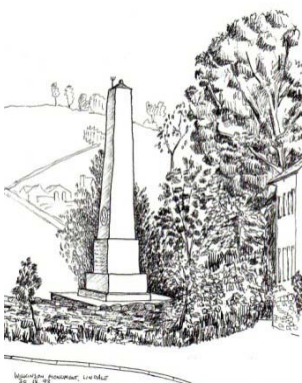
- Ornamental Gardens.
- Bus shelter.

3) Chair's Statement by Councillor Roger Shearer

The start of the year saw us welcome new District Councillors, Cllr Clive Leal for Newton Ward and Cllr Rosie Ballantyne-Smith for Lindale Ward. Together with County Councillor Bill Wearing they attend the majority of our meetings and we thank them for their input and support.

The parish council are delighted with the successful outcome of the Youth Engagement Project which started on 11th June last year with a BBΘ held on the recreation ground in conjunction with Young Cumbria; local young people were invited and consulted with. As a result funding was obtained from the CCC Youth Opportunities Fund for them to access a range of activities during the summer holidays. As a result of the consultation to see what young people of the parish would like to see happening in the parish and work over the summer months, on 1st October 2008 a Youth Club opened in the parish, meeting in Lindale Village Hall every two weeks. In November 2008 the group was constituted as an independent group and a management committee set up, the "Lindale Legends Youth Club", the name was chosen by the members. This was essential, as if the group continued to be a parish council youth group it would restrict the funding opportunities that it will require to access to ensure it's future viability. A parish council representative, Cllr Roger Shearer was appointed to this committee and it was agreed that this will be an ongoing responsibility of Chairman's role in order to ensure that the parish council has close links with the young people of the parish. Grant funding was secured to pay for equipment and a youth worker employed by Young Cumbria on our behalf. We are very grateful to CCC Neighbour Forum and Youth Opportunities Fund, Cumbria Community Foundation N2N Fund and Frieda Scott Charitable Trust, Liz Cornford and Sarah Cutts from Young Cumbria and parents who have committed to volunteering to support the group on club nights, also and members of the Youth Group Management Committee who will manage the financial and governance aspects of running the group. We thank you all who have contributed, helped and supported us in establishing the youth project and youth club.

In a summer where numbers of outdoor events have been badly affected by poor weather we were incredibly lucky to have two relatively fine days for the Wilkinson Bi-Centenary Weekend celebrations. On Saturday 19 July villagers, visitors and invited guests gathered at the Wilkinson Monument for the unveiling of the new interpretation panel which has been paid for with donations from Cumbria County Council Neighbourhood Forum together with local car dealerships, Hadwin's Audi and Bateman's BMW. Tom Clare, Chair of the County Council and himself a distinguished archaeologist, unveiled the panel. The "Open Afternoon" at Castle Head was well-attended and visitors were very generous in buying raffle tickets and trying their luck at the bottle stall. The Sports Club barbeque was much appreciated, as were afternoon teas



which were put on by the Castle Head staff. The climbing wall and canoeing proved popular and visitors enjoyed looking at Wilkinson-related art work by children from Lindale School and items on display in the Library; the old school punishment book and register of admissions were sources of particular interest and amusement. The highlight of the afternoon for many people was the chance to see parts of the house and to tour the grounds with Frank Dawson; and the trip up to the top of the hill to see the remains of the walled garden and extraordinary water-tank installed to irrigate it were particularly memorable. The evening lecture by Dr. Barrie Trinder was very well attended and his informative assessment of the importance of Wilkinson in the context of the Industrial Revolution provoked some interesting questions and discussion.

On Sunday 20 July those lucky enough to have secured tickets enjoyed a memorable visit to Wilson House, Lindale Church, Backbarrow and the Powder Works at Lowood. Frank Dawson, David Cranstone and John Hodgson were on hand to share their expert knowledge.

The celebrations raised over £800 towards the fund for the restoration of the monument and associated work, and this has been added to money already received, the Taylor Newton & Hibbert Trust have offered a generous donation from and we thank them for their continued support of parish projects. We still need to raise a substantial amount and the committee have prepared and submitted several funding applications to a variety of bodies in the hope of raising the funds required. Realistically, this may now take longer than we had hoped as the effects of the economic downturn on charitable trusts that are dependent on investment income are sure to be felt.

Thank you to everybody who helped to make the weekend a great success. As well as making some money towards the project it has generated considerable interest among the industrial archaeology and local history fraternity both locally and further afield.

In July 2008 the Parish Council formally adopted the Community Plan as a planning document; the plan was completed in April 2008 and had been produced as a result of work which began in September 2006. In accepting the final completed version of the Community Plan I would like to thank all the members of the Community Plan Steering Group for their commitment during the last two years. They freely gave up a considerable amount of time in the interests of the parish for which we are extremely grateful.

Also in July Cllr Mrs Matthews from Newton Ward resigned and I would like to express our thanks to Cllr Andie Matthews for all her hard work and sterling service over the years she has represented the Parish. There is currently still a vacancy for Newton Ward following her resignation.

The Parish Council supported by CC Bill Wearing successfully campaigned to stop the BT phone box on Grange Road at Lindale being removed. The Parish Council

also supported the local campaign to have signs placed on A590 directing visitors to local businesses in Newton and Ayside following the opening of the by-pass.

Planning applications considered by the Parish Council were reduced this year – the Parish Council commented on 12 compared to 27 in 2008/08 and 24 in 2006/07.

In October 2008 Cumbria Rural Housing Trust carried out a Housing Needs Survey in the parish, this survey was commissioned by Lake District National Park Authority, and the report was published in February 2009, a copy is available in Lindale post office or from the clerk. We are currently in the process of arranging a joint meeting with Cumbria Rural Housing Trust and LDNPA and the Parish Council to discuss the results of this report and the implications of it being used as a planning document.

In November Councillors joined with pupils from Lindale School at the War Memorial for a service of remembrance in memory of those from the parish who have given their lives in conflicts since the Great War.

The Parish precept for 2008/09 was £13450.00 and this has contributed towards the up keep of the Parish Areas, the parish council has been able to operate within this annual budget, this was mainly due to proposed expenditure to replace a bench at Newton being deferred while we appealed for a bench to be donated. To date no offers have been forthcoming and this will now be reconsidered by the Parish Council. The precept for the 2009/10 has been set at £14480. The parish council has carefully considered planned expenditure for the coming year in view of the economic downturn and tried to achieve a minimum increase for 2009/10.

Throughout the year the Parish Council has endeavoured to communicate with residents of the parish through the St Paul's Church Newsletter, many thanks to Wendy Wood for putting up with my last minute submissions and to Andie Matthews for including parish information in the Newton Newsletter. In addition the Parish Council now has an outline website www.allithwaiteupperpc.net which went live in June 2008. This is currently being updated with new information and will shortly contain details of councillors and meetings for 2009/10.

The Parish Council is still negotiating with Cumbria County Council regarding the terms of the lease for the piece of land at Windermere Road and this should be completed in the coming year.

The Parish Council demonstrated it's commitment to the local environment by organising and taking part in 2 litter picks in parish in June 2008 and March 2009, we were supported by some local residents and thank them for their valued contribution.

During the year councillors attended a number of meetings as representatives of the parish council, such as Taylor Newton and Hibbert Trust, Lindale Village Hall Committee, Cartmel Old Grammar School Foundation and Lindale Legends Youth Group Management Committee. Members also attended a number of other

meetings as part of their Parish Councillor role, such as Cartmel and Grange Community Board, CCC Neighbourhood Forum and CALC South Lakeland District Association, CALC AGM and Planning Workshop held by LDNPA.

In the Spring of 2009 the Parish Council developed a Strategic Plan for the parish and this was adopted at the April meeting.

4) Future Plans

With regard to ongoing parish projects:-

1) Land adjacent to Lingarth, Windermere Road.

It is hoped that the terms of the lease for the land with CCC will finally be agreed in 2009/10. The parish council do not currently have any budget provision in the financial year 2009/10 to improve and level the land. This will be reviewed November 2009 when the budget planning process for the following year 2010/11 is completed.

2) Wilkinson Monument

Following the successful Wilkinson Bi-Centenary Weekend celebrations in July, the Wilkinson Monument sub-committee have prepared and submitted grant applications. We are currently awaiting a response from SLDC and Worshipful Company of Ironmongers (due May). The application to the Hadfield trust has been declined. The committee will continue to pursue funding for the restoration and repainting of the monument but this may now take longer than we had hoped as the effects of the economic downturn on charitable trusts that are dependent on investment income are sure to be felt.

Moving forward following the AGM in May 2009 the Parish Council will be directed by it's Strategic Plan (Appendix 1) and priorities from the Community plan to develop and sustain a sense of community within the parish by addressing environmental, economic and social issues and delivering quality services to our Parishioners.

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their commitment during the last year. Parish Councillors freely give up a considerable amount of time in the interests of the parish. They are the level of government closest to the people they serve. Our efforts to best serve the people of the parish are often frustrated, as the delivery of services is not within our remit, but we can and do make a difference.

Last but by no means least, I would like to thank Debbie Cowperthwaite, the Parish Clerk.

5) Summary of Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31 March 2009

INCOME	2008/09
Precept	13450.00
Grants	3756.00
Interest	249.12
VAT Refunds	0.00
Donations	2109.00
other	1350.24

Total Income	20914.36
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EXPENDITURE	
General Administration	1856.06
Salary/exp	4783.49
S 137 Expenditure	0.00
Capital Spending	2261.88
Loan Interest	0.00
Loan Repayments	0.00
Running Costs	5265.63
Other expenditure	6961.94
Total Expenditure	21129.00

CUMULATIVE BALANCE

Cash in hand bfw at	01/04/2008	10292.75
add Receipts for period 01/04/08-31/03/09		20914.36
		31207.11
less Payments for period 01/04/08 - 31/03/09		21129.00
Balance cfwd 31/03/09		10078.11

SUMMARIES 2009 - CASH ON HAND 31/03/09

General Fund	2164.02
Recreation Ground	4151.22
Apprentices	663.02
John Wilkinson Monument	3099.85
Cash reserves at 31/03/09	10078.11

N.B. The Parish Council accounts this year include some extraordinary items that have increased figures compared to previous years. i.e. Holding of grant funding in respect of youth group when first formed and fundraising in respect of Wilkinson Centenary Weekend in July 2008

6) The Councillors

Roger Shearer – Chair represented the parish council on the Lindale Legends Youth Club Management Committee

Jane Hall - Vice Chair

Jill Tattersall

Cllr Tattersall represented the parish council on the Taylor Newton & Hibbert Charity

Lyn McClure

Cllr McClure represented the parish council on the Taylor Newton & Hibbert Charity and the Lindale Village Hall Committee

Mary Smith

Cllr Smith represented the parish council as a governor on the Cartmel Old Grammar School Foundation

Ian Dixon

Paul Bond

Roger Armstrong

Parish Council Committees

Planning- Cllr Shearer, Cllr Ms Hall, Cllr Mrs Tattersall, Cllr Mrs McClure, Cllr Mrs Smith, Cllr Bond, Cllr Armstrong and Cllr Dixon

Finance: Cllr Shearer, Cllr Ms Hall, Cllr Mrs Tattersall, Cllr Mrs McClure, Cllr Mrs Smith, Cllr Bond, Cllr Armstrong and Cllr Dixon

Wilkinson Monument Sub Committee: (Chair) Cllr Ms Hall, Cllr Mrs Tattersall, Cllr Armstrong and Cllr Bond

Parish Council Roles filed by external representatives

Tree Warden – Mr D Lindley.

Internal Auditor – Mr A Oliver

Clerk to the Council – Mrs Debbie Cowperthwaite

Appendix 1

ALLITHWAITE UPPER PARISH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

April 2009

The Mission of Allithwaite Upper Parish Council is:

'To develop and sustain a sense of community within the parish by addressing environmental, economic and social issues and delivering quality services to our Parishioners'.

Our Strategic objectives are:

1. To work for the improvement of the built environment:

- By implementing the parish community plan to which all parishioners have had chance to make a contribution and which provides a vision for the development of the parish and identifies the options for environmental benefits and improvements.
- By the consideration of building proposals and registering our comments with the planning authority prior to their formal consideration;
- By maintaining our bus shelters and other street furniture in good order and pursuing an appropriate maintenance and renewal plan.
- By working with the appropriate authorities to minimise the detrimental effects of litter in the streets and public areas.
- By supporting the development of housing for local people.

2. To work for the economic well being of the parish

- To support the development of appropriate businesses within the parish

3. To work with Statutory and Non – statutory Bodies seeking to improve the quality of life for parishioners:

- By co-operating with neighbouring parishes on issues that affect us;
- By co-operating with County Council, National Park and District Council on issues that affect us
- By co-operating with Community Board and local Neighbourhood Forum on issues that affect us.
- By supporting and working with Youth Groups and Elderly Persons organisations as directed by the Council;
- By co-operating and working with the school to improve facilities for the young in the parish.

4. To maintain and enhance the parks and open spaces in the parish to provide green and open spaces and to contribute to sustaining biodiversity within the parish:

- By maintaining the open spaces and by working with the various authorities and agencies to enhance and improve the natural environment
- By maintaining and improving the children's play spaces including the replacement of play equipment on a rolling basis.

5. To maintain and enhance the environment in the Parish:

- By providing a vision for the development of all the village public open spaces.

6.To nurture a safe and lawful environment:

- By supporting the police in the prevention and detection of crime;
- By working with all residents wherever possible to engage them in creative activities to divert them from damaging the facilities and environment in the parish;
- By working to develop facilities and to provide spaces for young people to gather and socialise.
- By working to ensure our streetlights are maintained in a fully functional mode with repairs effected within agreed timescales;
- By working with the appropriate authorities to ensure the footpaths are in a good state of repair and the public rights of way kept reasonably free from undergrowth;
- By supporting people and local organisations in the introduction of traffic calming measures and other road safety initiatives in their immediate locality.

7. To manage the affairs of the Council on an efficient and effective basis:

- By ensuring all decisions are taken on a value for money basis;
- By being a good employer and treating employees as valued members of the team;
- By ensuring all legal obligations are observed and good practice followed in respect of the financial management of the Council;
- By developing and implementing policies and procedures that ensure good governance of the Council's affairs;
- By adopting and updating appropriate financial policies including the management of reserves.