

# Allithwaite Upper Parish Council

## Annual Report 2009/2010



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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.

## **1) Parish Council Responsibilities**

The Parish Council is responsible for the following areas 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.
- Benches in ornamental gardens and 2 others in village.

## **2) Vice Chair's Statement by Councillor Jane Hall**

The start of the year saw us welcome the Chief Constable to the Annual Parish Meeting of electors in May 2009; this was a very successful meeting opened by Chairman Cllr Roger Shearer who welcomed everyone and was well attended by local residents. This was followed by a presentation by 3 young people from the Lindale Legends Youth Group who delighted members with details of all the varied and exciting activities they have taken part in to date. They finished by saying how good it was to have somewhere to go and something to do and to learn new skills through activities. They thanked the volunteers who support the group meetings, the local residents who are members of the management committee and the parish council for setting up the group.

This was followed by our Guest Speaker, the Chief Constable of Cumbria Constabulary, Craig Mackey. He thanked the young people for coming along and giving a presentation and said that the youth project had been "a really good example of how things can work in a community and is the very best of young people". He thanked the parish council for the opportunity to speak. He spoke about policing in Cumbria and our local area. Members enjoyed a very informative talk which included interesting facts and figures about crime in the county and our local area.

During the year the parish council held full council meetings every month excluding August and December. In addition 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 Forums and CALC South Lakeland District Association.

Throughout the year the Parish Council have responded to a number of consultations and surveys from CCC, SLDC, LDNPA, and Cumbria Police Authority and considered 14 planning applications compared to 12 in 2008/09 and 27 in 2007/08.

The Parish Council have been aware that much of the play equipment in the recreation ground has now been in place for some time and feel that it will soon be necessary to consider a major refurbishment of the recreation ground play areas. Some of the play equipment has already had to be removed for safety reasons. Undertaking a scheme of this sort will involve investigation of various play scheme options and considerable grant funding. At the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd September 2009 at Newton it was agreed that Councillor Paul Bond would lead a sub-group to investigate preferred options and funding opportunities for upgrading the recreation ground and play area and a proposal for the way forward for this project established in April/May 2010. This culminated in the launch of a proposed joint project with the local community (led by the Parish Council) to plan, obtain funding and organise and implement the upgrade of the recreation ground facilities.

In October the Parish Council held a consultation with electors and would like to thank all residents who completed the questionnaire regarding priorities for spending in the parish. The response rate was 10.4% which was a bit disappointing. However a summary of the responses was published on the parish web site [www.allithwaiteupperpc.net](http://www.allithwaiteupperpc.net). The Parish Council adopted the results of the "Residents Spending Consultation" of October 2009 on the basis that the results will be taken into consideration when decisions are made by the PC but they will not dictate the decision and other factors will need to be considered in view of response rate of 10.4%

As the Parish Council does not have any sources of income, finance is raised through the precept process which is charged as part of your local SLDC Council Tax. The Parish precept for 2009/10 was £14480; this has contributed towards the upkeep of the Parish Areas and other running costs. The parish council has been able to operate within this annual budget. For 2010/11 members of the Parish Council agreed an annual budget of £15512 which is an increase of 7.12%. For the year 2010/11 the budget includes donations of £500 to the Lindale Legends Youth Group and Lindale Sports Club towards the cost of running the toilets. This means an approximate increase in the proportion of Council Tax that is paid to cover Parish Council spending of £2.40 per Band D household.

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

In March 2010 the Parish Council agreed the lease for the piece of land at Windermere Road, successfully concluding several years of negotiation with Cumbria County Council. Once CCC sign the final documents the transaction will be complete.

The Parish Council demonstrated its commitment to the local environment by organising and taking part in a litter pick in the parish in March 2010 and collected about 12 large bin bags of rubbish!

Cllr Jane Hall has been busy submitting applications for funding for the Wilkinson Monument project to obtain funding to repair and repaint the John Wilkinson Monument which was launched July . The challenge to obtain funding has been much more difficult than we expected and the application process to the various funds and charitable trusts is very protracted. There are often only certain times that applications can be made and from the start of the application to the final decision is often a lengthy process. Each application usually requires a declaration of others which have been made and the outcome, making concurrent applications quite tricky to manage while we wait the outcome before submitting bids to other funders. During the year we have been offered funding by the Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust and we are currently awaiting the result of an application to English Heritage. When a decision is received the full Parish Council will give consideration to "the way forward" with this project. Current projected shortfall is approximately £10k. Some of the funding offers we have already received will run out in May 2011.

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 last minute submissions and to Andie Matthews for including parish information in the Newton Newsletter. In addition the Parish Council website [www.allithwaiteupperpc.net](http://www.allithwaiteupperpc.net) which went live in June 2008 has been updated considerably and re-launched.

The Parish Council has also tried whenever possible to consider the priorities in the Community Plan adopted in 2008. During the year the Parish Council tried for several months to try to establish a forum of local Parish Councils in the LDNPA to work together to investigate local housing issues. Disappointingly there was no support for this from other local neighbouring parishes.

The introduction of a Highways Steward by CCC who visits the parish on a rolling programme of visits has significantly helped achieved priorities in the Community Plan in respect of Green villages and environment and Traffic and safety action plans with regard to more regular maintenance of vegetation encroaching on footpaths, and minor roads and general maintenance of highway verges and gullies etc.

There are a number of priorities identified in the 4 action plans that would entail large scale projects which the Parish Council does not have the resources to undertake.

### **3) Future Plans**

With regard to ongoing and new parish projects:-

#### **1) Land adjacent to Lingarth, Windermere Road.**

The terms of the lease for the land with CCC were finally agreed in 2009/10 and the Parish Council hope to take control of the land in summer of 2010. The parish council do not currently have any budget provision in the financial year 2010/11 to improve and level the land. This will be reviewed November 2011 when the budget planning process for the following year 2011/12 is completed.

#### **2) Wilkinson Monument**

At the moment an application to English Heritage is awaiting a decision, when the Parish Council know the outcome of this application it will give consideration to "the way forward" with this project. Current projected shortfall is approximately £10k.

##### **Balance of John Wilkinson Monument**

<b>Balance in hand + assured funding allocation</b>	<b><u>£14192.21</u></b>
<b>Total to Date</b>	<b>£14192.00</b>
<b>Estimated cost of project</b>	<b><u>£23989.00</u></b>
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>£9797.00</b>

#### **3) Proposed Recreation Ground upgrade/redevelopment**

The Parish Council has been investigating the best way to approach the issue of the

recreation ground at Lindale needing updating. Much of the play equipment has been repaired in recent years and it will soon be uneconomical to consider further repairs, some equipment has already been removed for safety reasons.

Our investigation have revealed that projects of this nature and scale need large capital investment and the commitment of a community project working party to achieve it's goals and aims and it is hoped that the launch of this project at the APM with engage with the local community and enable us to take our proposals forward.

## **Conclusions**

Moving forward following the AGM in May 2010 the Parish Council will be directed by its 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. During April the Parish Council has received resignations from 2 Parish Councillors. Our Chairman Cllr Roger Shearer has stood down due to additional work commitments. Cllr Shearer has been a member of the Parish Council for 6 years and Chairman for the last 4 years. He has been a very active and hard working member of the Parish Council and was instrumental in leading the project to set up a youth club provision in the parish in 2008. Cllr Mrs Mary Smith who has been a member of the Parish Council for 9 years has also resigned. We thank them both for their commitment and contribution to the Parish Council.

This means there are now 2 vacancies for Lindale Ward and also still a vacancy for Newton Ward which has been vacant for some time. 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. Please contact the clerk for more information if you are interested in joining us. It is vital to the sustainability of the parish Council and its ability to achieve the best for the Parish that we have a full complement of committed Parish Councillors.

I would also like to thank Debbie Cowperthwaite, the Parish Clerk who gives so much energy and time to supporting the work of the Parish Council.

**Vice Chair –Cllr Jane Hall**

**May 2010**

#### 4) Summary of Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31 March 2010

2008/09	INCOME	2009/10
13450.00	Precept	14480.00
3756.00	Grants	0.00
249.12	Interest	93.37
0.00	VAT Refunds	699.46
2109.00	Donations	0.00
1350.24	other	30.93
20914.36	<b>Total Income</b>	15303.76

	EXPENDITURE	
1856.06	General Administration	2106.96
4783.49	Salary/exp	5328.46
0.00	S 137 Expenditure	0.00
2261.88	Capital Spending	382.21
0.00	Loan Interest	0.00
0.00	Loan Repayments	0.00
5265.63	Running Costs	4454.99
6961.94	Other expenditure	1582.38
<b>21129.00</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>13855.00</b>

#### CUMULATIVE BALANCE

Cash in hand bfw at	01/04/2009	<b>10078.11</b>
add Receipts for period 01/04/09-31/03/10		15303.76
		25381.87
less Payments for period 01/04/09 - 31/03/10		13855.00
<b>Balance cfwd</b>		
<b>31/03/10</b>		<b>11526.87</b>

#### Represented by

General Fund	2721.88
Recreation Ground - Furness Bld Soc	4239.94
Apprentices Fund - Barclays	663.35
John Wilkinson Monument Barclays	3901.70
	<b>11526.87</b>

The above account represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31 March 2010 and reflect It's income and expenditure during the year.



## **5) The Councillors**

### **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.

#### **Paul Bond**

Has represented the Parish Council at various meetings, also has contributed to the Wilkinson Monument Sub-committee. He has also led on the investigations into the proposed upgrade of the recreation ground.

#### **Roger Armstrong**

Has represented the Parish Council at meetings of Grange and Cartmel Community Board (Now Grange and Cartmel Local Area Partnership) (LAP)

#### **Ian Dixon**

### ***Parish Council Committees***

**Planning-** Cllr Ms Hall, Cllr Mrs Tattersall, Cllr Mrs McClure, Cllr Bond and Cllr Dixon

**Finance:** Cllr Ms Hall, Cllr Mrs Tattersall, Cllr Mrs McClure, 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 filled 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.