

UNDERSKIDDAW PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
MILLBECK ON Wednesday 21 May 2008 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT : Mr Jim Wilson Mrs Jan Boniface Mrs Betty Bulman Mr Tony Gibbs Mrs Edith Helme Mr David Roberts
In attendance : Clerk

- 2008.37** **Election of Chairman** The Members elected Councillor Jim Wilson to the office of Chairman and he signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Members elected Councillor David Roberts as Vice Chairman.
- 2008.38** **Apologies** Councillor John Wood
- 2008.39** **Welcome** The Chairman welcomed Councillor Jan Boniface as the newly elected member.
- 2008.40** **Minutes** The Chairman was authorised to sign the Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 March 2008
- 2008.41** **Review of Declarations of Interest** The Members were invited to review their declarations of interest, and no changes were found to be necessary.
- 2008.42** **Declarations of Interest in respect of Agenda Items.** No such declaration was made.
- 2008.43** **Election of Representatives** Councillor Helme was elected as the Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee, and Councillor Roberts as that on the Neighbourhood Forum.
- 2008.44** **Review of Council's Policies & Procedures** Members reviewed the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Freedom of Information Policy, Consultation Policy (General), Risk Assessment Policy and Procedures, Code of Conduct, and Floral Tributes by Roadside Policy, and found no amendment was necessary. With regard to the Planning Consultation Policy it was agreed that this should be discussed further at the next meeting taking into account advice contained in a booklet on Planning Procedures received from CALC which was to be distributed to Members at the meeting. With regard to the Protocol for Internal Audit it was agreed that this should be amended by the inclusion of a timetable for the Internal Auditor.
- 2008.45** **Matters arising from the Minutes 2008.07 Owl Cottage** The assumed land owner had been approached and a substantive reply was awaited.
- 2008.46** **Newsletter** The draft Newsletter was agreed with minor amendments. It was agreed to defer redrawing the Distribution List until Councillors had finished their analysis of the use of properties in their area. Members agreed to finish this as soon as possible. Councillor Gibbs kindly agreed to download a map of Applethwaite from the internet.

2008.47 **Opportunity for Public Participation** No member of the public was present.

2008.48 **Finances**

- (i) The Bank Mandate was reviewed and it was agreed that the signatories to the accounts should be Councillors Wilson Roberts and Bulman.
- (ii) Members resolved to approve the Statement of Account for the year 2007/2008, and went through the Annual Governance Statement point by point and agreed answers to the same and authorised the Chairman to sign the declaration,
- (iii) Members agreed to appoint Mrs Nancy Bennell as Internal Auditor.
- (iv) Receipt of the first instalment of the precept (£1500) was noted.
- (v) Members approved the drawing and signing of the following cheques :

CALC Membership	£109
Photocopying	£9.64
Clerk's postage & paper	£21.57
Andrew Wilson	£40.00

(on account of grass cutting)
- (vi) The demand for the Insurance premium was considered, and a question raised as to whether it would be better to let the bus shelter at Millbeck deteriorate rather than proceeding with the proposed repair - this would save money both on the insurance premium, and also the cost of future repair. The Clerk was instructed to find out if the work could be cancelled and if so at what charge. If it could be cancelled then parishioners should be consulted about this proposal, and care would be taken to see the structure did not become dangerous. Meanwhile it was resolved that a cheque should be drawn and signed to pay the premium of £499.19 and the insurance should be renewed.

2008.49 **Lake District National Park Authority**

Applications **Glenside, Thrushwood** - for extension and alterations. The Council had no objection to this proposal.

Approvals were noted for **Rathvale** (extension) & **Dancing Beck Cottage** (extension)

Up-date **Merlestead** No notification of the decision had been received although the planners had advised a neighbour that permission had been granted.

Parish Tour Councillors Bulman and Gibbs had been on this. Cllor Gibbs delivered a short summary - 32 parish councillors had attended with 8 officials and had been taken to see Thirlmere village where it was proposed to use wood from the forest nearby to heat tenanted houses in the village. A lecture was given about the Blencathra Field Studies Centre, and a visit paid to Dodd Wood to learn about the Osprey Project and the Lake Restoration Programme. An excellent lunch, morning coffee and afternoon tea were provided.

2008.50 **Allerdale Borough Council**

Dog Control Regulations It was noted that Council officers can now require dogs to be kept on leads in public places. No comment was thought necessary.

Standards Committee It was not thought necessary at that time to take up an offer of training in the Code of Conduct.

2008.51

Cumbria County Council

Highways It was noted that the Council had carried out very thorough repairs to potholes and broken surfaces along the length of the terrace road between the A591 at Dancing Gate and The Ghyll. This was to be followed by the laying of a top surface, which according to the latest information would be done in the next few months. Clerk asked to write to Kevin Lumley expressing appreciation. The dangerous drop by the gates of Underscar had also been dealt with.

Waste Management Plan This was put for circulation.

Allerdale CALC meeting - report from Chairman This had been largely concerned with Highway Stewards. Currently there were 6 operating teams with no particular boundaries dealing with emergency repairs. There were also 6 Highway Teams carrying out routine repairs - these would be replaced by the Highway Stewards. Each one would be responsible for 200 km of road. There would be personal liaison between the Steward for an area, and a person appointed to liaise. It was agreed the Clerk would be appointed to do this.

The meeting had also discussed Emergency Planning. The system had worked well at the major train crash, and also with flooding incidents. The major activities were planning for problems beneath the main flight paths, at Sellafield, and at MoD dumps. There were 6 Fire Stations and 20 ambulances to serve the whole county. There were 1200 police but only 40 on duty at night. Councillors agreed to consider how best to promote emergency planning in the parish.

2008.52

Cumbria Association of Local Councils

Newsletters for April and May were received and put for circulation.

Jan Boniface and Pauline Soulsby attended a Meeting in Keswick about the proposal for a World Heritage Site. Although there was talk of a consultation it seemed clear that there was impetus to apply, and that it was likely that a bid would be prepared, and this would then have to be screened by the Government before it could go forward for consideration by the world body. The promoters expressed the hope that the outcome for the Lake District would be a better class of tourist staying longer and spending more.

Warning was given of a Consultation on the local Development Framework. This would arrive at the beginning of June, and would be a lengthy document requiring a lot of reading and with a response time of only a few weeks.. It was very important that Parish Councils had an input on this document, since it would set out the planning policies which would largely determine how individual decisions would go. It was agreed to try to obtain a copy for each councillor.

A useful Guide on the Planning Process had been received and a copy was given to each Member.

2008.53

Correspondence from Statutory Bodies

Invitation from Police Forum but no-one available to attend.

2008.54

Correspondence from non-Statutory Bodies

Information from CPRE to be put for circulation.

2008.55

Affordable Housing A meeting had been held on an initiative from former councillor Nick Moor with some planning officials and council members. This was to give an opportunity for discussions about affordable housing. The Chairman and

Clerk of Above Derwent also attended. Indications had been given that there might be a broader interpretation of the rules which would allow houses to be built which satisfied a need arising within the locality but not necessarily being affordable. The officials attending could not confirm this. They believed that there might be a more generous interpretation of the type of need - eg not just for young families but for people retiring - but the criterion of having a low-income would still have to apply. The suggestion that housing needs arising in Above Derwent might be satisfied by building in Underskiddaw was rejected by the officials present. It was possible that the new Framework document about which there would soon be a consultation might offer an opportunity for a relaxing of the policy against building new houses within the National Park except for cases of identifiable need.

2008.56 **Parish Plan follow up.** It was agreed to acquire a copy of the parish plan on CD from the printers at an approximate price of £20 and Councillor Boniface agreed to pursue this. The possibility of a Parish Website was considered, as recommended in the Action Plan. "The Clerk and Councillor Boniface would make enquiries as to likely costs and would begin consideration of what a possible website might contain.. Parishioners should then be asked how it could be useful to them,

2008. 57 **Report on Village Hall Committee**
Councillor Helme reported on the activities of the Hall committee. Ellen Barker is to become Secretary in September. Several activities were planned and the funds were in a healthy state.

2008.58 **Review of Annual Parish Meeting**
A Parishioner had expressed the view that the Annual Report containing the Chairman's report should not go out before the meeting as people might think it was not worth coming if they could read about it. Clerk explained that the Council was now obliged to produce an Annual Report, but that it could go out after the meeting, in which case it could also contain the Minutes of that year's meeting.

2008.59 **Calendar of Meetings** It was agreed to meet on 17 July 11 September and 19 November.