

Allithwaite Upper Parish Council

Annual Report 2011/12

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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.
- Windermere Road wef 2011
- Currently negotiating to lease toilets in Recreation ground

High & Low Newton

- Ornamental Gardens.
- Bus shelter.
- Benches in ornamental gardens and 2 others in village.

2) Chair's Statement by Councillor Roger Armstrong

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, and Lindale Village Playground Fund. Members also attended a number of other meetings as part of their Parish Councillor role, such as Cartmel and Grange Local Area Partnership, CCC Neighbourhood Forums and Cumbria Broadband Project.

Throughout the year the Parish Council have responded to a number of consultations and surveys from CCC, SLDC, LDNPA, considered 15 planning applications, this compare to previous years as follows, 15 in 2010/11, 14 in 2009/10, 12 in 2008/09 and 27 in 2007/08.

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 2011/12 was £16582 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, with a small surplus of £266 at the year end. For 2012/13 members of the Parish Council agreed an annual budget of £17397. This is paid via your council tax bill and although it represents a rise of 6.9% it actually equates to a total increase of approximately £2.12 on last years cost per Band D household for the year

The Parish Council is being asked to take on a lot of extra responsibilities and this means extra costs. We have made savings where it seemed reasonable but the cost of unavoidable

commitments has increased. Councillors are unpaid volunteers, but we rely on the paid services of our Clerk for much of the clerical work which is involved; she looks after the finances, provides valuable guidance and advice, deals with correspondence and the website, prepares papers for our meetings and keeps the minutes. There are also additional costs in respect of the Parish Council's new responsibility for the public toilets in the recreation ground.

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.

The Parish Council secured funding from the Local Area Partnership of £1200 to level and improve the appearance of land (ON WINDERMERE ROAD), £1000 to contribute to the roof repair costs at Newton Village Hall and £560 towards lengthsman projects in the parish, i.e. cutting of vegetation, verges etc.

The Parish Council demonstrated its commitment to the local environment by organising and taking part in a litter pick in the parish in March 2012 and collected about 25 large bin bags of rubbish! We have also invested in clearing overgrown areas in recreation ground and the skateboard park and had the hedge in the skateboard car park laid to improve the visual amenity.

This has been the first year of the Dog Control Order to comply with our statutory duty to ensure that the recreation ground is kept clean and safe. Overall this has been a success; however there are occasions when there have been breaches and the Parish Council appeals to all users to respect the terms of the order. i.e. No dog fouling and dogs to remain on lease at all times in the recreation ground.

The Parish Council have also been working with the Probation Service Unpaid work team to improve the environment and appearance of the gardens at High Newton. We thank the Probation Service and their teams for their good work.

The Parish Council were delighted to meet their fundraising target and be able to commence work on the Wilkinson Monument restoration in March 2011. The restoration work was undertaken and completed in Summer 2011. The Parish Council are delighted with the newly restored Monument and would like to thank everyone who has supported us on the project. (Lakeland Audi, Bateman BMW, CCC Neighbourhood Forum who supported Phase 1 of the project to fund the History Board to commemorate the Bi-Centenary of John Wilkinson's death and the launch of the renovation project fundraising in 2008 and the Taylor Newton and Hibbert Trust, Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust, Worshipful Society of Ironmongers and English Heritage who have helped fund the restoration project.

In 2011 the Parish Council have also taken on responsibility for the toilets in the recreation ground from SLDC and there will be a financial implication for the running costs and ongoing and future maintenance.

We are very grateful to the support given by Lakeland Audi who provide the cleaning services and Lindale Sports Club who have made donations towards the running costs. We are also grateful to some local residents who have volunteered their services regarding repairs and monitoring and locking and unlocking the toilets for us.

The project to completely refurbish the playground at Lindale has made huge progress over the last year. Just 12 months ago, in May 2011, the playground was empty and forlorn, after much of the play equipment was removed on health and safety grounds. But fundraising had already begun in earnest towards an eventual target of around £25,000, and by Sports Day in July 2011 the Fund had gathered enough money to install the first of three planned phases of equipment. These included brand new swings, climbing net, clatterbridge and stilts for children to enjoy.

Fundraising activities have continued apace over the last year, and have included a popular 100 Club and money boxes around the village as well as events. At the time of writing an intrepid group is planning to undertake the 40-mile Keswick to Barrow walk for sponsorship, and an event to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and a sponsored cross-Bay walk are also planned.

All activities have been coordinated by the committee of the Lindale Village Playground Fund—a group of local people who have come together to generate money and interest in the project. Progress over the year has been such that we are now installing the second phase of equipment: a large hamlet-style piece for younger children that is already in place, and a nest-style swing that will follow over the next few months.

The Fund's progress over the last year could not have been achieved without commitment and enthusiasm of the committee and the generous support of local individuals and organisations in what has been a real community effort. We are grateful to everyone who has made donations and attended events.

The Fund has also been extremely grateful for grants from the following local charitable organisations and businesses: Booths, the Charles Godwin Trust, the Cumbria 0-19 Fund. Cumbria County Council's Grange & Cartmel Neighbourhood Forum, Cumbria Foundation Trust, Furness Building Society, the Hadfield Trust, the Harold and Alice Bridges Charity, Holker Estates, South Lakeland District Council's Local Area Partnership and Community Grant Aid scheme and the Taylor Newton and Hibbert Trust. We are thankful to fund committee member Neil Marsden and his staff at Marsdens Building and Maintenance Contractors who have installed the equipment with great efficiency. And although independent from it, the Fund has also been very grateful for financial and other support from Upper Allithwaite Parish Council—as well as for the hard work of several of its councillors on our committee.

The Parish Council would like to record their thanks and great appreciation to all members of the Lindale Village Playground Fund for their commitment, enthusiasm and hard work in achieving the transformation to the play area. Many thanks also to all grant providers and supporters of fund raising events.

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 St Paul's Church for assisting us with communicating with local residents. In addition the Parish Council website www.allithwaiteupperpc.net is updated regularly.

The Parish Council has also tried whenever possible to consider the priorities in the **Community Plan** adopted in 2008. Actions have been completed in respect of the following actions/ priorities during 2011/12.

SH1 Support for Local Services

SH1.1 Lobby as widely as possible of maintenance of existing services.

The Parish Council have taken over the responsibility for managing the public toilets at the recreation ground following SLDC's decision to close them. This has retained a valuable facility for local residents and visitors using the recreation ground and availability for events such as sports day.

SH1.2 Encourage residents to support and use local businesses whenever possible.

Parish Council uses local businesses and contractors whenever possible, a local business and employer has been appointed to take over maintenance of Parish areas and grass cutting in the recreation ground wef 1/4/12.

SH3 and SH4 Affordable houses/rent

GE1 Essential rural character of built environment to be maintained.

SH3.2 Lobby LDNPA for some affordable homes allocation for the region to be built in the parish.

Parish Council set up working party to make considered response to LDNPA LDF (Local Development Framework) land allocations consultation to ensure local views were represented.

SH4.2 Investigate providing a play area at Lingarth

TS1.5 Consider bus shelter/seat and levelling of ground at Windermere Road bus stop

Land at Windermere road is not considered to be a safe or suitable site for a play area. Grant obtained from Grange and Cartmel Local Area Partnership to level and landscape and improve as general amenity land.

GE9 Litter

GE9.1 Consider employing lengthsman to pick litter, and to consider the benefits of lobbying for additional pavements, where walkers will pick up litter (Link to TS2.1)

Annual Parish Litter pick April 2012

Joint project with SLDC Streetcare and Lindale Primary School to design campaign poster which have now been displayed throughout the parish.

TS2 Gaps in footpath/ bridleway/ cycleway network

TS2.2 PC to liaise with Grange Town Council and Sustrans to link Grange and Lindale.

Successful completion of extension to footpath from Lyndene Drive to Alnat Business Park, currently lobbying for extension creating link to off road footpaths via woods and safe walking route from Lindale to Grange-over-Sands

Also responded to CCC Consultation regarding Bridleway.

TS 2.4 More regular maintenance of vegetation encroaching on footpaths, bridleways and minor roads.

Grant obtained from Grange and Cartmel Local area Partnership has been used for hedge laying at Skateboard car park and funds earmarked for some enhancements to grass triangle at Royal Oak. Parish Council has also invested in programme of clearing trees and overgrown areas to improve visual amenity.

TS2.5 Promote a Wilkinson Way

As agreed in previous years the focus of this action would be the renovation, repair and repainting project of the monument. The Parish Council were delighted to secure the required funding and complete this project during 2011/12.

TS3 Enforcing Speed limits and TS4 Improving safety of A590 Ellerhow and Lindale junctions.

Parish Council lobbied and had speed limit monitoring on exit from A590 towards Windermere Road which was an area of concern but data revealed to be satisfactory.

Parish Council continue to lobby CCC for signs on A590 advertising the TRO ban regarding HGV's on Windermere Road, also for the extension of the TRO to include Lindale Hill through the village and improvements to the grass triangle at Royal Oak junction which has been subjected to massive erosion.

SH4 Facilities and Activities for Young People

SH4.2 Investigate providing a play area at Lingarth

The land at Windermere Road is not suitable for safe play area due to close proximity to main road.

Successful completion of Phase 1 by Lindale Village Playground Fund Community Project in respect of Recreation Ground Play area upgrade/refurbishment and good progress towards Phase 2 target.

3) Future Plans for 2012.

1) Land adjacent to Lingarth, Windermere Road.

The terms of the lease for the land with CCC were finally completed in December 2010 and the Parish Council have now taken control of the land. Funding secured from Local Area Partnership and Parish Council budget, work to be started May 2012 to level and improve the area.

2) Recreation Ground upgrade/redevelopment – Community Project Lindale Village Playground Fund

While the Fund is now two thirds of the way towards the ultimate target of full refurbishment, the final stretch is likely to be the hardest of all. Fundraising continues over the next year, and we would be very grateful for all offers of support and any ideas residents might have for sources of income we might explore.

To get involved in the Fund, or for any further information about it, contact Tom Holman on 015395 35978 or tomholman87@hotmail.com.

3) Public Toilets – Lindale Recreation Ground

The Parish Council have agreed to take on running the toilets with support from Lakeland Audi, South Lakes Services and Lindale Sports Club and some local residents who have volunteered their services. SLDC have carried out repairs, cleaned and re-painted them, but “at the time of writing” issues involving the actual ownership are being resolved and the Parish Council will then be in a position to formalise the lease with SLDC.

4) Parish Councillor Vacancies

As a result of the May 2012 Election there are 2 vacancies for the Lindale Ward.

The vacancies have been publicised on the Parish notice board, the parish newsletter and parish website. It is hoped that these vacancies will be filled by co-option as soon as possible and the Parish Council is back to full strength.

Conclusions

Moving forward following the AGM in May 2012 the Parish Council will be directed by its Strategic Plan (Appendix 1) and priorities from the Community Plan, (it is hoped that we will review and update the plan in the coming year,) 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 retiring Cllr Jane Hall who has been our Chair for the last 2 years. Cllr Hall has stood down as she will be moving away in the near future. She has been an excellent Chair, very committed and hardworking and leaves the Parish a wonderful legacy of the renovated Wilkinson Monument, a 3 year long project which she Chaired and sourced the funding to enable us to complete the restoration. We also are sorry to loose Cllr Keith Robinson who is also moving away. He has been a Councillor for the last year, but quickly established himself in the role and was a made a good contribution to the Parish Council during his term with us.

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their commitment during the last year. We thank them both for their commitment and contribution to the Parish Council.

I would also like to thank Debbie Cowperthwaite, the Parish Clerk for her work in supporting the Parish Council.

Vice Chair –Cllr Roger Armstrong

May 2012

5) Summary of Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31 March 2012

ALLITHWAITE UPPER PARISH COUNCIL

Summary of Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31 March 2012

2010/11	INCOME	2011/12
15512.00	Precept	16582.00
4735.00	Grants	11151.00
32.09	Interest	34.52
333.44	VAT Refunds	6145.66
500	Donations	5203.98
272.60	other	108.39
21385.13	Total Income	39225.55
	EXPENDITURE	
2539.91	General Administration	2434.96
5423.61	Salary/exp	5894.88
1050.00	S 137 Expenditure	1000.00
0.00	Capital Spending	5307.6
0.00	Loan Interest	0
0.00	Loan Repayments	0
5841.57	Running Costs	7088.82
1026.93	Other expenditure	27985.5
15882.02	Total Expenditure	49711.76

CUMULATIVE BALANCE

Cash in hand bfw at	01/04/2011	17029.98
add Receipts for period 01/04/11-31/03/12		39225.55
		56255.53
less Payments for period 01/04/11 - 31/03/12		49711.76
Balance cfwd		
31/03/12		6543.77

The above draft accounts represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31 March 2012 and reflect its income and expenditure during the year.

Budget Actual Expenditure Analysis 2011/12

Budget Heading	Original Budget 2011/12	Revised Budget 2011/12	Actual Expenditure	Variance
Clerks Salary	5650.00	5569.00	5568.12	0.88
Clerks Expenses	400.00	400.00	326.76	73.24
Petty Cash	150.00	150.00	100.00	50.00
Stationary	250.00	250.00	244.15	5.85
General Repairs/replacements	750.00	819.00	817.36	1.64
CALC fees	200.00	192.00	192.00	0.00
Parish Mag	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
Wreaths/Poppies	60.00	60.00	60.00	0.00
SLDC Inspec fees	280.00	291.66	291.66	0.00
Parish Greens	3800.00	3969.00	3969.00	0.00
Grass cutting rec ground	600.00	530.00	529.30	0.70
Parish Insurance Policy	920.00	914.50	914.42	0.08
Hall Hire	120.00	80.00	57.75	22.25
Lease HNOG	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00
Bank Chgs	30.00	19.94	18.28	1.66

Audit	150.00	165.00	165.00	0.00
Amey Lights maintenance	250.00	113.00	112.35	0.65
Web site hosting	150.00	90.00	90.00	0.00
Monthly ISP costs	120.00	120.00	120.00	0.00
Web site maintenance	180.00	180.00	170.00	10.00
Bus shelter/window cleaning	172.00	172.00	162.00	10.00
CALC training courses	100.00	96.90	24.00	72.90
Youth	400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Contingency	500.00	1050.00	1028.85	21.15
Toilets	400.00	400.00	404.91	-4.91
Wilkinson	800.00	800.00	800.00	0.00
Total	16582.00	16582.00	16315.91	266.09 surplus

6) The Councillors 2011/12

Jane Hall - Chair (Retired wef May 2012)

Has been Chair of the Wilkinson Monument renovation project committee and taken lead in securing grants for the project which is due for completion in May 2011.

Also is involved in sourcing and securing grants for the Lindale Village Playground Fund project.

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

Vice Chair Roger Armstrong

Has represented the Parish Council at meetings of Grange and Cartmel Community Board (Now Grange and Cartmel Local Area Partnership) (LAP) and has also has contributed to the Wilkinson Monument Sub-committee and Wilkinson Monument Restoration project.

Jill Tattersall

Cllr Tattersall has also has contributed to the Wilkinson Monument Sub-committee.

Also 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.

Parish Council representative Cartmel Old Grammar School Foundation Trust

Also represents parish council as Chair of Lindale Legends Youth Group and Lindale Village Playground Fund group.

Mike Squires – Lindale Ward

New member with effect from February 2011.

Keith Robinson- Lindale Ward

New member with effect from March 2011 **(Retired- May 2012)**

Ian Dixon – Parish Councillor Newton Ward

Neil Marsden – Newton Ward

Has represented Parish Council as treasurer for Lindale Village Playground Fund and as new Chair of Newton Village Hall wef April 2011 and CCC Broadband Project as PC Broadband Champion representative.

Parish Council Committees

Planning-, Cllr Marsden, 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

Parish Council Roles filled by external representatives

Tree Warden – Mr D Lindley.

Internal Auditor – Mr Paul Cheeseborough

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.