

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL at MILLBECK ON
Tuesday 17 July 2012 at 2.00 pm**

PRESENT : Mr J Wilson (in the Chair) Mrs J Boniface, Mr T Gibbs, Mrs K Hind Mr J Wood
In attendance : Clerk. County Councillor Jim Lister

2012.11 **Apologies for absence** Mrs B Bulman

2012.42 **Minutes** The Minutes of the last meeting (being the AGM) held on 15 May 2012 were approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

2012.43 **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 **2012.47** (7/2012/2144 Church Room) where he would be supervising the work, on an unpaid basis, and Mr J Wood declared a non financial interest in Item **2012.47** (7/2012/2128 Calvert Trust) where he was an emeritus Trustee

2012.44 **Opportunity for Public Participation** The Chairman welcomed the new County Councillor for the area, Mr Jim Lister, who looked forward to getting to know and support the Parish Council.

2012.45 **Finance**

(i) **Bank Balances** were reported as £3,524.60 in the Current Account and £1,317.64 in the Deposit account.

(ii) Although holding money in the Deposit Account gave rise to only a trivial amount of interest (23p per quarter currently) it was agreed that there would be a benefit in keeping the Council's reserves in the Bank Account for easy identification. It was agreed therefore to transfer £2,300 into the Deposit Account giving rise to a total of approximately £3,600, which represented reserves of £1,000 for Election Expenses, £1,000 for purchase of land by the Village Hall Committee, £270 for Neighbourhood Watch, £400 as a contribution to the new Information Board at the Villahe Hall, and approximately £1,000 for grit bins.

(iii) The External Auditor had approved the Annual Return without qualification. He had raised two issues, neither of which required action. The first was that he had put in a note to clarify for anyone looking at the accounts the restatement of value of the assets in accordance with required practice. The second was a rounding error giving rise to a discrepancy of £1. The Council therefore resolved to approve and adopt the Annual Return, and to authorize the advertising of a Notice of Conclusion of Audit.

(iv) **Cheques** were authorized to be written and signed to A Wilson (grass and brush cutting) £120; J Boniface (Website expenses) £35.86; BDO (Audit Fee) £60; Thornthwaite cum Braithwaite PCC (printing costs) £7.88

(v) It was noted that the changes the government was making to payment of Council Tax Benefit might affect the Council Tax base in Allerdale (depending on how it was decided to administer it) and thereby the Precept.

(vi) Bill Bell was dealing with the obtaining of a new Information Board outside the Village Hall and had applied to the National Park for a grant. The Village Hall Committee would also contribute and the parish Council had agreed to pay £400.

2012.46 **Co-option of parish councillor**

As there was still a shortfall of one member it was agreed to advertise again for a new member, and if no-one was proposed for election then to advertise to co-opt a member.

2012.47 **Lake District National Park Authority**

Applications 7/2012/2144 **Church Room** Applethwaite

(porch/vestry/toilet/sewage) revised. It was agreed to support this.

7/2012/2150 Crosthwaite Depot New Units. No objection

7/2012/2128 Calvert Trust Little Crosthwaite Outdoor classroom and sensory garden. Support

Decisions **7/2012/2038 Little Dodd Garden Centre** : rebuild garden centre, change of use of house to café; access works. Approved subject to conditions : including approval of materials and works prior to installation, and specifying approval not to imply approval of associated application to build on adjoining land.

7/2010/2073 Sewage Works approval that a condition satisfied. Clerk to check plans and ask about landscaping on site.

Update Underscar Manor – concern that hedges and trees growing out of control and not being managed, and blocking road – Clerk to write to land agents.

Crosthwaite Meadow – Planners advise that action being taken.

2012.48

Allerdale BC Code of conduct

The Code of Conduct provided by Allerdale BC was amended by deleting the first two “Other Registrable Interests” and then adopted. The Councillors required further clarification before signing the Declarations of Interest.

2012.49

Cumbria County Council

(i) A letter had been received asking for opinions on review of Minerals & Waste Local Plan in order to up-date Policies relating to disposal of Nuclear Waste. The response should be to request the County Council to take note of the views of Parish Councils expressed through the consultation on MRWS.

(ii) In response to a letter with questions about Travel needs the response should be that :

the bus should be smaller and go along the terrace road, where the population lives and it should stop on demand.

bus drivers should be asked to slow down at bus shelters to give people time to get out when they were sheltering from rain.

there must be timetables – asking people to use mobile phones to find out times is no use when there is no signal, and many people do not have phones with them.

people need help with heavy luggage.

is there a student rate on the bus?

(iii) A boards and street café's : a letter of consultation – suggest that A boards should have to have lockable legs, to prevent them from collapsing and blowing about in high winds.

(iv) MRWS consultation process. All replies had been received and analysed. No statistics had been presented relating to the answers to the written questionnaire because these were considered to not be statistically significant, as the people answering were self-selected. The Mori telephone poll had found a majority in favour. The Partnership was writing its report to the Decision Making Bodies (Allerdale, Copeland and Cumbria CC) : from the first draft it would appear that this would be a summary of the findings, with no recommendations, and therefore the 3 Councils would make up their own minds. The tenor of discussion amongst the representatives of the decision making bodies on the Partnership suggested that the process was likely to continue. Mr Lister agreed to find out who would vote for this on the County Council – would it be all the councillors, or the Cabinet?

A request received (not from a resident) that the council should hold a referendum was not granted : the residents had made their views clear to the Parish Council, which had reflected them in its response. Also it would be expensive as it would have to be run by Allerdale, who would charge, but could not give an estimate of the

cost.

(v) Broadband A grant had been received to up-grade reception from the Keswick Exchange. One of the Companies whom the County council had asked to tender had dropped out of the bidding as it could not foresee making a profit.

2012.50

Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC)

(i) Report on Allerdale CALC meeting – the main item was a presentation from the National Grid on new installations needed to carry heavier load of current round Cumbria. This was a project to up-grade the transmission system between the main lines going North South on the East side of Cumbria, and the present line going down the West Coast. The West Coast line is connected to the main Eastern line, but the whole circuit is inadequate both to bring power in, and to take it away from generating plants, particularly if new power stations are built. There are no implications for Underskiddaw. They were considering various options in relation to routes, type of pylon, and underground transmission which is very costly, and difficult to manage.

(ii) Welfare Reform – see **2012.46 (v)**

(iii) Right to Build : a fund is being established to enable Parish Council to get Community Projects off the ground. Clerk to find out what the criteria are, and whether it will help with providing for example extensions to village halls, Church rooms, and for hydro electric projects.

2012.51

Flooding

The Parish had suffered flood damage in the recent heavy rain : along Applethwaite Ghyll where rocks and gravel had been washed into adjoining fields, and similarly at Burr Ghyll on its way down to Thrushwood; and also from the drain and beck opposite Lord's Seat. A meeting had taken place between Councillors and Mr Howard Lawton from the Environment Agency. It had been hoped to have Highways also to this meeting, but they could not come. Regarding the two Ghylls flooding Mr Lawton told Councillors that the farmers of the adjoining field were able to move the gravel themselves, to clear the fields, and could also use it to make tracks and hard standing on their own field. Transporting it along roads is not allowed. Both Applethwaite Ghyll and Burr Ghyll are "main rivers" and therefore the Environment Agency has powers to deal with them, & powers to stop other people doing works on them which are not approved. However the EA are not under any duty to exercise their powers – for them it is a matter of choice.

Mr Lawton looked at the situation opposite Lord's Seat, and agreed to let the Council have some recommendations about grids, but he made it clear that this was not a watercourse recognized by the EA as their concern.

2012.52

Reports from Members

Website. Some progress has been made in posting Minutes on the site, and others were waiting to go on.

Village Hall Social events were going well. Little else to report.

Next meeting : Tuesday 18 September 2012 at Church Room Applethwaite.