

Arnside Parish Assembly 17th April 2023

Minutes: of the Annual Parish Assembly for the Civil Parish of Arnside held in the WI Hall Orchard Rd, Arnside at 7pm on Monday 17th April 2023.

Present: Chair - Cllr Mike Mann, Arnside Parish Council Clerk – Pete McSweeney, Cemetery Custodian – Josh McLeod, 40 members of the public including Parish Councillors, Clive Christensen, Keith Halford, Steve Porter, Rebecca Kennington, Neil Punnett, Parish/W&FC Councillor Helen Chaffey, W&FC Councillor Rupert Audland, Dr Andy Knox from Ash Trees Surgery and guest speaker, Angela Jones the Director of Thriving Place at Westmorland & Furness Council.

- 1. Welcome and Introduction:** The Chair thanked all for attending. Thanks and presentation of gifts were made to retiring chairman of the council Peter Smillie, and former clerk Carly Taylor.
- 2. Apologies for absence:** None
- 3. Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the WI Hall, Orchard Road, Arnside on Thursday 7th April 2022 were circulated, approved and signed by the Chair.
- 4. Annual Report of the Parish Council:** Cllr Mike Mann, Chairman of Arnside Parish Council, opened the meeting, explained who the council officers and members are, gave a summary of council activity and achievements over the last year including the following:
 - a) Parish council elections 2023.
 - b) A brief explanation of the new Unitary Authority structure.
 - c) Details of community engagement projects
 - d) A brief explanation of the housing needs survey that has recently been completed.
 - e) An update on interments in the cemetery and the digitisation of the cemetery records,
 - f) An update on the Memorial Field playground project and fundraising.
 - g) An update on the council's allotments.
 - h) An update on APC's public toilets, the maintenance contract, the contactless entry system and the current funding arrangements.
 - i) Details of the wildflower verges project
 - j) Tree management on APC owned land
 - k) Car parking – first discussed by APC in 1936
 - l) Condition of the highways and footways in the parish
 - m) Key Priorities for 2023/2024
 - Community Engagement – continuous improvement
 - Westmorland & Furness Council – review of responsibilities
 - Road improvement
 - Playground project
 - Housing needs project
 - Car parking project
 - Cemetery chapel development plan

- Wildflower verges project
- Councillor & office staff training & development

5. Statement on the Parish Council Accounts: The Chair presented a provisional statement by the RFO on the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023. The highlights are that APC's finances are in a very healthy state and that has allowed APC to announce that there will be no increase in the parish precept for 2023/24.

6. Report from the Westmorland & Furness Council Director for Thriving Places – Angela Jones: Angela gave an extensive report on the new Westmorland & Furness Council that went live on 1st April 2023. The new council will deliver all the services that were previously delivered in this parish by Cumbria County Council and South Lakeland District Council. Angela answered a number of questions from residents mainly with regard to potholes and other highways related matters.

7. Report of the Interim Results of the Housing Needs Survey Councillor Neil Punnett gave an overview of the interim report from ACTION Cumbria regarding the recent Housing Needs Survey that was conducted in the village. There had been an impressive 45% of households responding to the survey. ACTION - The draft report to be published on the APC web site.

8. Matters raised by the public: The chairman opened the meeting for contributions from members of the public.

Dr Andy Knox from Ash Trees Surgery addressed the meeting to refute some of the stories about the Ash Trees partnership that are currently being discussed on social media. Dr Knox emphasised the point that Ash Trees are committed to providing a GP service at the Arnside surgery and that there are no plans whatsoever to close the surgery.

Points raised by members of the public included:-

- A phone number should be displayed at the Bring Site by the railway crossing so that residents could report when the bins needed emptying. Angela Jones has discussed this with staff at W&FC and a number will soon be displayed.
- Pot holes
- Lack of EV charging points in Arnside.
- An update was asked for about the need for repair to Leighton Beck bridge on Black Dyke Road after the railway crossing. ACTION Angela Jones to find out what the forecast date is for repair
- The possibility of a ghost footpath on Black Dyke Road between the junction with Briery Bank and the start of the footway near to the railway crossing. ACTION – W&FC councillors Helen Chaffey & Rupert Audland to make this request to W&FC Highways.
- Should Arnside be renamed Arnside in Westmorland? ACTION – add to next APC meeting

9. Close. There being no further matters or questions the meeting closed at 8:45 pm

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