

Allithwaite Upper Parish Council

Annual Report 2007/2008



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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.
- Skittergate.
- 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

During the course of the last year we welcomed a new councillor in Lindale Ward Roger Armstrong. Our District Councillor Robin Brown and County Councillor Bill Wearing attend the majority of our meetings which we welcome and we thank them for their input and support.

Three councillors and the Clerk took part in the CALC Roadshow which led to the production of an Action Plan for the Parish Council under the headings of Team Work (spreading the work load evenly amongst all Councillors), Communication (between the Parish Council and residents of the Parish) and Organised and Business Like (Review & update Standing Orders).

Four councillors and the Clerk attended training on the new Code of Conduct for Councillors following the adoption of the new code of Conduct in September 2007. The Parish Council has during the year also revised its Standing Orders and Financial Regulations which were adopted in February 2008.

Planning applications were up this year – the Parish Council commented on 27 compared to 24 in 2006/07. In September 2007 the Parish Council acknowledged and supported the need for affordable local housing within the Parish. However, the need for affordable housing can only be met by identification of suitable sites within the Parish and be subject to subsequent approval of planning consent by LDNPA and then by the commitment of a commercial developer.

The Grange and Cartmel Peninsula Community Board was established in June 2007. The Board is one of five set up by the County Council with local partners to pilot ways of working locally and to encourage people to become more involved in local communities. Unfortunately the Parish Council has not been able to take a very active part in this pilot and have raised concerns with regards to the timings of the meetings to ensure that in the future we will be represented.

The Parish Council is still negotiating with Cumbria County Council regarding the terms of the lease for the piece of land at Windermere Road.

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 2007/08 was £11,950 and this has contributed towards the upkeep of the Parish Areas. In addition the Council has replaced the legs on one set of swings and the climbing frame, the rope ladder on the climbing frame. The railings at Yew Tree Green were renovated and repainted. In conjunction with Bateman BMW the grass verge on the approach towards Castlehead was trimmed for the first time in a number of years.

April 2008 saw the opening of the Newton by Pass throughout the period of construction the contractors have worked with the Parish Council to monitor the levels of suspended sediment within Lindale Beck.

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 Angela Shepherd for putting up with my last minute submissions and to Cllr Mrs Matthews for ensuring Parish Council information was included in the Newton Newsletter. In addition the Parish Council now has an outline website which will go live in June 2008.

In May 2006 the Parish Council took the decision to develop a Community Plan. An initial public meeting of 40 people was held in September 2006. Expressions of interest in joining a Steering Group were called for, and a group of about ten people was formed in a first meeting at Castle Head Field Centre. Since then the Steering Group has met approximately on a monthly basis.

An initial short open-ended questionnaire was circulated in late 2006 to individual households by volunteers. The response rate was disappointing at just under 20%, but comments made were extremely helpful. The responses showed that most residents liked living in the parish. Many suggestions were made for future improvements.

The Village Visions Event was held in Lindale Village Hall in June 2007, attended by over 170 people. The event revealed great interest and some strong feelings. A similar but smaller event was held at the Newton Fete in July 2007 when 70 people attended.

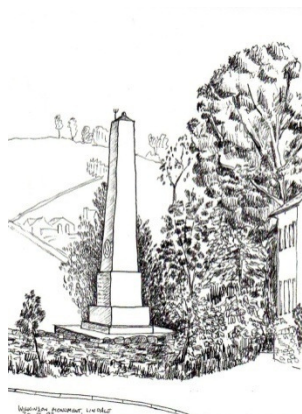
A second survey was designed asking people to tick to show their support or disagreement for 33 priority statements, derived from the previous survey, meetings and events, and to indicate their top 10 priority issues. In addition a final open-ended question allowed residents to raise any other issues. Printed on bright orange paper, one survey form per household was delivered in November 2007 via newsletters and personal delivery to outlying farms. A team of about 20 volunteers collected responses, resulting in a 73% response rate.

When reviewing the priorities survey findings the Steering Group became concerned that local business voices had not been heard. A structured sample of the business community was drawn up to represent a range of business sizes, from the largest employers, through small businesses employing two or three people, to self-employed people. Individual face-to-face interviews were conducted, using a set of prompt questions.

The writing up of the Plan began in 2008, and initial proposals for Action Plans were reported to the PC in February 2008. 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 give up a

considerable amount of time in the interests of the parish for which we are extremely grateful.

Wilkinson Monument Project

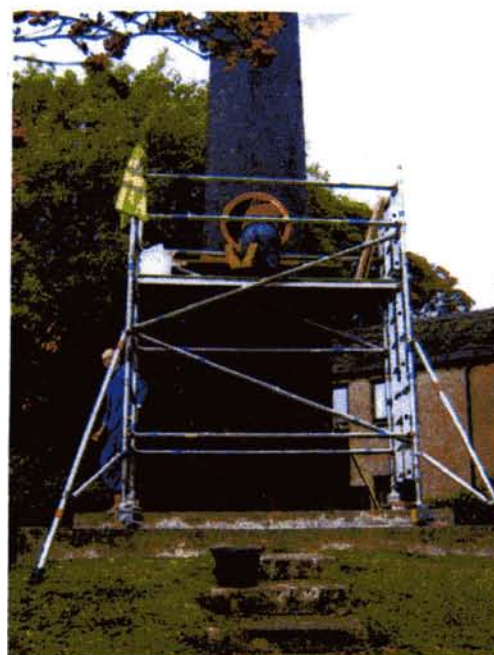


2008 marks the 200th anniversary of the death of John Wilkinson. His monument in Lindale, and the area in which it stands, is checked by the Parish Council on a weekly basis, and the grounds maintained as part of our responsibility for public spaces. When it was suggested that the monument looked scruffy and in need of repainting, we discovered that there had been virtually no maintenance since the major restoration which was carried out in 1984, and that no professional checks had been made as to its safety. We quickly realised that no external work could be carried out

without such checks.

The Council commissioned a local firm of Consulting Engineers to carry this out. It involved removing the plaque, which has a raised impression of Wilkinson's head on it. The space revealed was big enough for the engineer to crawl inside the monument itself, and, with the aid of some ingenious ladders and planks, to take a good look at what has been hidden for over 20 years. When we got the report it included some fascinating photographs. Happily it does not indicate any serious defects, but it does advise some remedial and maintenance work to the interior of the monument as part of any refurbishment programme. There is some rusting and pitting and we were surprised to learn that the monument is not actually fastened down, but rests on its own weight. We all agree that it would be unwise to proceed with external works without attention to the interior and indeed it is likely that Health and Safety could be compromised were we to ignore its recommendations.

The engineer has provided an estimate for the likely cost of such work at current prices if we put it out to tender. It looks as if we will need to raise sums in excess of £21,000, which is considerably more than we had originally bargained for and it will not be possible to start on the restoration work until this has been raised.



The good news is that Cumbria County Council's Neighbourhood Forum has already made a grant available specifically for the cost of an interpretation panel. The project fund has been boosted by generous donations from the Hadwins Audi and Bateman BMW showrooms. We have also received a kind donation from the Cumbria Industrial History Society and the promise of a substantial sum from the Taylor Newton Hibbert Trust, specifically towards the restoration costs, for which we are very grateful.

4) Future Plans

The Parish Council is to hold a Litter Pick in Lindale 8 June 08 and in High & Low Newton at a later date following the completion of the de-trunking of the old A590.

Through adoption of a Youth Engagement Strategy to establish contact with young people in the Parish and engage them in a project to raise funds for activities that they would be interested in accessing within the Parish.

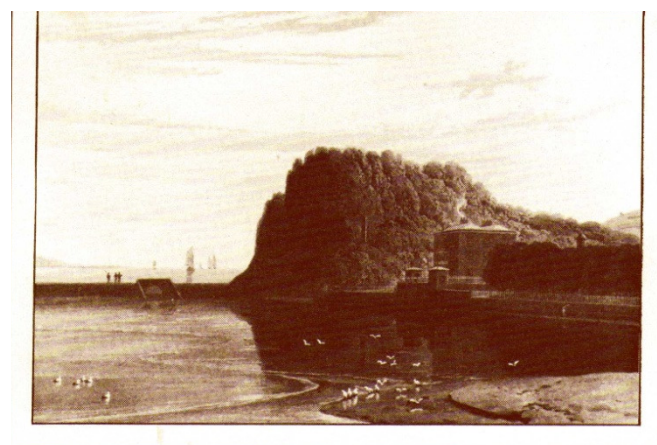
We will take note of the issues raised in the Community Plan to enhance the Parish and seek to take action on those areas for which we have direct responsibility provided that appropriate resources can be secured. The Parish council will provide an annual update on the Community Plan Action Plans annually at the Annual Parish Meeting

When finally the Windermere Road site is signed over to the Parish Council, the Parish Council will consult as to how this site can be landscaped to enhance its appearance.

The Parish Council recognises that we need to engage more with the residents of the parish. Some of the strategies that will be considered include:

- Following the Website launch in June the Parish Council will carry out a review of its structure and upgrade the site by September 2008, with the aim to use this as one of the vehicles to improve communication with the residents of the parish.
- Working with the youth of the parish to produce and distribute a bespoke Parish Council Newsletter quarterly to encourage engagement of all within the parish.
- Continue to contribute on a monthly basis to the St Paul's Church Newsletter and the Newton Newsletter.

The bi-centennial celebrations will be on the weekend of July 19/20 and will include a ceremony at the monument when Lord Cavendish will unveil the new interpretation panel and an open afternoon at Castle Head. This will include the opportunity to



Castle Head, Westmorland c. 1816

sample some activities and tour parts of the house and garden with Frank Dawson (former Centre Director and well known Wilkinson expert.) Refreshments will be available and entry will be free. Children from Lindale school will be holding their own celebration before term ends and will contribute some of their work to an exhibition which will include memories of Lindale's past. On the Saturday evening there

is to be a reception and a lecture by Dr. Barrie Trinder – *John Wilkinson – a key figure in the Industrial Revolution*. A variety of walks will be on offer in the village vicinity and beyond on the Sunday, when St. Paul's Church will also be open for coffee.

Further details will be published shortly and tickets for the lecture and a raffle will also be on sale. All proceeds will go towards the Wilkinson Project Fund.

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, for her hard work, commitment and dedication to the Council and to the Parish and to the invaluable assistance and support given to me as Chair.

5) Summary of Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31 March 2008

2006/07	INCOME	2007/08
11940.00	Precept	11950.00
2000.00	Grants	700.00
306.30	Interest	265.54
449.63	VAT Refunds	1019.71
907.95	Donations	850.00
8.08	other	82.93
15611.96	Total Income	14868.18
	EXPENDITURE	
1362.11	General Administration	1645.57
3089.65	Salary/exp	3182.92
0.00	S 137 Expenditure	0.00
0.00	Capital Spending	829.93
0.00	Loan Interest	0.00
0.00	Loan Repayments	0.00
5697.68	Running Costs	6079.94
5274.18	Other expenditure	4955.68
15423.62	Total Expenditure	16694.04

CUMULATIVE BALANCE

Cash in hand bfwd at 01/04/07	12118.61
add Receipts for period 01/04/07-31/03/08	14868.18
Sub Total	26986.79
less Payments for period 01/04/07 - 31/03/08	16694.04
Balance cfwd 31/03/2008	10292.75

BANK RECONCILIATION

	2796.41	C/A
	2770.94	HICA
General C/A balance at 31/03/08	5567.35	
total unpresented chqs	1077.43	
General A/C Bal 31/03/08	4489.92	

SUMMARIES 2008 - CASH ON HAND 31/03/08

General Fund	4489.92
Recreation Ground - Furness Bld Soc	3996.11
Apprentices Fund - Barclays	658.86
John Wilkinson Monument Barclays	1147.86
Cash reserves at 31/03/07	10292.75

6) The Councillors

Roger Shearer – Chair:

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:-

Taylor Newton & Hibbert Charity

Lindale Village Hall Committee

Andie Matthews

Cllr Matthews represented the parish council on the Newton Village Hall Committee

Paul Bond

Cllr Bond represented the parish council on the Community Plan Steering Group

Mary Smith

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

Ian Dixon

Roger Armstrong

Parish Council Committees

Planning- Cllr Bond, Cllr Mrs Smith and Cllr Mrs Matthews

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

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

Parish Council Roles filed by external representatives

Tree Warden – Mr D Lindley.

Lindale Primary School Governing Board – Mr P Rhodes

Internal Auditor – Mr A Oliver

Clerk to the Council – Mrs Debbie Cowperthwaite