

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE CHURCH at MILLBECK ON Tuesday 22  
November 2011 at 2.00 pm**

**PRESENT :** Mr J Wilson (in the Chair) Mrs J Boniface Mrs B Bulman (from 3.20pm) Mr T Gibbs & Mrs K Hind Mr J Wood

In attendance : Clerk. Mr Bill Bell

**2011.87**      **Apologies for absence**    None required

**2011.88**      **Minutes**            The Minutes of the last meeting held on 8 November 2011 were approved subject to the deletion of Mr Wood's name from the item "Apologies" and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

**2011.89**      **Declarations of Interest**

Members were asked to declare any interest in any Agenda items and none was disclosed.

**2011.90**      **Public Participation**

Mr Bell attended the meeting to give the Council up to date information about the project he was guiding to install a hydro-electric scheme on Mill Beck. There was a degree of public support for this scheme, although this had not been fully tested at this stage. About £75,000 would need to be raised to set up the system – the greater part of this being payments for work done, and a small amount for plant and equipment. It was estimated that the income from production of electricity (the feed-in tariff) would be about £12,000 to £13,000 per year, at present levels of payments for surplus power fed back into the grid.

There were several options for raising finance : Grants, local donations, local investors, a joint venture company, and a loan which the Parish Council might be able to obtain from the Public Works Loan Board. The Parish Council could become involved through the last option. Two main questions arose out of this : First, whether the same project could benefit both from a Public Works Loan and from a feed-in tariff. Secondly, what security there would be for repayment of the loan if the scheme failed to produce enough income to repay it.

Mr Bell offered to carry out further research into this.

**2011.91**      **Finances**

(i)      **Bank Balances** were reported as £3,958.50 in the Current Account and £1,316.35 in the Deposit account

(ii)      **Cheques authorised for payment** were :

British Legion Poppy Wreath    £17

A Wilson Grass Cutting        £18

Clerk's Salary                    £800

Donation for use of church for meeting (Nov)    £15

(iii)      **Expected year end position** A statement showed that taking into account expected expenditure the following sums should be left in the account :

Reserved to pay for grit bins                    £1500

Election Reserve                                    £1,000

Land Purchase Reserve                            £1,000

Neighbourhood Watch Fund                      £270

Unallocated balance                                £644

(iv)      **Budget and Precept**

A draft budget having been circulated before the meeting the Council accepted the proposed figures for routine expenditure. It was agreed that the Clerk's salary should be raised to £1,000, and a provision for Clerk's expenses made of

£100. £200 would be set aside for donations to local causes, £60 for the website, and £500 should be reserved for marking the Diamond Jubilee. This gave a total expenditure in the year of £3280, and it was provisionally agreed to set a Precept of £2,700 and a grass cutting grant of £300. Any shortfall arising could be taken from the unallocated balance, or, bearing in mind that the sum allocated for grit bins was likely to be more than required, from that reserve. The position would be reviewed at the meeting in January when a final decision would be made on the Precept. Meanwhile Allerdale BC could be advised of the provisional amount.

## **2011.92 Lake District National Park Authority**

Site Allocations The final response was agreed to be as follows and the Clerk was authorised to send it :

“This comment relates to this site and two neighbouring ones (X1210) and (X 1051). The comment is made on behalf of Underskiddaw Parish Council who have instructed me to make this response. The Parish Council would only consider any development on greenfield sites to be acceptable when all possible alternative avenues have been explored, and the need for housing for Keswick locals has been quantified by a method clearly based on reliable concrete evidence. The allocation of this housing should be for people living or working in Keswick and the adjacent parishes. The Council shares the concern of locals about the developments of large areas of non-diverse housing, and would support the proposals by local people that small scale and varied developments should be encouraged, on a scale which local builders can tackle and which make use of small sites within the town boundary as suggested below : (list attached)”

A Housing Needs Survey had been distributed in the Parish and responses were being collated by Nick Moor, who would report at the next meeting.

Approvals : the following were noted :

**7/2011/2156 Land adjacent to Sewage Works** Retention of temporary road

**7/2011/2157 Underscar Manor** Proposed Garage/workshop

**7/2011/2221 Merlestead** Alterations to provide bedroom and living room and single detached garage

## **2011.93 Cumbria County Council**

- (i) Notice had been received of a further consultation on the Cumbria Minerals and Waste Development Framework. This arose following a successful challenge to the inclusion of a quarry at Roosecote. It was decided not to comment on this.
- (ii) Request received from Fire Brigades Union to join protest against termination of Cumbria Control Function. It was thought that this threat might have been withdrawn, but if not the protest should be made.

## **2011.94 Cumbria Association of Local Councils**

Circulars for October and November were received. It was noted there was an online free course on how to respond to planning applications. The clerk would do this in the first place and then report back. Information concerning The Big society, affordable housing, Waste management and Community led planning was also noted.

Allerdale District Parish Councils meeting 22.9.11 CCC leader Eddie Martin spoke on the Council's priorities - alleviating child poverty; alleviating poverty of

ambition; ensuring that the Council is not remote – delegating decisions to local committees. Business Rate is currently paid to the Government direct and then re-distributed to the counties. If this rate were to be paid directly to counties then Cumbria would lose out, because there are fewer businesses here than is typical of the country as a whole. The formula by which highway money is given to highway authorities does take some account of the extra people from outside using roads in a tourist area.

Parish Forum Meeting 24.10.11 Presentation from Cumbria Tourism, praising the project of making Cumbria the adventure capital – now known as ADCAP. There is a fund for improving ways of Councils working together – worth pursuing re Derwent 7. There were a great many questions on planning and affordable housing and NPA promised to hold two seminars to allow fuller discussion.

**2011.95**

**Jubilee Celebration**

There had only been three responses to consultation about this. It was decided not to try to have a beacon on top of Skiddaw, in view of lack of enthusiasm in parish, and the effort required to do this. The idea of a bonfire/beacon on Latrigg had been suggested to D7 (now defunct) and this could be pursued via a different route – first contacting mayor of Keswick.

**2011.96**

**Village Hall Report**

Councillor Boniface reported on the meeting held on 21 October 2011. It appeared the land purchase project had come to stand still, partly because the land requirements of the Hydro electric project should be clarified first. The Chairman would speak to the Hall Chairman about time limits on the holding of the reserve for this purpose. The Committee was concerned about the appearance of the notice board and had had an estimate of £1200 for replacing it – there was woodworm in the frame. There was £19,000 in their account.

**2011.97**

**Clerk's up date on minor matters**

The Highway Steward had carried out some repairs in the parish. Nothing further had been heard in relation to Brundholme Road. The chairman would contact the County Councillor Mike Johnson to see if he could give information and help to resolve matters. Only 10 responses had been received to the Broadband questionnaire, and the people involved were being invited to monitor their reception speeds. The clerk would write to the businesses in the parish suggesting it would be advantageous to become involved. The clerk asked Members to send in their observations relating to the enforcement matters along the A66.

**2011.98**

**Schedule of Meetings**

It was agreed that since the Church Room was proving satisfactory for meetings there should be a regular cycle of meetings to take place on the third Tuesday of every other month at 2.00 pm. The months were alternate months from January. This was a time which suited all Members, but unfortunately when the Village Hall was not normally available. The meetings in 2012 would therefore be on 17 January 2012, 20 March, 15 May (AGM), 17 July, 18 September, and 20 November.