

## UNDERSKIDDAW PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE CHURCH at MILLBECK ON Tuesday 17 January 2012 at 2.00 pm

**PRESENT :** Mr J Wilson (in the Chair) Mrs J Boniface Mrs B Bulman Mr T Gibbs & Mrs K Hind  
Mr J Wood

In attendance : Clerk. Mr John Young, and Mr Nick Moor (local residents) Mr John Parr and  
another resident of Oakfield House) Mr Ben Murray (Cumbria Highways) Ms Julie Birkett (National  
Park Enforcement Officer)

**2012.01** Apologies for absence None required

**2012.02** Minutes The Minutes of the last meeting held on 22 November 2011 were  
approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

**2012.03** Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any interest in any Agenda items and Mr Jim Wilson  
declared a non-financial interest in Item **2012.06** (7/2011/2341) where he would be  
supervising the work, on an unpaid basis.

**2012.04** Opportunity for Public Participation Mr Young and the residents of Oakfield  
House were attending the meeting to give their views on the planning application  
relating to Little Dodd Garden Centre (7/2011/2340 and 7/2011/2341) **2012. 06** and  
they participated when the relevant item was under consideration. Mr Nick Moor came  
to report on his Housing Needs survey (**2012.10**)

**2012.05** Finance

(i) Bank Balances were reported as £3,093 in the Current Account and £1,316.58 in  
the Deposit account.

(ii) Cheques were authorized to be written and signed to A Wilson (grass and brush  
cutting) £23; Donation to Crosthwaite PCC for use for meeting (January) £7.50;  
payment for grit bin supplied by Excelsior Roto Moulding Ltd £138 (iii) The updated  
anticipated year end position was noted which indicated that the election Reserve had  
been reduced by co-option expenditure to £884, a reserve of £1,000 was still held to  
assist the Village Hall Committee in connection with the purchase of land; a balance of  
£1362 was in reserve for Grit Bins; and £270 represented moneys held for  
Neighbourhood Watch. A general reserve of £598 remained.

(iv) Reserve to assist Village Hall in purchase of adjoining land It had been agreed  
in 2009 to hold the sum of £1,000 in reserve to help the Village Hall to buy land  
adjoining the Hall from the National Trust with a review after 2 years if the money had  
not been called on. There had been no call for the money as the transaction had not yet  
proceeded but inquiries by the Chairman indicated that this was still a possibility and  
the Hall Committee would be grateful if the time limit was extended. It was  
RESOLVED to extend the period of holding the Reserve for a further two years.

(v) It was resolved to defer a decision on making a donation to Air Ambulance until  
the next financial year, as a donation had already been made during the current year.

(vi) A number of factors were considered to lead to a review of the Budget  
provisionally approved and the precept provisionally set at the last meeting. A letter  
had been received from Allerdale BC indicating the maximum amount of grass cutting  
grant had been capped at £67 for this parish. One grit bin had been purchased for £138  
and had been put in place. It appeared to be of adequate quality. It was decided  
therefore to buy 3 more bins at an additional cost of £414, and this would leave £948 in

the Grit Bin reserve. It was agreed to set aside £400 from this, for the purpose of contributing to the cost of a new Information Board, if other contributions could be secured, and the balance to be added to the general reserve. The grass cutting request had been agreed to be for £300, and the Precept had been provisionally agreed at £2,700; however in view of the capping of the grass grant, and the possibility that the Precept itself might be capped in the next financial year it was RESOLVED that the grass request should be reduced to £67, and the Precept set at £3,000 and the Clerk was instructed to advise Allerdale BC accordingly.

(vii) Further consideration was given to the request by a Parishioner that the Parish council should obtain a Public Works Loan to help to finance the Hydro-Electric Project, the total cost of which would be in the region of £75,000. The Clerk had been advised by CALC that the Parish Council was not currently eligible for such a loan, but that even if the Council were eligible it was unlikely the loan would be made as it would be disproportionate to the size of the electorate and the precept. The Council also felt that the security for such a loan would be dubious, given fluctuations in Government Policy on such ventures. The clerk was instructed to write to advise that whilst supportive in principle the Council found itself unable to help.

**2012.06**

**Lake District National Park Authority**

**Planning Applications**

**7/2011/2340 Little Dodd** Application to build a new dwelling on greenfield site adjacent to Garden Centre with access road through the garden centre. It was agreed to object to this proposal for the reason that there did not appear to be good reasons to use a greenfield site, that this appeared to contravene Park Policies, and that adequate provision for housing could be made within the garden centre site itself, as currently done.

**7/2011/2341 Little Dodd Garden Centre** Application to change existing dwelling into a café to serve the garden centre, and other amendments to existing planning approval. It was agreed to object to this on the grounds that the Café would assume too great a prominence in the scheme. Support should be expressed for the business, and for a rebuilding of the existing dwelling to make it more suitable for occupation.

**7/2011/2309 Underscar Manor** Landscaping scheme. Julie Birkett from NPA attended to answer questions. One crucial question could not be answered – whether the land was Parkland or farmland. If the permitted use was parkland then the Council would not be opposed to the development so long as precautions were taken with regard to the safety of the pond system in relation to flooding downhill, details of walling were acceptable, and permitted development rights were withdrawn. However if the current use was farmland the Council would feel the need to see a successful change of use application, which would give an opportunity for further appraisal.

**7/2011/2310 Underscar Manor** Listed building approval for internal alterations. Much damage had been done internally and to the windows in relation to listing requirements. There seemed little choice but to approve that the alterations should proceed under supervision of the NPA, and the Council would also support legal action proceeding in view of illegal acts committed.

**7/2011/2328 Church Room Applethwaite** part demolition of porch and vestry to create new entrance, vestry and disabled toilet, with septic tank. It was agreed to support this application.

**2012.07**

**Allerdale Borough Council** A consultation had been received about proposed Budget savings and it was agreed that these were reasonable.

2012.08

**Cumbria County Council**

Mr Ben Murray of Highways attended to explain the County Council's position on Brundholme Road. Previous correspondence had taken place. Mr Murray explained the geological situation and the costs already incurred, and those which would be incurred in making a significant repair, and the unlikelihood of any permanent solution. Of the two options – stopping up the highway or making an order prohibiting all traffic with some local exceptions – the council had expressed a preference for the latter, and this was what he would be recommending to the Allerdale District Highway Committee (a County Council Committee for the Allerdale area). The council sought clarification on access for landowners : they would have keys to the gates. The Traffic Order to be made would specify what vehicles the land owners could bring along in line with safety : pedestrians and cycles would not be forbidden. Liability for legal compensation would remain with the County Council. Members asked for the Committee to be pressed to carry out works to improve the alternative access, as already requested by the Parish Council - widening and draining the road leading to the ford on the Threlkeld side, widening the steep bend uphill from the ford, and a safety barrier. Mr Murray agreed to recommend these to the committee.

Cumbria Fire Control Office Correspondence was noted re a protest about closing the local control office, and reply from County Council.

Community Travel Plan Proposed comments on this were approved. Clerk instructed to question expenditure on widening track round part of Crosthwaite roundabout, and its rationale.

Budget consultation was noted.

Response to Consultation on search for Nuclear waste repository in Cumbria Each Member now had a full copy of the Consultation Document, and this would need to be studied in detail to understand the nature of the questions being asked. Preliminary views were that since the waste was already stored above ground it would at least be safer to have it underground. If the geology did prove unsuitable, then it was presumed the Repository would not be built. To have the facility in Cumbria would bring immense economic benefits to the area where it was located. It was noted that there is a Drop in question session in Keswick on 25 January, and a meeting arranged by local parish councils at Keswick School on Friday 3 February at 6.15 pm when Profesdsor Smythe will speak.

2012.09

**Cumbria Association of Local Councils**

Receipt of the December Newsletter was noted, and in particular information on the Localism Act.

2012.10

**Housing Needs Survey**

Nick Moor had carried out a survey of local Housing Needs in the Parish, by means of a Questionnaire delivered to 110 homes – all dwellings in the Parish excluding known second or holiday homes. 28 completed questionnaires were received – a 25% response. Two thirds of responders did not foresee their having a need for local housing in the next 5 years; none of them had any land to offer for building. Ten of the responders had a requirement for local housing in the next 5 years; none of this housing needed to be “affordable”, but 4 wanted houses for £200,000 or less. Five responders had a need for local housing and land available on which to build. One

responder wished to rent privately at an open market rent.  
It was agreed that the clerk would report these findings to the appropriate department at LDNPA.

**2012.12**      **Village Hall Committee** Councillor Boniface reported a successful New Year event. Meeting dates had been changed from Friday to Thursday so she could no longer attend personally. No Minutes had been received yet from the last meeting.

**2012.13**      **Clerk's up date on minor matters**  
Progress was being made in relation to Broadband in that a local co-ordinator had been appointed.  
In the absence of Derwent 7 (which was on hold for lack of funds) the Clerks had been meeting informally, and had arranged the MRWS meeting in Keswick with Porfessor Smythe. It was agreed to contribute £20 to the costs of this meeting.

**2012.14**      **Future Meetings**  
Normal Meetings would follow the agreed cycle, and the venue would be the Church, except in May and July when the Village Hall would be free. The venue for September was still uncertain and would be confirmed. The next meeting would therefore be on **Tuesday 20 March at 2.00 pm.**  
It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be on Friday evening 18 May in the Village Hall, provided this was available. Councillor Gibbs would check with Probus for a good speaker.

**Meeting closed at 5.10 pm**

**Matters raised by Councillors**

The gutter cleaning lorry had been round but had spread mud all over the roads. Water was collecting on the A591 on the Keswick side of the Low Grove entry. The ground round the post box in the lay-by at Thrushwood was very muddy. T Gibbs offered to carry out some refurbishment on the seat by the War Memorial to prevent decay.