

Arnside Parish Assembly 9th May 2019

Minutes: of the Annual Parish Assembly for the Civil Parish of Arnside held in the WI Hall Orchard Rd, Arnside at 7pm on Thursday 19th April 2018.

Present: Chair, Cllr Peter Smillie, Arnside Parish Council Clerk, Anne- Marie Cade, 40 members of the public including Parish Councillors, Sandra Harris, David Brockbank and Clive Christensen, Parish/District Councillor H.Chaffey, C. District Councillor Rupert Audland, County/District Councillor P. McSweeney and guest speakers from several local organisations.

- 1. Welcome and Introduction:** The Chair thanked all for attending and introduced the speakers.
- 2. Public Forum on Arnside Fire Station Rapid Response Vehicle Pilot** – Following introductions by Councillor Pete McSweeney, there was a video presentation demonstrating the capabilities of the piloted rapid response vehicle after which Steve Healy , Cumbria Chief Fire Officer, and Janet Willis, Cumbria County Council Cabinet Member gave details of the 6 month pilot in Arnside. The vehicle needs a smaller crew and is able to reach areas a full size engine cant, carries less equipment and requires back up from larger engines in some circumstances. They explained that motivation was to better utilise funds and crew availability and that the fire engine would be kept at Arnside until the review at the end of the pilot. Following the presentations a number of comments and questions from the public were taken concerning limitations of the vehicle, support for bay rescue, availability and pay for crew, support from and for other locations. The Chairman thanked the guest speakers who left before the continuation of the main meeting
- 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 19th April 2018 were circulated, approved and signed by the Chair.
- 4. Annual Report of the Parish Council:** Cllr Peter Smillie, Chairman of Arnside Parish Council expressed on behalf of the community deep regret for the sad loss of former Chairman George Taylor and thanks for all the contributions he had made to the village of Arnside during five years of service as councillor and Chairman, also for the loss of county and district Councillor Ian Stewart. He continued to thank current and previous Parish Councillors for their work before presenting a summary of council activity and achievements over the last year including the following **a)** a Public Space Protection Order for the playing field banning dogs and for the cemetery for dogs to be kept on leads, due to be approved by SLDC in July **b)** Silent Soldiers purchased and put in the village during commemoration of 100 years since WW1 **c)** Council tax increase set at a level higher than inflation for the year to contribute towards the funding of replacing pier railings which have recently failed. Additional funding will be found from Council reserves and from LIPs funding from SLDC, **d)** Promenade public toilets have had drainage improvements carried united utilities, have been suffering from regular thefts and vandalism resulting in extra costs, loss of income and some closures. The Council have reported incidents to the police and are seeking to improve security, **e)** a memorial bench in memory of George Taylor has been donated to the village funded by a collection at his funeral and to be placed at the War Memorial. The Councils thanks go to his widow Sue, **f)** the contract for maintenance to verges, cemetery grounds and playing field has been extended for a further two years following satisfactory service in accordance with the tender arrangements, **g)** finally thanks from the Council go to staff and officers including the volunteers that maintain the promenade garden and station garden and Brenda Brockbank who carries out

many additional hours work in addition to those required by her post of cemetery officer. Comments were taken from the public concerning problems caused by camper vans on the promenade, toilet doors being held open to allow free entry, possibility of a one-way system

5. **Statement on the Parish Council Accounts:** The Clerk to the Council presented a provisional statement by the RFO on the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2019. The Council's end of year balance standing at £55, 107. Full accounts will be published on the web site and available for public viewing in June.
6. **County and District Report from Councillor Pete McSweeney:** Councillor McSweeney began by outlining respective responsibilities, County – fire service, schools, roads, District – planning, bins, housing benefit before reporting on the following matters; the AONB development plan has now been adopted, thanks to contributors, a Traffic Regulation Order has being requested by the Parish Council and is being discussed with County Council officers; SLDC has committed funding for the development of a car park and is seeking an appropriate site as the foreshore parking area cannot be used due to flooding risk; outflow water on Black Dyke Rd has been reported as a potential winter danger and discussions are taking place with the landowner; road safety improvements are being planned and a public consultation day will take place later in the year. Comments and questions from the public covered the following matters; concerns for pedestrian safety at the corner of Black Dyke Rd, what is being done to develop affordable housing on the three sites identified in the development plan, high rents at properties bequeathed to provide affordable housing and being run by charitable trusts, pot holes which have recently been filled improving disabled access to the railway station.
7. **Policing Report:** A brief report was provided by PCSO Mark Leigh detailing the number of incidents and the types of crimes reported in Arnside over the last year. Detailed figures available on the police web site.
8. **Speakers from local organisations:** - brief reports were given by representatives of local organisations as follows;
 - **Arnside W.I** – Pat Pierce, reported on the W.I. which raised the funds for the village Hall on Orchard Rd which is managed by the group and known as the W.I. Hall. They are currently seeking new members and people to help run the hall. The Arnside Branch is celebrating its centenary this year with a number of events and intends to erect a new bench to commemorate the occasion.
 - **Arnside Wellbeing Group** – Helen Chaffey outlined the community group purpose to bring together the public and organisations, including voluntary and health professionals for the physical, spiritual and mental benefit of people of all ages. A successful Wellbeing day held last September was attended by 169 people and 30 organisations. The next day is planned for next September and hopes to expand involve all Arnside Groups.
 - **Dignity in Dementia** – Diane Smillie publicised a comedy play highlighting dementia taking place in dementia week at 3 different venues

Members of the Firework group and Youth project Group were invited to speak but did not attend

9. **Matters raised by the public:**

- Fireworks arranged by the fireworks group were very good

10. **Close.** There being no further matters or questions the meeting closed at 9:50 pm