



# Arnside Parish Council

**WELCOME** to the ninth issue of our Parish Council Newsletter. We publish two issues each year in order to keep our community informed of the council's activities.

**Editor Neil Punnett**



## Newsletter

### Annual Village Meeting

Arnside's Annual Village Meeting will take place at 7pm on Thursday **14th May 2026** at the WI/Village Hall. Some of Arnside's leading clubs, societies and organisations will report on their year at the meeting.

Everyone is welcome to attend.



### The Affordable Homes for Arnside Project Progresses

Arnside Parish Council is working in partnership with South Lakes Housing Association (SLHA) on a development of eight affordable homes for local people that will be built to a high eco standard provide high energy efficiency. The site is a derelict former orchard covering  $\frac{2}{3}$ rds of an acre on Briery Bank.

Two of your Parish councillors, Helen Chaffey and Neil Punnett, have been invited to join the SLHA Design Board.

The tender for architects to design the site attracted a remarkable 21 applications. Following due process GWP Architects of Manchester and Leeds were selected. GWPA is a collective of architects, sustainability specialists, space planners, and interior designers established in 1980, with a proven track record across the UK. They design for sus-

tainability from concept to completion, delivering significant economic, social, and environmental benefits. Their in-house Passivhaus team has successfully completed multiple projects, implementing robust sustainable strategies across all scales.

Councillor Punnett met with the architects on site earlier this year. The Parish Council is confident that this energy efficient scheme will go some way to ensuring that our village remains a living, sustainable community large enough and mixed enough in age and socio-economic status to sustain vital services such as the school, surgery, dentist and post office.

In March the topological survey of the site was completed. Further surveys required include Tree survey, Ecology walkover report, Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment, Phase 1 Geoenvironmental Report, Utilities Statistics Survey /report including Ground Penetrating Radar survey, Transport Assessment, Flood Risk Assessment, Drainage Strategy Report, Acoustic Survey.

Phew!



GWP Architects Richard Townend and Catalina Tudor-Lond with South Lakes Housing's Josh Allington at the Briery Bank site earlier this year

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## Personnel Changes at the Parish Council

Mike Mann relinquished his position as Chair of the Parish Council at the start of this year. Mick Simpson was elected Chair in his place. Mike continues as a councillor.

The Council was sad to see Steve Porter and Jill Abel resign earlier this year. Steve was the driving force behind the highly successful wildflower verges project while Jill led on sustainability for the Council. We thank them for their invaluable contributions and wish them both the very best for the future.

Following a vacancy advertising process two Arnside residents have been co-opted on to the Parish Council.

**Vincent Stringer** has been in the construction industry for over 40 years. Vince has experience of project management, building regulations and health & safety which will be extremely useful for the Council.

**Levi Crispin** is an MSc Planning Student at the University of Manchester and will bring extensive knowledge of planning to the Council. He will also considerably lower the average age of the Council!

## Arnside Parish Council on Speed

Vehicles speeding through our village are one of our parishioners' greatest concerns. Providing a visual reminder to prompt drivers into correcting their speed is a proven method of speed reduction. LED speed signs are a great means of raising awareness of speeds and educating driver behaviour.



Arnside Parish Council is installing Speed Indicator Displays in the village. Councillors met with Traffic Management Team Leader at Cumbria Highways and two of her team to discuss this project and explore possible sites for the SIDs.

A complex regulatory process is required before the SIDs can be installed but it is hoped to have the first in place later this year.



From left to right: Neil Punnett (Vice Chair Arnside Parish Council), Mick Simpson (Chair APC), Liam Whiteley, Helen Karaaslan and Vas Nikolaous (Cumbria Highways).

## The Public Toilets

The costs of maintaining Arnside's public toilets are rising. The Parish Council has reluctantly taken the decision to increase the entry fee to 80p. The Council continues to explore opportunities to reduce operating costs through regular contract reviews and the adoption of new technologies such as our application to Westmorland & Furness Council for a grant to install solar panels. We will keep you informed of progress.

## New Fencing for Shady Bowers Footpath

Following the collapse of the old and rusty fencing on the cliff side of the Shady Bowers footpath leading down to Arnside Beach Hut Café the Parish Council has funded a new galvanised steel fence which should ensure that this popular footpath is once again safe to use.



## Reporting Potholes and Blocked Gulleys

Westmorland & Furness Council's telephone number for the public to report pot holes, blocked gulleys and other road maintenance issues is **0300 3032992**. You can report any such problems online at <https://tinyurl.com/nhmy7tuh>

## Arnside Emergency Resilience Plan

Arnside Parish Council is in the preparatory stages of working with our community in developing an Emergency Resilience Plan for our parish. The purpose is to ensure the community remains resilient if emergency services are not able to respond immediately.

The plan will provide residents with guidance around what to do in the event of an emergency such as an electricity blackout, fire, or extreme weather. This includes meeting and refuge points, contact details for the plan's co-ordinators, emergency services and voluntary organisations, and guidelines for how residents can manage the incident if emergency services cannot reach the village.

This is of course not a replacement for the emergency services, but it will focus on the vital role residents can play in being able to build resilience and protect the community's people and properties in the face of seri-

ous emergencies. It will involve the purchase of equipment including a generator and back-up batteries for off-grid charging and secure communication devices.

Although extreme weather conditions, such as flooding, gales and heavy snow, are the most common emergencies which we face, there are other emergencies that could occur such as gas leaks, fires, mass power failure, and major traffic incidents and more widely health pandemics, like Covid19. A plan helps people prepare for an emergency, organises neighbourly help during the incident, makes appropriate links to emergency services and local authorities, and assists with recovery after the event.

Discussions will involve local groups and interested parishioners as well as the emergency services and first responders.



Type of emergency	Potential impacts	Actions - Prepare	Actions - Response
<i>Example: Mains electricity power failure during cold weather conditions.</i>	<i>Residents with no access to power for a prolonged period of time. Most vulnerable are those with only electric power, heat, and cooking facilities. Also older residents, the sick and very young are most at risk in cold conditions.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information in local newsletter / social media to encourage preparing for winter.</li> <li>- Promote the free Priority Service Register (Electricity NW) for residents most at risk.</li> <li>- Identify existing local groups and networks which may be in contact with residents most at risk.</li> <li>- Identify volunteers and Place of Safety.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contact Electricity NW for update</li> <li>- Identify residents most at risk</li> <li>- Activate 'telephone tree' and use local social media to check on residents.</li> <li>- Open up Place of Safety (Village Hall) for hot refreshments and information point.</li> <li>- Coordinate hot refreshments delivery to housebound residents</li> </ul>

## Arnside Parish Council Advertisement Policy

Arnside Parish Council land includes the Pier, the Promenade railings, the Foreshore, Beachwood and the Memorial Playing Field.

The aim of the policy is to maintain the integrity of the Parish Council's property and manage the standard and number of advertisements displayed on such property.

### The Policy

Persons and organisations shall apply to the Council for permission to attach/erect advertisements (signs, banners, other material) on Council property such as the promenade railing and landscaped areas.

Permission may be granted for the following categories:

- One off or annual charity events taking place in Arnside.
- Cross Bay walks organised by charities.
- Events which promote community activities in Arnside.
- Events which the Parish Council deem suitable and which donate to either the Council or charitable organisations.
- Banners for events/clubs in neighbouring villages will only be approved if they do not compete/conflict with events/clubs in Arnside.

Advertisements must not be displayed for a period of more than two weeks.



Advertisements shall be of a suitable standard agreed with the Parish Council prior to display.

### Enforcement

Advertisements which are not approved by the Parish Council will initially be removed by the Council.

Persistent perpetrators will be subject to enforcement by the Westmorland & Furness Council Enforcement Officer responsible for such actions.

Email: [clerk@arnsideparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@arnsideparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Arnside Biodiversity Project

After the annual autumn cut and despite a warm and wet winter, growth of the undesirable grasses on the verges has been negligible. This indicates that the management regime is working—only 5 years in to the 10 year project. The County Council and Wildlife Trust have asked us to share our experiences with others who are just beginning their work on wildflower verges, so we must be doing something right!

Our main focus this year is the Gardening for Wildlife project. Grace Holland of the National Landscape team has been leading on this and we are planning a Wilder Open Gardens event in the village on September 12th. Everyone is encouraged to get involved.

The area in the Beachwood that the school children have been looking after is getting untidy but after their next visit early in the Summer term this will be given a “haircut” and the white chains removed as they are no longer needed. The children will be working on new signage for the plot.

## Wilder Open Gardens, Arnside 2026

We want to create an alternative Open Gardens event around Arnside village this summer. This will be a 1-day, self-guided trail of wilder gardens to inspire a sense of community amongst the nature-friendly gardeners in the area. We want to show how gardens are an important part of the wider landscape, connecting the mosaic of different habitats and providing food and shelter for wildlife throughout the year. The Village Hall will be a hub where visitors can collect a trail map. There will also be composting demonstrations, a plant sale, book swap, and lots of advice available.

**A wilder garden doesn't need to be a messy garden - but might be! We're looking for interesting not immaculate...**

- Big, tiny and anything in between.
- Wet, dry or bits of both.
- Long grass, short grass, a mini-meadow?
- Log piles, ponds, hedges and edges.
- Flowers, trees, shrubs, grasses, alpines, ferns, fruit, veg, natives, non-natives...

Please contact Grace if you'd be interested in opening your garden.



Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape

**September 12th**

**11am-4pm**

[grace@arnside-silverdale.org.uk](mailto:grace@arnside-silverdale.org.uk)



## Arnside Memorial Playing Field Car Park

The project to create additional informal car parking at the Memorial Playing Field is progressing. The plan is to create 10 additional car parking spaces to total 30 spaces. Hard core will be laid on the grassed area to create hard standing. The existing hardstanding will be widened with a wooden post and rail fence used to delineate the area.

At the moment vehicles park on the grass surrounding the existing hardstanding so the plan is intended to overcome this damage to the field.



## Your Parish Councillors

*The Parish Council consists of local residents working voluntarily in the interests of the parish.*

### Arnside Parish Council Clerk

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	Vincent Stringer	<a href="mailto:vincent.stringer@arnsideparishcouncil.gov.uk">vincent.stringer@arnsideparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>

## Meet Your Parish Councillors

Parish Council Meetings are normally held on the second Monday of the month in the Cemetery Office on Silverdale Road commencing at 7.15 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Please contact the Clerk in advance of the meeting if you wish to attend. <https://www.arnsideparishcouncil.co.uk/>