



# Arnside Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 7.15pm in the Cemetery Chapel

Present:

Councillors: Peter Smillie (PS) Chair; Helen Chaffey (HC); Rebecca Kennington (RK); Neil Punnett (NP); Pete McSweeney (PMcS)

Officers: Clerk Caroline Caudwell (CEC); RFO Lesley Smyth (LS); Brenda Brockbank (BB)

Councillors present Via Zoom: Clive Christensen (CC); Keith Halford (KH) Vice Chair; Steve Porter (SP); Mike Mann (MM)

1 member of the public was present face to face. 1 member of the public was present via zoom.

21-22/109	<b>Apologies for Absence: - RESOLVED</b> that there were no apologies.	
21-22/110	<b>Declaration of Interests: - RESOLVED</b> that the following declarations of interests be noted. None.	
21-22/111	<b>Minutes of previous Meeting: -RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 <sup>th</sup> November pages 19083-19085 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair. Approved.	
21-22/112	<b>New Councillors: - RESOLVED</b> that the appointment of two new Councillors: Neil Punnett and Rebecca Kennington be approved. Approved.	
21-22/113	<p><b>Public Participation – County Councillor and District Councillor report: - RESOLVED that:</b> Councillor McSweeney updated the meeting as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will not be necessary for Arnside Parish Council to contribute to the work that needs doing to clear the blockages causing flooding of Black Dyke after heavy rainfall. The Environment Agency (EA) and Network Rail have agreed action that will be taken to try and solve the problem. Although full resolution cannot be guaranteed this is a very positive step forward.</li> <li>• Cllr McSweeney attended a County Council course clarifying the legal responsibilities for public rights of way. County Council are only responsible for the surface of a public right of way. Landowners are responsible for hedges, fences, and overgrown vegetation. County Council provide parish councils with stiles or gates that need replacement, but it is the responsibility of the parish council or landowner to carry out the replacement work. The map of public rights of way on the County Council website is more or less, but not 100% accurate. There is an anomaly in Arnside Church Hill where the map implies that there is a public right of way through a private garden when the right of way is in fact down Pier Lane. It is necessary for County Council to go through a legal process to identify responsibilities. This is underway. Chairman Peter Smillie asked who is responsible for verges. County Council are responsible for one metre path width only, landowners are responsible for the rest.</li> <li>• An issue has been identified with the traffic calming bay on Redhills Road opposite Uplands. It is causing a traffic obstruction and will be removed.</li> <li>• Bird Flu has been identified in Beetham Parish AONB. DEFRA has instructed that members of the public should not touch dead birds, but call the Police on 101 if they come across a dead bird.</li> </ul>	
21-22/114	<p><b>Public Participation – Matters raised by residents: RESOLVED that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A member of the public raised an issue regarding the impact of woodburning on air quality in the village. Council to discuss at the January 2022 meeting.</li> <li>• The Clerk read out an email to clarify the position regarding Council's ability to offer car parking for an orienteering group on 1 January 2022. It was agreed that the group be encouraged to park in the National Trust car park or along the roadside where permitted.</li> <li>• The Clerk confirmed that she would circulate two planning applications by email to Councillors for comment as a response is needed prior to the January meeting and they arrived too late to be included on the December agenda.</li> </ul>	

21-22/115	<b>Public Participation – Police Liaison: RESOLVED that:</b> nothing further to report.	
21-22/116	<b>Councillor Matters – Matters raised by Councillors not on the agenda: - RESOLVED that:</b> no matters were raised.	
21-22/117	<b>Financial Report RESOLVED that:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial summary to the end of November be approved. Approved.</li> <li>Payments be approved. Approved.</li> <li>Cash Balance of £73,837.06 noted.</li> <li>The RFO made Council aware that United Utilities bills had been low as no meter reading had taken place since May 2021. The bills are now seemingly quite high to redress the undercharging. The RFO is challenging the Chapel electricity bill as it is excessive.</li> </ul>	
21-22/118	<b>Cemetery Report – RESOLVED that:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the details of the Cemetery report be noted and approved. Approved.</li> <li>Two quotations were received for lifting of spoil within the quarry area and replacement of marker post in the Cemetery 1) £190 no VAT 2) £170 no VAT. Quotation 2) was accepted and approved.</li> </ul>	
21-22/119	<b>Applications for Development – RESOLVED that:</b> planning applications be considered for approval. Approved. Planning decisions were noted.	
21-22/120	<b>Cemetery Fees – RESOLVED that:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benchmarking was recently performed to compare Arnside Parish Council's fees with those of SLDC, where applicable the Council's 2022 fees have been brought into line with those of SLDC's. The remainder of the fees to be increased by 4% in line with inflation be approved.</li> <li>The new fees be uploaded onto the Council website in early January 2022. Approved.</li> </ul>	
21-22/121	<b>Wild Verges Working Group – RESOLVED that:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a verbal report be received confirming that the Beech hedge by the recycling area has been planted.</li> <li>Council particularly thank Dougie Watson of AONB and his volunteer group and Paul Barnes, who initiated the project, for their massive contribution to the success of this project. The Council also thanked Cllr Porter for his successful lead on the project.</li> <li>SLDC has offered 'free' hawthorn plants and this offer will be taken up next year.</li> </ul>	
21-22/122	<b>NCP Car Parking – RESOLVED that:</b> it was recommended that any further investigation will be put on hold until the results of the SLDC car parking consultation have been received. Approved.	
21-22/123	<b>Storm Arwen – RESOLVED that:</b> Council was updated on quotations received for tree works in Beechwood and the Cemetery. It was agreed that Council would continue to seek best value for money in getting necessary works done. The RFO confirmed that it would be possible to factor some of the substantial costs of any work to be done into the precept bid due 21 January 2022. Approved.	
21-22/124	<b>Clerk Recruitment – RESOLVED that:</b> the Chair gave an update on progress with Clerk recruitment and requested that Councillors approve in advance any decision made to offer to a suitable candidate following interviews which would be in advance of the next Council meeting. Approved.	
21-22/125	<b>Clerk Handover – RESOLVED that:</b> approval be given to additional hours for both the current and a new Clerk so that the current Clerk could complete a satisfactory handover to the new Clerk prior to leaving at end January 2022. Approved.	
21-22/126	<b>Zoom Contract – RESOLVED that:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>as the current zoom contract is in the Clerk's personal name, it be cancelled. Approved</li> <li>a decision taken as to whether or not a new ZOOM contract should be entered into. It was agreed that Microsoft teams be tested out in the first instance rather than a new ZOOM contract put in place. Approved</li> </ul>	<b>Clerk</b>

21-22/127	<b>General Maintenance Works: RESOLVED that:</b> 1) three quotations have been requested for the replacement of the garage doors on the rental garage on the memorial field, but not yet received. 2) a site meeting has taken place regarding the fitting of handrails on the foreshore, but no quotation yet received. Both items to move to the January meeting. Approved.	
21-22/128	<b>Date of the next meeting - RESOLVED</b> that the date of the next scheduled meeting of Arnside Parish Council be confirmed as 7.15pm on Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 in the Cemetery Chapel. Items and Finance Items for the agenda should reach the Clerk and RFO respectively by Friday 31st December 2021.	
21-22/129	<b>Meeting closed at 2102</b>	

Chair:

Date: