

**UNDERSKIDDAW PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL MILLBECK ON**

Tuesday 16 March 2014 at 2.45 pm

PRESENT : Mr J Wilson (in the Chair) Mrs J Boniface Mrs B Bulman Mr C Corder
Mr T Gibbs & Mr T Ryan
In attendance : Clerk. Councillor Marion Fitzgerald Allerdale BC. Dr Tom Donaldson

2014.13 **Apologies for absence** Mrs K Hind

2014.14 **Minutes** The Chairman was authorised to sign the Minutes of the last meeting, held on 21 January 2014.

2014.15 **Declarations of Interest**
Declarations of Interest The Chairman requested Members to declare any interest they had in any of the Agenda items. No such interest was declared..

2014.16 **Opportunity for Public Participation**
Some Highway issues were raised. Reported at Minute **2014.20**.

The subject of tree felling along the side of Millbeck was raised. The amount of felling was probably within the permitted annual limits. The Parish Council had no information about the ownership of the land.

2014.17 **Finances**
(i) Bank Balances were noted as Current Account £1590.09; Deposit Account £2620.59
(ii) Cheques were approved for payment : Underscar village Hall – hire fee £72.50; Andrew Wilson gully clearing £40
(iii) A letter of appreciation from the Village Hall Treasurer was noted relating to the donation to help in the purchase of land.
(iv) Provisional Year End Account was noted, showing funds to be carried forward to the next financial year as £4210.70. This would change slightly when the cheques just approved had been paid through the account.

2014.18 **Lake District National Park Authority**
(i) Applications – none
(ii) Decisions **Little Dodd Garden Centre (Cherry Bank)** 7/2013/2319 Replacement dwelling, access road, engineering works, minor material changes & 7/2013/2291 (Detached Garage) **Lonscales Farm 7/2014/2002** Agricultural Building **Fellside** 7/2013/2289 Demolition, extension, car ports. **Croft House** 7/2013/2299 (boiler house) ALL APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS
(ii) Sewage Works
Considerable concern was expressed about the appearance of this installation. Work had been done on a letter to send to UU, and this was considered further at the meeting. The draft letter put forward continuing concerns about the visual intrusion of the site into the landscape, in particular the colour of the large Kiosk at the summit of the site, and doubts about the effectiveness of the proposed planting in concealing the installations. The letter should also include a reference to the considerable effort which had gone into landscaping the site in Keswick, and the fact that at the meeting

Signed Dated.....

which UU had proposed the first item on the Agenda should be the question of the existing installations, before going on to discuss the new Kiosk still to be built.

2014.19

Allerdale BC

Footway lighting

Councillor Fitzgerald told the Council that she was on a subcommittee dealing with problem. Electricity North West had stated that all street lamps on non-approved poles would be removed, and not replaced by them. There was some money to pay for some replacements. A great difficulty was that there was uncertainty about the ownership of many of these lights. It was advisable for the Parish Council to draw up a list of the all the locations of street lights in the Parish, and send this to Allerdale, indicating which lights are regarded as priority. The survey should include the A591. It was possible to request that lights should not be orange, if that was what the parish wished, and also to ask for some to be switched off at midnight – although these requests might not be agreed.

Broadband

The chairman reported that there had been a meeting between himself, Maggie Climie the parish's Broadband Representative and the clerk on the one hand, and representatives from CCC and BT on the other. This had been constructive. Some mini-cabinets were being trialled and these served up to 50 houses over a range of 1km=1.4 km. These were likely to be more suitable for a strung-out parish like Underskiddaw than having one large cabinet. In addition fibres were being laid along the A591, and if an outlying property was not served by a mini-cabinet it might be able to negotiate a direct connection to this. The switch on in this area was planned for October 2015. Superfast Broadband is defined as 24mb, but even if some properties only achieved 10 mb this would be better than the current 1 or 2 mb in many cases.

2014.20

Cumbria County Council

Highways (Including Road Sweeping Allerdale BC)

- (i) A pothole at Junction of roads by Dancing Gate, arising from a trench filling sinking. This had been reported twice by the Clerk and similarly by Councillor Fitzgerald. As of the previous night the tracking system on Highway Hotline indicated it would be attended to.
- (ii) The stretch of road between Fellside and the Church was dangerously narrow.
- (iii) The condition of the road from the Village Hall to Crookelty was discussed. Following a fruitless logging with Highways Hotline of the whole road as an overall problem, each individual pothole, rough surface or broken verge had been reported separately. The Clerk supplied a schedule of the recently reported matters with notes about the result shown on the tracking system. On the tracking system these were reported as being either – allocated to a team to decide a programme of maintenance; or – having been completed and the case closed. An inspection that day had shown no sign of work done. Clerk and Councillor Fitzgerald would write to Karl Melville, with a general complaint, and particularly emphasising the concern about the lack of a clear white line by the Village Hall, as reported over many years. It was agreed that he should be asked to identify which individual would be primarily responsible if a person was killed or injured here, given that the County Council had prior knowledge of the problem. Councillor Fitzgerald had succeeded in getting the road swept, and this would be done fortnightly.
- (iv) Concern was expressed about the road falling away between Sydenham House

and Applethwaite Gill, owing to water erosion, and about a serious outflow of water opposite Garden Cottage.

(v) There was also concern about the effect that large logging lorries were having on the terrace road, particularly where they had to draw off the tarmac to allow other vehicles to pass. Also when they turned they exerted a large amount of traction on the tarmac. Over the long term this could have a serious cumulative effect. It was agreed to invite the Agent David Atkinson to meet members to take a series of photographs to record the present position; this would enable changes to be verified.

(vi) Water was pouring out of Underscar by the main gate.

2014.21 Cumbria Association of Local Councils

(i) Receipt of February and March Circulars was noted.

(ii) Nominations were being sought for a Parish Representative on the Board of the National Park, to replace John Hayton who was retiring. Regret was expressed that Mr Hayton would no longer be our representative, and the clerk was asked to write to him to say this. No nomination was proposed but the Council might be willing to support a local candidate if one was put forward.

2014.22 Derwent 7

Councillor Fitzgerald reported that she had attended the last meeting which was only just quorate. The Transport sub group meeting had also been sparsely attended. There would be a meeting on Monday 24 March to discuss a possibility of a grant from Allerdale to keep the group going. The clerk would attend but Monday was not a good meeting night for Underskiddaw Members. The new Constitution had been adopted – one effect of this was that a Parish clerk could help to constitute a quorum. The Transport group was trying to arrange better co-ordination of bus and train timetables. Reay's will no longer be able to run their buses from the Bus Station in Keswick because of lack of room. Another site was being sought. It was probably not possible to have two small bus stations. Other suggestions discussed had been : reinstatement of the railway; pensioners to pay £1 per journey to replace the subsidy to children's fares which had been withdrawn; oyster cards for visitors.

2014.23 Annual Parish Meeting

Mr James Spedding had agreed to speak. He had offered two dates and the Council decided on 1 May 2014 at 7.00 pm. For variety one or two other people could be invited to give a short talk : Cllor Fitzgerald, Maggie Climie on Broadband and Paul Brownrigg on progress with his Hydro. Refreshments would be provided.

2014.24 Members' Reports

Village Hall Committee Councillor Corder reported that the AGM had taken place and there was now a smaller committee of 7. With 3 members wishing to retire next year the question of viability was becoming serious. To make accounting less confusing the accounting year end was being changed to the calendar year end, so the next financial year would last 15 months.

Website A consultation had been received on the previous day which would affect council websites. Currently Parish accounts are audited by BDO on the behalf of the government to ensure proper standards were being maintained. The government wished to change this arrangements, so there would be no appointed auditor, but the public would audit their own councils. This would mean more information appearing on the website, and then any member of the public could challenge anything they thought was wrong. The consultation related to what items should be

required to be put on the website. It was agreed that Cllor Boniface and the Clerk should look at this and respond. Councillor Boniface said that she felt the website was in need of updating as it had not been updated since it started 5 years ago. It was agreed that this should be put on the Agenda for the next meeting so that the way forward could be considered.

2014.25

Newsletter

The Newsletter should go out soon to advertise the Annual Parish meeting. Suggestions for items were : Highway and Sewage matters; First Responders; Oil buying Consortium; Maggie Climie had been asked to contribute an article about Broadband. Usually the Minutes of the last APM were sent out this way, but this may have to be a shortened version.

2014.26

Date of next meeting

This was due to take place on 20 May 2014 and would be the AGM. It was agreed that the time would be brought forward to 2.,00pm as the Hall would be free.