



Arnside Parish Council

Newsletter

WELCOME to the first issue of our Parish Council Newsletter. We intend to publish two issues each year in order to keep our community informed of the council's activities.

Editor Neil Punnett

Annual Parish Assembly

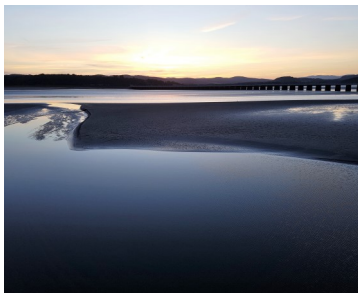
The 2022 Annual Parish Assembly is provisionally booked to take place on **7th April** in the WI Village Hall.

There will be local guest speakers and an opportunity to discuss issues affecting our village and parish.

The meeting will commence at 7 pm and will be chaired by the Chair of Arnside Parish Council.

Refreshments will be available from 6.45pm. All parishioners are invited to attend.

YOU'RE INVITED



The Village Car Park

A survey to assess car parking in the village has been undertaken by South Lakeland District Council in order to assess the need and to consider possible locations for a new car park where a need was proven.

A survey of Arnside residents was conducted and 618 responses received plus thirteen from local businesses.



Arnside Parish Council is the key stakeholder in making a decision on the location of the car park in Arnside and any associated parking restrictions. We will keep you updated.

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As can be seen from the highlighted numbers below the results of the survey felt that the majority of residents thought that:

There is:

- Generally, an insufficient amount of car parking in Arnside (59%),
- A sufficient amount of residents parking (62%),
- Insufficient parking for visitors (74.5%),
- Insufficient parking for event days (87%).

	Plentiful	Sufficient	Insufficient	Total Responses
Generally	28 (4.7%)	214 (26%)	354 (59%)	596
For residents	43 (7.3%)	323 (55%)	224 (38%)	590
For visitors	28 (4.8%)	123 (20.8%)	442 (74.5%)	593
For event days	10 (1.7%)	68 (11.6%)	506 (87%)	584

Parish Council Appoints New Clerk



Michelle Thear was appointed as the new Clerk, after Caroline Caudwell decided to leave due to other commitments. The council would like to thank Caroline for the excellent service she has provided during her time with APC and wish her well for the future.

Michelle lives in Arnside and is an active member of the community. She's a member of Arnside Sailing Club, supporting club house events and the annual RYA try-sailing days. She was a member of the Arnside Volunteer Group during lockdown three. Recently she has become involved in the Barnes Charitable Trust, providing volunteer horticultural support. Michelle also works at Levens Hall Gardens one day a week as a volunteer gardener.

Michelle qualified as a CIMA Accountant and has spent 30 years working in both the public and private sectors in finance and IT project based roles. In the last few years she has left the corporate finance world behind and returned to college to study horticulture, successfully completing the RHS Principles of Horticulture course.

Arnside Parish Council's Loo Role



Arnside Parish Council hits SLDC target of public toilets being fully self financing by April 2022.

Until now our public toilets have been funded from a mixture of toilet entry charges, precept budget and SLDC funding contract (grant) that came into effect in 2016 and is due to end in April 2022.

At the beginning of 2020, a project was initiated to modernise the existing toilet facilities. This was driven by the need for essential repairs and maintenance, problems with accessibility, escalating operating costs, loss of income through theft of entry money, cost of repairing damage caused by vandalism, and the need for the facility to become self-financing.

The project delivered an upgraded toilet block and facilities, new cashless entry system, significant cost savings on cleaning and maintenance through a comprehensive tendering process and the change to a fully managed service operated by Danfo Ltd.

Our public toilets are now one of a small number

of facilities in Cumbria that from April will be fully funded by income from the proceeds of toilet usage. This means we are no longer reliant on any support from SLDC and our precept budget, freeing up money to be invested in other priority areas within the village. Danfo in partnership with Arnside Parish Council has recently received a "Loo of the Year award."



We continually review and improve the toilet facilities and are always pleased to receive feedback from the public for input to our continuous improvement plans.

<https://www.arnsideparishcouncil.co.uk>

What Has the Parish Council Ever Done For Us?

Recent Achievements – in the Past Year

- Repairs to the garage and field gate post at the Memorial Playing Field.
- Motorhome no overnight parking signs have been placed on the Promenade.
- Awarded a grant to the organisers of the Arnside Art Exhibition and to the Arnside Wildflower Verges Project (see page 4).
- Rebuilt the damaged Station Garden Walls
- Worked with Network Rail and the Environment Agency to ask them to clear the blockages causing flooding of Black Dyke after heavy rainfall.
- Fitted handrails on the foreshore.
- Paid for the removal of fallen trees and repairing other damage due to the winter storms on Parish Council land including Beachwood and the Cemetery.



Ongoing

- Managing the Cemetery.
- Maintaining the pier and its railings.
- Maintaining other green areas and flower beds around the village and the Memorial Playing

Field playground and equipment.

- Responsibility for the War Memorial: the garden is maintained by volunteer Lisa Richardson - the Council is very grateful for her work.
- Owning and maintaining a number of public benches in Arnside.
- Acting as a consultee on planning applications.
- Training for Councillors and Clerk.

Current and Planned Projects

- Working with South Lakeland District Council to identify sites for a village car park.
- Formalising a Village Emergency Plan.
- Appointing a maintenance person for care, maintenance and repair of parish assets and minor works around the parish.

Arnside Parish Council is pleased to have received a Bittern Award 2020 from the AONB for its support of the Arnside Volunteer Group. Councillor Mike Mann also received an award in recognition of his personal work and support.

The Council has pledged to help Arnside be carbon neutral by 2030. Chairman Peter Smillie says "As a council we can see the events of climate change are very real and pose a threat to our society. We will do all we can to try and reduce emissions within the Parish for our residents and families". The council's strategic plan includes activities such as tree planting and investigation into renewable energy technology and grants that can help the parish.

Save the Dates

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Events Thursday 2nd—Sunday 5th June

There are plans to hold a Big Jubilee Lunch on Sunday 5th June on the Memorial Playing Field. The full details are yet to be announced but will include village games and a stage featuring local bands. So bring your street parties down to the field.

<https://www.arnsideparishcouncil.co.uk>

Arnside Wildflower Verges Project



In 2020, an Arnside resident proposed that some of our roadside verges be left uncut to provide an improved environment for wildlife. Thus the Council commissioned a review into rewilding, published in September 2020, which recommended that a pilot project should be set up. A working group met in June 2021 to decide a project plan which was approved by the Council. Arnside and Silverdale AONB have advised the group and Cumbria Wildlife Trust has also provided guidance.

Work already done locally, eg. at Morecambe Bay, helped identify roadside verges on Sandside Road and Black Dyke Road as suitable pilot sites. In autumn 2021, these were cut and the grass cuttings removed to reduce soil fertility to help slower-growing wild flowers to establish. They were then scarified to expose bare earth to improve seed germination and seeded with a mixture of locally-sourced wild flower seeds. Over 100 'plug-plants', grown locally from wild seed in pots, were planted at the same time. The work was done by AONB volunteers and the Council's contractor.

In November a mixed hedge was planted near to the recycling bins on Black Dyke Road. This was the idea of the resident mentioned above who also met the full cost of the work. The hedge is a mixture of native shrubs and is intended to hide the

bins, giving a more welcoming appearance to the entrance to the village, as well as providing an improved wildlife habitat.

The coming of spring this year has brought some improvements already - the daffodils on all three verges seem to be more numerous this year and the early spring flowers like Celandine are already coming through. We will cut the verges in spring to give the new seedlings every chance to thrive and again in the autumn to clear the sites for next winter.

Work on The Beachwood has been interrupted by the sad failure of the pine trees on the site during the autumn and winter storms. The fallen timber will be removed, the site restored and the trees replaced during the coming year; this is also an opportunity to improve the wild flower population on the site.

We are hoping to extend the re-flowering along the Sandside Road verge towards the parish boundary and plans are in place to liaise with Beetham Parish for collaboration in the future.

Councillor Steve Porter
Arnside Verges Working Group
<https://www.arnsideparishcouncil.co.uk>

Your Parish Councillors

The Parish Council consists of eight local residents working voluntarily in the interests of the parish.

Arnside Parish Council Clerk

Michelle Thear
Arnside Cemetery Chapel
Silverdale Road
Arnside
Cumbria
LA5 0DX
Tel: 01524 574584
Email:
clerk@arnsideparishcouncil.co.uk

Chair:	Peter Smillie	petersmillie@hotmail.com
Vice Chair	Keith Halford	webjkh@icloud.com
Councillors	Helen Chaffey	helenchaffey@icloud.com
	Clive Christensen	clive.christensen@btinternet.com
	Rebecca Kennington	rebeccakennington@btinternet.com
	Michael Mann	mike.s.mann@icloud.com
	Steve Porter	s.porter673@btinternet.com
	Neil Punnett	neilpcarnside@outlook.com

Meet Your Parish Councillors

Parish Council Meetings are normally held on the second Monday of the month in the Cemetery Office on Silverdale Road commencing at 7.15 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Please contact the Clerk in advance of the meeting if you wish to attend. <https://www.arnsideparishcouncil.co.uk/>