

# INSIDE

Oughterside and Allerby Parish Council

Your Parish Council Magazine

August 2020 Summer Issue

## *Parish Council is Zooming*

So many things changed on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020. A public meeting of more than 2 folk who were social distancing became illegal. This stopped parish council meetings across the country.

There are 9,000 parish and town councils in England, and their governing rules only allowed for a meeting in a public building. Over 16 million people live in communities served by these local councils, which is around 25% of the population, and about 80,000 councillors serve on these councils. The government were therefore very quick to put in place legislation that allowed us to move into the virtual world.

Your parish clerk looked at numerous virtual platforms and decided that it was appropriate to use the Zoom platform using their Pro Service subscription. As he is also the clerk for other parishes, it was a case of one-size-fits-all. The secure virtual world was joined at a monthly outlay of £2.88 per month to Oughterside & Allerby. This system was running by May, meaning only one meeting was missed due to Covid 19. A dummy run held before the first official meeting was entertaining, causing a few humorous

moments, as a combination of smart phones, tablets and laptops were employed by councillors looking for the best Wi-Fi hotspots in their homes. Come May 12<sup>th</sup>, it was all systems go. Since that first meeting all have mastered mute buttons, video on/off, having smart phones looking at councillor's faces (not the dog sitting by the fireplace...) *\*Article continued on page 2...\**



## **Council installs five new benches**

The parish council has worked to install five new benches around the village. They have already been receiving positive feedback from residents.

Prior to the lockdown, at the February meeting, an audience member asked about the possibility of residents paying for their own memorial or tribute benches for late family members. It was decided that this would only be practical if such benches were made from high quality, zero-maintenance, long life materials, so that in years to come the future responsibility for their upkeep didn't fall to the parish council.

**Oughterside & Allerby Councillor contacts**

LYNDSEY PRESTON-MILLER, Allerby resident  
07885584668

PAULINE LUKEMAN, Allerby resident  
07469712477

JOHN COWAN, Oughterside resident  
07504141613

ALAN MORRIS, Prospect resident  
07851867907

DENISE VOLKAERTS, Oughterside resident  
0773313135130

LORNA WISHER, Allerby resident  
07984608950

**Parish Clerk**

Mike Milner, 54 Wentworth Park, Stainburn,  
Workington. CA14 1XP. 01900 66040  
07709765005

Email: [ouughtersideparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ouughtersideparishclerk@gmail.com)

**Cumbria County Councillor**

Hugo Graham, Everleigh, 2 Home Farm Close,  
Dearham, Cumbria, CA15 7JB  
07795159837

Email: [hugo.graham@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:hugo.graham@cumbria.gov.uk)

**Allerdale District Councillors**

Anthony Markley, Verona, Blitterlees, Silloth,  
CA7 4JJ 016973 31998, 07720560596

Email: [anthony.markley@allerdale.gov.uk](mailto:anthony.markley@allerdale.gov.uk)

John Cook, 15 Caldew Street, Silloth, CA7 4BY,  
07747462604

Email: [john.cook@allerdale.gov.uk](mailto:john.cook@allerdale.gov.uk)

Owen Martin, 32 Fell View, Silloth, CA7 4DJ,  
07513500741

Email: [owen.martin@allerdale.gov.uk](mailto:owen.martin@allerdale.gov.uk)

**Feel free to phone your councillors, but all email and written correspondence to the council via the clerk please.**

**Facebook**

Oughterside and Allerby Parish Council

**Website**

[www.ouughtersideallerbypc.org.uk](http://www.ouughtersideallerbypc.org.uk)

**Inside Magazine Designer**

Kieron Sutton

**\*...continued from page 1\***

To the benefit of the community, all your parish councillors have embraced the modern technology. It has allowed council business to continue as normal... well, the current "new" normal. The end of year accounts were all approved, submitted to the external government auditors and signed off.

The council is still not sure when public meetings can be resumed – at time of writing, they are not yet recommended. It would require risk assessment, and the hoops to jump through for the hall committee – followed by any subsequent changes the council would have to implement – currently make this a non-starter.

**Attending a Virtual Parish Council Meeting**

There is nothing stopping members of the public from joining a meeting. Please email the parish clerk up to 4 hours prior to the meeting time you wish to join, and a Zoom invitation will be emailed to you. Ideally a laptop provides you with the full screen to view all, but a tablet or a good smart phone will get you to the meeting. You can actually come to the meeting by a phone link, the public are not excluded. Contact the clerk for further details if you have any questions.

**Parish Councillor Vacancies**

Oughterside and Allerby currently has six councillors, which is very positive for the local community.

However, your parish is entitled to nine councillors – there are currently three vacancies. A successful community needs input and commitment from its residents. If you would like to discuss joining the council, please contact the parish clerk.

**Inside Magazine News Submissions**

This magazine is the voice of your local community. If you would like submit your own local news articles for publication in a future issue or advertise an upcoming event, please contact the parish clerk.

## Replacement Defibrillator

Allerby Community Fund and the Parish Council have worked together to purchase a replacement defibrillator at the Grow West premises in Allerby. The existing defibrillator required replacement batteries – however, after researching many different battery suppliers, it transpired that the model required was no longer available. On the grounds of public safety, it was decided that a replacement machine would have to be purchased. The new defibrillator should be supplied and installed by early August.

## Prospect Lunch Club Postponed

The possibility of holding the first post-lockdown Lunch Club has been discussed by the volunteers who run the club. Ultimately, due to the ongoing safety concerns of these unique times, Lunch Club will continue to be postponed until further notice.

## Annual Parish Meeting Summary

*This report had been scheduled for the Spring issue, which was shelved due to the pandemic*

The March 10<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting included the Annual Parish review, in which the Parish Council and all local societies and associations were invited to report on their progress over the past year. Oughterside & Allerby Parish Council reported that, during 2019/2020, it had:

- Welcomed two new councillors, Denise Volkaerts and Lorna Wisher
- Continued to publish Inside Magazine, which reports the interests and voices of the local community, four times a year
- Worked to install new benches throughout the village, which have received excellent community feedback
- Continued the ongoing battle with potholes and leaks
- Allocated money for future playground developments

No local societies or associations delivered any reports.

## Poets' Corner

### Our Little Village

Written by John "Jobbie" Jones

We live in Prospect, it's a really nice place  
When you walk round it, you get a smile on your face  
There's lots of nice people, and animals too  
In fact there's that many we could have our own Zoo  
There's country walks, river, a pub and more  
All within a mile of your own front door

The people are friendly, they have smiles on their face  
Because they all live, in a really nice place  
We have no local Bobby, and very little crime  
We all help each other, when we have the time  
We have a beach, just ten minutes away  
Where adults can chill, and children can play  
When your day's done, you return to the place  
That makes you feel happy, and puts a smile on your face  
Stop for a chat, make new friends, wave when you're outside  
But most of all feel good, about the village where we reside

### The Miners Arms Shop

Written by John "Jobbie" Jones, during lockdown, as a special thank you to John, Diane & family

We have a shop just over the street  
Where you can buy food, drink and meat  
They also have beer, wine and sweets  
Plus lots of little tasty treats  
It's really a pub which at the moment is shut  
It has a nice little bar and a smokers hut  
The owners are nice, the daughters are sweet  
A nicer family you couldn't meet  
They go to the cash n carry in their little white van  
They've reached out to locals and helped where they can  
They sell you food and a little bit more  
They even deliver right outside your door  
You don't know what you've got until it's gone  
For us in the village this shop is the one  
I'm sure you'll agree, it's great what they've done for us  
At least saved us a trip to town on the bus

*Thank you to John "Jobbie" Jones for his poems*

*We would love to publish any community-related writing, from home-grown poetry to local history and nostalgic anecdote, so please email in your contributions!*

## Miners Arms Successful Reopening

The pub has successfully reopened following lockdown, and the new shop (pictured opposite) will continue to trade between 12pm-2pm and 6pm-8pm, Mondays to Saturdays (excluding Thursdays). It has wheelchair access and sells a vast range of stock, including milk, eggs, wine, beer, biscuits, toilet/kitchen roll, shampoo and more.

The current pub opening times are: Monday 7pm-10pm, Tuesday closed until further notice, Wednesday 7pm-11pm, Thursday closed, Friday 5pm-12am, Saturday 3pm-12am, and Sunday 2pm-10pm. Inside seating is limited to 30, so booking is essential. Thursday closures allow time for the deep cleaning process. Diane, John and Kristina say: "We would like to thank all those who have supported us and hopefully we will keep the shop going if it is supported. Many thanks."



## Visiting Local Services

Berry's Bakery of Silloth delivers to the Miners Arms on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Please place your order by 3pm the day before, either by phone (016973 20144) or by the Miners Arms Facebook page, and the pub will continue to deliver to vulnerable and elderly residents. Fox's Butchers of Wigton visit in their mobile van every Saturday between 4.45pm-5.30pm. Please place your Fox's order by Thursday on 016973 42201. At time of writing, a possible Mawbry Cheese Company delivery was being looked into. On fortnightly Fridays from July 17<sup>th</sup>, the Heavenly Fish and Chips van will be in the Miners Arms' beer garden from 5pm-7pm. A Post Office van will be opposite the pub on Thursdays between 9.15am-9.45am.



## Community Praises Miners Arms

Various members of the community have expressed their gratitude for the vital service the Miners Arms has provided during this distressing period. The grocery shop provided by the Miners Arms was an indispensable lifeline during the lockdown for those without access to private transport, and continues to remain so following lockdown, when anxieties about public transport still remain high. The Miners Arms also provided essential home deliveries for the more vulnerable members of the community which, during this crisis, helped to alleviate some of the worries that, at one point, seemed to be only escalating. Inside Magazine would like thank Diane and everyone at the Miners Arms for the crucial role they have played during these unprecedented times, and their positive contribution to the welfare of our community should not be understated or forgotten.



## Online Parish Council Meetings

Virtual Oughterside and Allerby Parish Council meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month using the Zoom online video conferencing platform. If you would like to participate in a future online meeting, please email the parish clerk. *The next Zoom meeting will be held on **September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.***