

# **Allithwaite Upper Parish Council**

## **Annual Report 2010/2011**

<b>Contents</b>	
<b>1. The Parish Council – An Overview</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>2. Parish Council Responsibilities</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>3. Chair’s Statement</b>	<b>Page 3-5</b>
<b>4. Future Plans</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>5. Summary of Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31 March 2011</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>6. The Councillors</b>	<b>Page 7- 8</b>
<b>Appendix 1 – Strategic Plan</b>	<b>Page 9-10</b>

## 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.

## **1) Parish Council Responsibilities**

The Parish Council is responsible for the following areas within the Parish:

### **Lindale**

- The Recreation Ground including the Skateboard area and the bridge over the stream.
- The two bus shelters.
- Wilkinson Monument.
- Coronation Tree Area.
- Yew Tree Green.
- The War Memorial.
- 13 benches around the village.
- Waterfall area railings.
- Cattle trough.
- Windermere Road wef 2011
- Currently negotiating to lease toilets in Recreation ground

### **High & Low Newton**

- Ornamental Gardens.
- Bus shelter.
- Benches in ornamental gardens and 2 others in village.

## **2) Chair's Statement by Councillor Jane Hall**

The start of the year saw us launch an appeal for support to form a Community Group to fund raise and coordinate the refurbishment of the play area in the recreation ground. The Parish Council were delighted with the response and the Lindale Village Playground Fund was formed on 6/7/10. The group have been very committed and worked extremely hard and the completion of Phase 1 is scheduled for July 2011, with additional work planned in forthcoming 2 years.

During the year the parish council held full council meetings every month excluding August and December. In addition during the year councillors attended a number of meetings as representatives of the parish council, such as Taylor Newton and Hibbert Trust, Lindale Village Hall Committee, Cartmel Old Grammar School Foundation and Lindale Legends Youth Group Management Committee and Lindale Village Playground Fund. Members also attended a number of other meetings as part of their Parish Councillor role, such as Cartmel and Grange Local Area Partnership, CCC Neighbourhood Forums.

We welcomed 3 new Parish Councillors during 2010/11, Cllr Neil Marsden, representing Newton Ward and Cllrs Mike Squire and Cllr Keith Robinson representing Lindale Ward. The council will be up to strength for the first time in a number of years and we are very grateful to them for coming forward.

During the last year District Councillors Clive Leal and Rosie Ballantyne-Smith both resigned for domestic reasons and we extend our thanks to them both for their work on behalf of High and Low Newton and Lindale. We welcomed their replacements, Councillors Ted Walsh and John Holmes, both of whom have attended a number of Parish Council meetings.

Throughout the year the Parish Council have responded to a number of consultations and surveys from CCC, SLDC, LDNPA, considered 15 planning applications compared to 14 in 2009/10, 12 in 2008/09 and 27 in 2007/08.

As the Parish Council does not have any sources of income, finance is raised through the precept process which is charged as part of your local SLDC Council Tax. The Parish precept for 2010/12 was £15512; this has contributed towards the upkeep of the Parish Areas and other running costs. The parish council has been able to operate within this annual budget. For 2011/12 members of the Parish Council agreed an annual budget of £16582. This is paid via your council tax bill and although it represents a rise of 6.9% it actually equates to a total increase of approximately £4.85 per Band D household for the year.

### **Why the increase?**

The PC is being asked to take on a lot of extra responsibilities and this means extra costs. We have made savings where it seemed reasonable but the cost of unavoidable commitments has increased. Councillors are unpaid volunteers, but we rely on the paid services of our Clerk for much of the clerical work which is involved; she looks after the finances, provides valuable guidance and advice, deals with correspondence and the

website, prepares papers for our meetings and keeps the minutes. We have had to increase her hours of employment and her salary has to reflect the scale and complexity of her work.

In November Councillors joined with pupils from Lindale School at the War Memorial for the annual service of remembrance in memory of those from the parish who have given their lives in conflicts since the Great War.

In March 2010 the Parish Council agreed the lease for the piece of land at Windermere Road, successfully concluding several years of negotiation with Cumbria County Council. The lease was finally completed in December 2010.

The Parish Council demonstrated its commitment to the local environment by organising and taking part in a litter pick in the parish in April 2011 and collected about 12 large bin bags of rubbish!

In order to comply with our statutory duty to ensure that the recreation ground is kept clean and safe, the Parish Council undertook a major environment project with the financial support of the Local Area Partnership. This enabled us to draw up plans for a Dog Control Order in respect of the Recreation Ground and Skate Park area in Lindale and to go through a period of consultation which resulted in some amendment to the initial plan. The Dog Control Order is now in effect and means that dog owners must remove their pet's faeces and must keep them on a lead in the recreation area. South Lakeland District Council officers will be responsible for enforcement and we have also worked closely with them to raise awareness of the problem of dog-fouling and general littering. A competition was organised with Lindale Primary School to design a campaign poster, and the winner will be printed and displayed around the village.

The Parish Council have also been working closely with the Probation Service Unpaid work team to improve the environment in the gardens at High Newton, improvements include through cut back of overgrown areas, stream cleaned, seats restored, new path edges. There is still some work to complete in the well area in early Summer 2011..

The Parish Council were delighted to meet their fundraising target and be able to commence work on the Wilkinson Monument restoration in March 2011 with a target completion date of May 2011. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us on the project. (Lakeland Audi, Bateman BMW, CCC Neighbourhood Forum who supported Phase 1 of the project to fund the History Board to commemorate the Bi-Centenary of John Wilkinson's death and the launch of the renovation project fundraising in 2008 and the Taylor Newton and Hibbert Trust, Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust, Worshipful Society of Ironmongers and English Heritage who have helped fund Phase 2, the renovations and repainting in 2011.

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 St Paul's Church for assisting us with communicating with local residents. In addition the Parish Council website [www.allithwaiteupperpc.net](http://www.allithwaiteupperpc.net) which went live in June 2008 was updated in 2009 and is updated regularly.

The Parish Council has also tried whenever possible to consider the priorities in the **Community Plan** adopted in 2008. Actions have been completed in respect of the following actions/ priorities during 2010/11.

#### **GE9 Litter**

**GE9.1** Consider employing lengthsman to pick litter, and to consider the benefits of lobbying for additional pavements, where walkers will pick up litter (Link to TS2.1)

***Annual Parish Litter pick April 2011***

***Joint project with SLDC Streetcare and Lindale Primary School to design campaign poster***

#### **GE10 Dog fouling**

**GE10.1** Local people to report instances to SLDC

***Implementation of Dog Control Order for Lindale Recreation Ground regarding***

***i) Failure to remove dog faeces***

***ii) Failure to keep dogs on lead in recreation ground***

#### **TS2 Gaps in footpath/ bridleway/ cycleway network**

**TS2.2** PC to liaise with Grange Town Council and Sustrans to link Grange and

***Successful lobbying for extension to footpath from Lyndene Drive to Alnat Business Park***

#### **SH4 Facilities and Activities for Young People**

**SH4.2** Investigate providing a play area at Lingarth

***The land at Windermere Road is not suitable for safe play area due to close proximity to main road.***

***Launch of Lindale Village Playground Fund Community Project in respect of Recreation Ground Play area upgrade/refurbishment and target completion date for Phase 1 July 2011.***

#### **SH6 Continuance of St Paul's Church Lindale**

**SH6.1** PCC to consider approaching PC & Village Hall Committee to host community events in church

***Parish Council approached to St Paul's Church to hold 2010 Annual Parish Meeting in Church, declined by church as not suitable for proposed purpose of meeting.***

#### **TS1 Support for bus and rail transport**

**TS1.2** Lobby for more/ different fare concessions on buses, especially for young people

***Parish Council has supported Local Area Partnership initiatives for free/subsidised travel for young people.***

#### **TS3 Enforcing Speed limits**

**TS3.1** Lobby Highways Agency to monitor traffic speeds on A590 post bypass

**TS3.2** Surveys of adherence of traffic to speed limits through the villages (See TS4.2)

***Parish Council has lobbied CCC through local County Councillor regarding highways issues, speed limits and access of HGV's to Lindale.***

The parish council were particularly delighted to successful negotiate support and funding from CCC to extend the footpath from Lyndene Drive to Alnat Business park, thus providing a safe walking route from Lindale to grange via the footpath system from Lindale exiting onto B5277 at Alnat and crossing to join the new footpath.

There are a number of priorities identified in the 4 action plans that would entail large scale projects which the Parish Council does not have the resources to undertake.

### **3) Future Plans**

With regard to ongoing and new parish projects:-

#### **1) Land adjacent to Lingarth, Windermere Road.**

The terms of the lease for the land with CCC were finally completed in December 2010 and the Parish Council have now taken control of the land. We have regrettably been unsuccessful in securing grant funding to landscape the area and are continuing to investigate other sources of funding. If we are unable to obtain grants it will be necessary to budget in November 2011 for inclusion in the 2012/13 precept.

#### **2) Recreation Ground upgrade/redevelopment – Community Project Lindale Village Playground Fund**

Following this excellent start to the fundraising efforts, the group is on course to install the first new pieces of equipment at the playground over the summer. This will brighten up the play area no end, and will give children some things to entertain them while we continue to raise money for more equipment.

However, there is a long way to go! The plan is to install equipment in three phases, and each will require more fundraising. So if you can help us in any way, we would be very pleased to hear from you. We are encouraging everyone in Lindale to enter the 100 Club, and would welcome any donations, offers of expertise and help in kind or ideas for raising money.

#### **3) Public Toilets – Lindale Recreation Ground**

The Parish Council have agreed in principle to take on running the toilets with support from Lakeland Audi, South Lakes Services and Lindale Sports Club. SLDC have carried out repairs, cleaned and re-painted them, but “at the time of writing” issues involving the actual ownership are still unresolved and this has so far prevented them being re-opened.

### **Conclusions**

Moving forward following the AGM in May 2011 the Parish Council will be directed by its Strategic Plan (Appendix 1) and priorities from the Community plan to develop and sustain a sense of community within the parish by addressing environmental, economic and social issues and delivering quality services to our Parishioners.

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their commitment during the last year.. We thank them both for their commitment and contribution to the Parish Council.

I would also like to thank Debbie Cowperthwaite, the Parish Clerk who gives so much energy and time to supporting the work of the Parish Council.

**Chair –Cllr Jane Hall**

**May 2011**

#### 4) Summary of Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31 March 2011

##### ALLITHWAITE UPPER PARISH COUNCIL

##### Summary of Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31 March 2011

<b>2009/10</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	
14480.00	Precept	15512.00
0.00	Grants	4735.00
93.37	Interest	32.09
699.46	VAT Refunds	333.44
0.00	Donations	500
30.93	other	272.60
<b>15303.76</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>21385.13</b>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
2106.96	General Administration	2539.91
5328.46	Salary/exp	5423.61
0.00	S 137 Expenditure	1050.00
382.21	Capital Spending	0.00
0.00	Loan Interest	0.00
0.00	Loan Repayments	0.00
4454.99	Running Costs	5841.57
1582.38	Other expenditure	1026.93
<b>13855.00</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>15882.02</b>

##### CUMULATIVE BALANCE

Cash in hand bfw at	01/04/2010	<b>11526.87</b>
add Receipts for period 01/04/10-31/03/11		21385.13
		32912.00
less Payments for period 01/04/10 - 31/03/11		15882.02
<b>Balance cfwd</b>		
<b>31/03/11</b>		<b>17029.98</b>

#### 5) *The Councillors*

##### **Jane Hall - Chair**

Has been Chair of the Wilkinson Monument renovation project committee and taken lead in securing grants for the project which is due for completion in May 2011. Also is involved in sourcing and securing grants for the Lindale Village Playground Fund project.

Has represented the Parish Council at meetings of Grange and Cartmel Community Board (Now Grange and Cartmel Local Area Partnership) (LAP) and CCC Neighbourhood Forum meetings

##### **Vice Chair Roger Armstrong**

Has represented the Parish Council at meetings of Grange and Cartmel Community Board (Now Grange and Cartmel Local Area Partnership) (LAP)

##### **Jill Tattersall**

Cllr Tattersall has also has contributed to the Wilkinson Monument Sub-committee. Also represented the parish council on the Taylor Newton & Hibbert Charity.

**Lyn McClure**

Cllr McClure represented the parish council on the Taylor Newton & Hibbert Charity and the Lindale Village Hall Committee.

**Paul Bond**

Has represented the Parish Council at various meetings, also has contributed to the Wilkinson Monument Sub-committee.

Parish Council representative Cartmel Old Grammar School Foundation Trust

Also represents parish council as Chair of Lindale Legends Youth Group and Lindale Village Playground Fund group.

**Ian Dixon – Parish Councillor Newton Ward****New members during 2010/11****Neil Marsden – Newton Ward**

New member with effect from November 2011

Has represented Parish Council as treasurer for Lindale Village Playground Fund and as new Chair of Newton Village Hall wef April 2011.

**Mike Squires – Lindale Ward**

New member with effect from February 2011.

**Keith Robinson- Lindale Ward**

New member with effect from March 2011

***Parish Council Committees***

**Planning-** Cllr Ms Hall, Cllr Mrs Tattersall, Cllr Mrs McClure, Cllr Bond and Cllr Dixon

**Finance:** Cllr Ms Hall, Cllr Mrs Tattersall, Cllr Mrs McClure, Cllr Bond, Cllr Armstrong and Cllr Dixon

**Wilkinson Monument Sub Committee:** (Chair) Cllr Ms Hall, Cllr Mrs Tattersall, Cllr Armstrong and Cllr Bond

***Parish Council Roles filled by external representatives***

**Tree Warden** – Mr D Lindley.

**Internal Auditor** – Mr Keith Whiteside, Clerk to Haverthwaite PC

**Clerk to the Council** – Mrs Debbie Cowperthwaite

## Appendix 1

### ALLITHWAITE UPPER PARISH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

April 2009

The Mission of Allithwaite Upper Parish Council is:

*'To develop and sustain a sense of community within the parish by addressing environmental, economic and social issues and delivering quality services to our Parishioners'.*

Our Strategic objectives are:

#### **1. To work for the improvement of the built environment:**

- By implementing the parish community plan to which all parishioners have had chance to make a contribution and which provides a vision for the development of the parish and identifies the options for environmental benefits and improvements.
- By the consideration of building proposals and registering our comments with the planning authority prior to their formal consideration;
- By maintaining our bus shelters and other street furniture in good order and pursuing an appropriate maintenance and renewal plan.
- By working with the appropriate authorities to minimise the detrimental effects of litter in the streets and public areas.
- By supporting the development of housing for local people.

#### **2. To work for the economic well being of the parish**

- To support the development of appropriate businesses within the parish

#### **3. To work with Statutory and Non – statutory Bodies seeking to improve the quality of life for parishioners:**

- By co-operating with neighbouring parishes on issues that affect us;
- By co-operating with County Council, National Park and District Council on issues that affect us
- By co-operating with Community Board and local Neighbourhood Forum on issues that affect us.
- By supporting and working with Youth Groups and Elderly Persons organisations as directed by the Council;
- By co-operating and working with the school to improve facilities for the young in the parish.

**4. To maintain and enhance the parks and open spaces in the parish to provide green and open spaces and to contribute to sustaining biodiversity within the parish:**

- By maintaining the open spaces and by working with the various authorities and agencies to enhance and improve the natural environment
- By maintaining and improving the children's play spaces including the replacement of play equipment on a rolling basis.

**5. To maintain and enhance the environment in the Parish:**

- By providing a vision for the development of all the village public open spaces.

**6. To nurture a safe and lawful environment:**

- By supporting the police in the prevention and detection of crime;
- By working with all residents wherever possible to engage them in creative activities to divert them from damaging the facilities and environment in the parish;
- By working to develop facilities and to provide spaces for young people to gather and socialise.
- By working to ensure our streetlights are maintained in a fully functional mode with repairs effected within agreed timescales;
- By working with the appropriate authorities to ensure the footpaths are in a good state of repair and the public rights of way kept reasonably free from undergrowth;
- By supporting people and local organisations in the introduction of traffic calming measures and other road safety initiatives in their immediate locality.

**7. To manage the affairs of the Council on an efficient and effective basis:**

- By ensuring all decisions are taken on a value for money basis;
- By being a good employer and treating employees as valued members of the team;
- By ensuring all legal obligations are observed and good practice followed in respect of the financial management of the Council;
- By developing and implementing policies and procedures that ensure good governance of the Council's affairs;
- By adopting and updating appropriate financial policies including the management of reserves.