

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF ASKAM AND IRELETH PARISH COUNCIL, HELD
TUESDAY 14 MAY 2024 IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, DUKE STREET, ASKAM**

Present: Parish Councillor Bill Wilson, Alan Mason, Mike Cumming, Rebecca Knagg, Susan Orrell, Elisabeth Donachie and Sandra Hadwick; Clerk Mrs Janice Cumming; Westmorland and Furness Councillor Daniel Edwards, PCSO Kirkham

ITEM 1: DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None

ITEM 2: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Harry Barker

ITEM 3: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR YEAR 2023/2024

This year the parish council said goodbye to Councillor Trevor Hughes, who stood down due to work commitments having played an active role in the parish council. We welcomed Elisabeth Donachie to the parish council and hope Elisabeth will get involved and enjoy her role as a parish councillor.

It has been the second year of Askam and Ireleth being part of Westmorland and Furness, which has had its ups and downs. One of the downs is that Westmorland and Furness will no longer be funding the Christmas tree and Lights for the village and the parish council will fund this in future years. There were also issues with organising the Service of Remembrance with the new council which was frustrating including having to produce a risk assessment for the public attending as we were deemed to be the organisers of the event. The parish council have again been supported by our Westmorland and Furness Councillors Daniel Edwards and Ben Shirley. Askam and Ireleth still have a dedicated street cleaner provided by Westmorland and Furness Council who comes once a fortnight and this does help keep the village tidy.

The parish council have been awarded a grant from BAE systems to fund a statue for the memorial garden. This statue is being manufactured by Furness Fluid Power and it is hoped to have the statue in place in the near future. Councillor Hughes mentioned earlier played a massive role in this project liaising with both BAE and Furness Fluid Power.

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This year the parish councillors, in particularly Councillor Bill Wilson spent a lot of time responding to the Roanhead Farm Development on behalf of the parish council with a meaningful response to the proposed development. In fact, we have submitted two responses, one in July 2023 to the original proposal and then a second in February of this year to the amended proposals. We have also prepared a statement in readiness for the planning committee.

The Service of Remembrance did go ahead, and as always it was well supported by the community, even though the weather was not kind. The parade was led by Kirkby British Legion and Askam Town Silver Band provided the music and band member Robert Tyson played the last post and reveille. Many local groups supported the event. Thanks to Duddon Inshore Rescue for providing first aid cover and the Scouts and Beavers for their help. Thanks also to the neighbourhood police team who supported the event.

This year saw the police pod being removed from the Community Field. Unfortunately, the pod was beyond economical repair and no longer being used by the neighbourhood police team. The pod has served the community well over the years.

The parish council continue to support youth groups in the village and donations were given to Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, Brownies and Rainbows and Askam Youth Action. The parish council have also supported the Friends of X112 Bus Service who run a bus service to Barrow on Fridays.

The parish council have continued to fund the landscaping maintenance contract in the village. Keeping areas within the village looking tidy. Thanks to Wayne Smith and his team at Aqua ProJet. Further work was carried out at Steel Street/Sharp Street Park area by South Lakes Tree Surgeons with trees being removed and new trees planted. The fencing in the park was repaired and parts of the missing privet hedge planted with saplings. More work will be done to the trees in the autumn.

ITEM 4: ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 16 MAY 2023

These were agreed as a true and accurate record and duly signed and dated.

Proposed Cllr Mike Cumming

Seconded Cllr Susan Orrell

Agreed

ITEM 5: ACCEPT AND ADOPT UPDATED MODEL STANDING ORDERS AND REVIEWED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS FOR 2024

These were previously circulated, and it was proposed and accepted that they be adopted for the coming year.

Proposed Cllr Bill Wilson

Seconded Cllr Rebecca Knagg

Agreed

ITEM 6: CONFIRMATION OF PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE

Zurich Insurance Policy was confirmed and accepted.

Proposed Cllr Alan Mason

Seconded Cllr Mike Cumming

Agreed

ITEM 7: APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN & ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Harry Barker was proposed and seconded.

Proposed Cllr Bill Wilson

Seconded Cllr Mike Cumming

Agreed

ITEM 8: APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN & ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Bill Wilson was proposed and seconded. Councillor Wilson made and signed his declaration of office and agreed to comply with the code of conduct.

Proposed Cllr Rebecca Knagg

Seconded Cllr Alan Mason

Agreed

ITEM 9: DECLARATIONS OF ALL PARISH COUNCILLORS

All the parish councillors then made and signed their declaration of acceptance and office and agreement to comply with the code of conduct.

ITEM 10: APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Planning

Councillor Alan Mason

Responsible Finance Officer

Clerk Mrs Janice Cumming

Proposed Cllr Bill Wilson

Seconded Cllr Sandra Hadwick

Agreed

ITEM 11: DATE AND TIME OF 2024 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

It was agreed that the date and time of the 2025 annual assembly would be on Tuesday 20 May 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre, Duke Street, Askam in Furness.

Signed Date