

Know your Parish Council

Chairman	Caroline Morris	Manor House,	Ravenstonedale
Vice Chairman	Hilary Law	The Bield	Ravenstonedale
Councillors	Ernest Leach	Street, Fell End	Ravenstonedale
	Paul Capstick	High Lane,	Newbiggin-on-Lune
	Alison Morriss	Bowber Head	Ravenstonedale
	James Richardson	Hill Top Farm Barn	Newbiggin-on-Lune
	Helen Shields	Tarn House	Ravenstonedale
Clerk to the Parish Council	Chris Elphick	Nether House,	Garsdale,
		Sedbergh Cumbria LA10 5NS	
		Phone 015396 20605	
		E-mail chriselphick@aol.com	

Meetings

Meetings are normally held on the second Thursday each month, except for August and December, starting at 7.30 pm in the meeting room over the former High Chapel.

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend any meeting.

Public Participation

A period is set aside for members of the public to address the council at its meetings on matters of local interest or concern. It helps if those wishing to speak would notify the Clerk prior to the meeting.

Meeting Dates 2011

January	13th	High Chapel Room	June	9th	High Chapel Room
February	10th	High Chapel Room	July	14th	High Chapel Room
March	10th	High Chapel Room	September	8th	High Chapel Room
April	14th	High Chapel Room	October	13th	High Chapel Room
May	12th	High Chapel Room	November	10th	High Chapel Room

CUMBRIA CONSTABULARY

The community policing team for your parish.

Community Police Officer

Police Community Support Officer

PC 448 Roly Earl

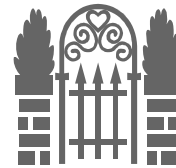
PCSO 5169 Janet Allinson

Email: Roly.earl@cumbria.police.uk Email: janet.allinson@cumbria.police.uk

CONTACT by TELEPHONE

Non Emergency Tel 0845 33 00 247

Emergency situations Ring 999



Ravenstonedale Parish Council

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2011

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Chairman's Notes

2010 has been an eventful year for Ravenstonedale Parish Council.

Major items include the acquisition of the former High Chapel building for community use, installation of new swings in the Scandal Beck Green recreation area as well as involvement with our MP, Rory Stewart, in the government's Big Society initiatives and working to get an acceptable level of Broadband facilities throughout the entire parish.

It is expected that a Community & Heritage Centre will enable better communication between the parish council and groups active in the community as well as providing a contact point to distribute and advertise public information.

For the coming year your parish council proposes to develop existing projects and continue to press for a pedestrian/cycleway between the two settlements of Ravenstonedale and Newbiggin-on-Lune

High Chapel

Acquisition for use as a
Community & Heritage Centre

In the Winter 2009 edition of this newsletter it was reported that, having received the offer from URC to sell the chapel "Councillors met with representatives of the URC on Thursday 19th November and detailed terms agreed". Ironically, I have just noticed that completion of the transaction was finally completed on 19th November 2010. One can't rush a good contract!! Before the building is fully opened for public use there are a number of items to be addressed. As an ecclesiastical building it was exempt from many of the regulations which affect other public buildings. In order to obtain a Premises Licence it will be necessary to install toilet facilities, disability access etc. Plans are being drawn and applications for grant funding for the project are in hand. One tree has been removed from the graveyard to improve the visual access to the building. There will be a considerable amount of work required to ensure the long term viability of this Grade II listed property but it is expected that substantial grant aid will be available to facilitate the project. In December 2010 the Government announced a new fund amounting to £75 million for Village Hall projects in "deprived areas". Initial enquiries

indicate that Ravenstonedale qualifies. The fund is aimed at projects of between £100,000 and £750,000. Already a structural survey has been carried out (paid for by Eden District & Cumbria County Councils). Architects have been engaged to draw up plans for proposed alterations and improvements, including the provision of toilet facilities and disability access to the first floor area. A grant of £1,500 has been obtained from Eden Local Strategic Partnership to assist with the architects' fees. Arrangements will be made for the public to view and comment on any proposals. The Parish Council is working closely with EDC's Conservation and Planning Officers to ensure acceptable design. Initially a water heater and hand washing sink have been installed in the upstairs meeting room to comply with regulations so that refreshments may be served. This facility has already been used by the newly formed Ravenstonedale Parish History Group.

Chapel Graveyard

It is proposed that, with the new use as a Community and Heritage Centre, the graveyard will be closed to further burials but that, by agreement with the parish council, burial of cremated remains may be permitted. Anyone having particular views on this proposal should con-

Damage to seat at Garshill

Just before Christmas a vehicle slid off the road at Garshill and demolished the memorial seat belonging to the Moore family. Any information regarding this incident would be appreciated. Contact Parish Clerk.

Broadband in Ravenstonedale

A survey of existing facilities is being carried out through ravenstonedale.org website. A map of upload and download speeds throughout the parish is being built up to help assess local needs. You are asked to assist in this survey by participating in the simple Broadband Speed Check on Ravenstonedale.org website and submitting the results

BETTER HIGHWAYS

From Cumbria County Council "The value roles that have been identified within Cumbria Highways are those that help it meet its purpose. These are:

Find, Diagnose, Fix and Prevent

In simple terms, those roles within Cumbria Highways that **FIND** defects, **DIAGNOSE** the true underlying cause of the defect, **FIX** the defect and **PREVENT** reoccurrence of the defect, are those which should be valued above anything" It will be interesting to watch results from this strategy.

The Parish Council is in communication with Cumbria Highways to

establish responsibility for repairs to the becksidewall opposite Scar Gallery. Nobody has been found who claims (or admits to) ownership of that area of land. It appears that the wall is collapsing partly due to subsidence of the highway. Negotiations continue.

Precept for 2011-2012

It was resolved that the precept to accommodate the council's plans for 2011 – 2012 be set at £16,000, which equates to approximately £35.08 per elector for the year, or just 67pence per week.

Vandalism

The public telephone box at Fell End has been severely vandalised. With the improvement of mobile phone reception in the area it is presumed that the facility must be uneconomic for BT to maintain. The Parish Council considers the box to be redundant and an eyesore in its present condition. It would be better for it to be removed.

Great North Air Ambulance

The parish council has made a donation of £100 to the Great North Air Ambulance (Pride of Cumbria) which is based at Penrith. This valuable service covers the local area and is entirely funded by voluntary contributions

RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH HISTORY GROUP

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I/We wish to subscribe to the Group and enclose remittance of

£.....

NAME(S).....

DATE.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

POSTCODE

TELEPHONE.....

E-MAIL

SPECIAL INTERESTS: Please indicate

PLACES FAMILIES / GENEALOGY EVENTS

ARCHAEOLOGY OTHER

The information you put on this form will be circulated to members but will not be disclosed to non-members without your express permission.

tact the parish clerk. Maintenance of memorials and grave spaces is the responsibility of the deceased's relatives, however, since many of the burials are historic, the area will be maintained by the parish council, which also makes an annual contribution to maintenance of St Oswald's churchyard. The PC has been quoted approximately £470 to make safe the existing memorials. Any donations towards this work will be gratefully received. A survey of the graveyard is currently being carried out by the history group.

Pews & Pulpit etc.

In order to maximise the use of space within the building the pews, pulpit and communion rails will be removed (subject to Listed Building consent). Suggestions for their disposal or offers to purchase should be addressed to the Parish Clerk.

Scandal Beck Green

New swings have now been installed and appear to have the approval of the children despite the current freezing weather. The dream became a reality with help of a £3,000 grant from Cumbria County Council, facilitated by our County Councillor Peter Thornton. A further grant application is being made to help fund the reinstatement of the collapsed beckside wall beside the tennis court.

Proposed R-dale – N-o-L Pedestrian/Cycleway

The parish council, with support from County Councillor Peter Thornton, continues to press for this facility.

Unfinished business

Ravenstonedale is a parish covering some twenty-five square miles, with two main settlements and fewer than five hundred electors. When the new A685 trunk road was built in the late 1970s the two settlements of Ravenstonedale and Newbiggin-on-Lune were left without any safe pedestrian or cycleway connection. In 1998, aiming at a Millennium project, the community persuaded Cumbria Highways to draw up a scheme for a combined footpath/cycleway, a distance of just six hundred metres, to reconnect the villages. At that time the project was costed at £40,000. Today the project has been re-priced by Capita on behalf of Cumbria Highways at £106,000. A local contractor, on Cumbria's approved list, has quoted just £80,000. We have been told that it is not possible to use our preferred contractor because Capita has a contract which excludes local competition. The Big Society could start here, making an immediate 25% saving.

To demonstrate its resolve this small community has been setting aside £1,000 per year from the precept for the past seven years as a local contribution. If the lower quotation

were accepted today the Parish Council would be able to contribute 10%.

The scheme was adopted by Cumbria's Eden Area Committee in May 2009 subject to availability of funding. It is to be hoped that the Big Society concept will help bring projects such as this, driven by the community through the parish council, to fruition.

A further feature of this 600m cycleway is that it is the "missing link" for a branch of the National Cycle Network. A picturesque ten mile route would thus be created from Pendragon Castle in Mallerstang to Orton, via Ravenstonedale, Newbiggin-on-Lune and Sunbiggin Tarn, joining two existing north-south cycle routes.

Ravenstonedale Parish History Group

Ravenstonedale Parish History Group has now been established, complete with a Managing Committee, Constitution and Bank Account and premises from which to operate. The Group has been gathering momentum since June/July 2010 and has received not only local but national and worldwide interest. The Group now has a membership list in excess of sixty. Informal meetings are held in the High Chapel room on Thursday afternoons from 2.00 to 4.00 where archive material is being collected and catalogued,

plus a monthly evening meeting with a guest speaker on the first Tuesday.

Progress has been hampered by a degree of uncertainty over the availability of premises to house the archive material and hold regular meetings. At the end of November, after four years of negotiation with the North West Synod of the United Reformed Church, Ravenstonedale Parish Council acquired the freehold of the former High Chapel which closed as a place of worship in May 2006. The High Chapel, a Grade II Listed Building, with its associated graveyard is itself a significant part of Ravenstonedale's heritage.

Membership of the Group is open to all. The Group's remit will be to research, collate and share the many facets of Ravenstonedale's history; its people, buildings, events, industry, etc. in order to build up a picture of its evolution. **Subscriptions for 2011 are now due.**

E-mail enquiries should be sent to history@ravenstonedale.org
Committee members are:
Chairman Caroline Morris,
Vice Chairman Val Fermer
Secretary Alex Watts-Tobin.
Treasurer/Membership Secretary -
Chris Elphick
Sue Capel, Diane Elphick,
Chris Harrison-Beck,
Ann Metcalfe-Gibson,
Chris Read, Bill Wappett,

RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH HISTORY GROUP

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Group exists to encourage interest in and the study of the history of Ravenstonedale Parish, its people, buildings, events, industry, etc. in order to build up a picture of its evolution.

The UK rates for membership for one year are as follows:

STUDENT (Under 25 years)	£ Free
SINGLE	£ 5.00
FAMILY (At one address)	£ 7.50
ORGANISATION	£10.00

Membership runs from the 1st January annually. You will receive periodic newsletters (preferably by e-mail). You will also be entitled to take a full part in all events and make use of the Group's archive.

Please complete the attached form and return with your remittance to

RPHG
Membership Secretary
Nether House
Garsdale
Sedbergh
Cumbria
LA10 5NS history@ravenstonedale.org