Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and the Ordinary meeting held on 25 May 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall Westnewton.

Present: G Bell, K Conway, N Hewetson, A Keighley, P Sanderson and J Love (Clerk) Also in attendance Councillor K Thurlow and seven members of the public. An apology was received from R Beaty. George Bell and Noel Hewetson signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and were welcomed on to the Parish Council.

Election of Chairman – K Conway volunteered to be Chairman for this meeting only.

Cheque Signatories- It was noted that new cheque signatories would be needed. J Love would contact R Beaty.

Ordinary Meeting - The minutes of the meeting of the 30th March 2023 were signed as a correct record.

Public Participation – The overhanging hedge near the Hayton Brow was mentioned. K. Conway would ask P Bewick to cut the hedge.

Coronation Mugs - It was noted that the remaining Coronation mugs would be distributed at the Pensioners Lunch.

Street Clean – It was noted that February 2023 was the last time a sweep clean of the village was undertaken. J Love had requested the Cumberland Council for another one.

Potholes – A Keighley circulated a report from the AA urging drivers to report crumbling roads as pothole breakdowns surge.

Dog poo bin – Yearngill – J Love had learned that the likelihood of Yearngill getting a dog poo bin was more likely if as many people as possible reported dog poo on the Allerdale app.

Village Green - A Keighley stated that parishioners should be aware that village greens such as ours are legally protected, and while it is absolutely fine for residents to keep them trimmed and tidy if they wish, care should be taken not to damage or cause injury to the Green as is outlined in DEFRA’s Management and Protection of Village Greens (available on the internet or via the Parish Council).

Planning Application – It was noted that grant of planning permission for removal of non-functional timber windows for new aluminum windows St Matthews C of E School, Westnewton.

Finance – Cheques made to Pensioners Committee, Village Hall Committee, St Matthews School and Pre School, Solway Plain Magazine and St Matthews Church each for £100. Cheque to J Love for £183.04 for purchase of Coronation Mugs. Cheque for £530.64 to NADT for Youth Club provision, Cheque to Cumbria Association of Local Councils for £135.87 for subscription and two cheques to M Sharpe for grounds maintenance each for £576.00. It was noted that the Parish Council had overspent by £8,000 this year due to two large donations for playground and kitchen equipment.

Councillor Thurlow stated that Cumberland Council were taking full responsibility for redoing finger posts.

Next Meeting – 27th July 2023 in the Village Hall