

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL at MILLBECK ON
Tuesday 20 November 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 C Corder

In attendance : Clerk. County Councillor Jim Lister. Dr T Donaldson – Resident.

2012.63 **Apologies for absence** Mr T Ryan (abroad)

2012.64 **Minutes** The Minutes of the last meeting held on 18 September 2012 were approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

2012.65 **Declarations of Interest**

Members were asked to declare any interest in any Agenda items and it was noted that all members had an interest in Item 6 (vi) (Setting Precept) and otherwise none was declared.

2012.66 **Membership** A Notice of Co-option had been displayed and notified to Allerdale BC who had confirmed that no request had been made for an election. One vacancy remained and the Council was therefore free to co-opt, and resolved to co-opt Mr Christopher Geoffrey Corder. Mr Corder signed a form of Acceptance of Office, and completed and signed a Notification of Pecuniary Interests. He was then welcomed to the Council.

2012.67 **Opportunity for Public Participation** Dr Donaldson mentioned a blocked drain outside Orchard Cottage, the narrowness of the road between Wideways and the Chapel, and the fact that the white line at the crossroads by the Village Hall had been obliterated through use. The drain opposite Sydenham House was also mentioned which affects Lord's Seat and other properties along the road and down the hill below. It was agreed that Cllor Wilson would try to obtain Stephen Maxwell's email, as his phone was not answered. The Clerk would request Kevin Lumley to attend a site meeting to discuss a solution to the Lord's Seat drain, which flooded the road in extreme weather conditions, and the possibility of a lay bye on the narrow road (in view of its being a bus route), and the question of the white line at the cross roads. County Cllor Lister would assist in discussions with K Lumley, and would also help to contact Doug Coyle, who is a member of the inland flooding group, and who could advise on problems involving water running off the fell.

2012.68 **Finance**

(i) **Bank Balances** were reported as £2,391.74 in the Current Account Number 50829528 and £3,617.44 in the Deposit account Number 51070916. This agreed with the Cash Book statement.

(ii) **Cheques** It was resolved to approve the writing of cheques to Clerk for £800 (Salary), HMRC for £252.16 (PAYE & NI), Royal British Legion for £20 (Poppy Wreath), J Boniface for £8.38 (Website expenses) A Wilson for £35 (grass cutting)

(iii) **Air Ambulance** A request had been received to set aside money in the budget for a donation. Councillors felt that Air Ambulance had treated their volunteers shabbily, although the cause itself was good and benefited the Parish. It was agreed that a response should be made indicating that a lower donation would be likely and giving the reason.

(iv) **Data Protection Registration** It was agreed that a cheque for £35 should be written for this.

(v) **Forecast for Year end 31.3.2013** Councillors noted the expected position at the

year end. This showed total current balances of £6008, expected expenditure to the year end of £1234 (including cheques authorized at the meeting), leaving a surplus available at the year end of £1142, after the agreed reserves had been set aside. The Reserves were : a balance of £962 in the Grit bin account, Election provision £1,000, Land Purchase reserve £1,000, the Neighbourhood Watch earmarked fund £270, contribution to the Interpretation Panel £400. It was agreed to set aside a further reserve of £500 for grit, in case it was possible to join a consortium to do some independent gritting. It might be possible to engage local people to deal with this. This reduced the surplus to £642, to be carried forward.

vi Budget and Precept

Councillors reviewed the budgeted outlay for the current year, and the expected out-turn. They noted the expected figures for routine expenditure in the year 2013-2014, and agreed that a provision of £1,000 should be made to carry out various repairs and small projects in the Parish. These including putting hard standing at the Thrushwood Notice board, up-grading the parish noticeboard, the proposed sum of £500 for grit, and the possibility of getting a contractor gradually to improve the parish verges – by cutting back to the edge of the tarmac, and clearing blockages. It was noted that Mr Joe Saxton regularly cleared verges, expending a great deal of time and effort, and it was agreed the Council's thanks should be formally recorded in the Minutes and an acknowledgement should be sent to him. On the basis that the Precept would remain at £3,000 these changes gave rise to an in-year deficit of £793 which was to be met from reserves.

No information was available from Allerdale as to what the capped amount of the grass grant would be, and whether there would be any cap on the precept. It was decided therefore to approve the amended budget provisionally, and to set the precept provisionally at £3,000. The budget would be reviewed in January, when information from Allerdale would presumably be available. Any adjustments could be made at the January meeting, and if a grass grant was to be available then the amount of it would be included in the budget. Meanwhile Allerdale would be informed of the provisional figures.

2012.69

Lake District National Park Authority

Applications **2012/2209 Old Coach House Millbeck** It was noted that this application had been withdrawn.

Decision **2012/2063 Oakfield Lodge** Demolition and alterations approved with conditions.

Sewage Works Concerns had arisen that large lighting posts had been erected on the site, and that a noticeable and ugly building was clearly visible at the top of a rise. Councillors recalled that they had been told that landscaping would ensure that the work was not noticeable from a distance. The Approval notice had required a lighting plan and a landscaping plan to be submitted. It appeared that the lighting plan had been approved some months ago but the Parish Council had not been told, nor had a copy been sent. This has now been requested. No landscaping plan had yet been submitted, and further information was being sought. The chairman would speak to Andy Roe, the senior planning officer.

Site Allocations This consultation would continue in December, but no details of allocated sites had yet been released. It had been stated that no sites would be included against the owners' wishes.

2012.70

Cumbria County Council

Mineral Safeguarding Consultation A brief report on this had been circulated, but since the parish was not within the affected areas no action would be taken.

MRWS As a follow up to the council's submission, and in view of the postponement of the decision by the County Council it had been decided to write to the Leader of the Council, and a draft had been circulated. This was approved for sending to Mr E Martin.

Unitary Councils for Cumbria The previous proposals had been turned down by the government, but conversations were still continuing to prepare for another attempt to achieve this. The County Council was very much in favour, the District Councils less so. At the CALC AGM Parish councils had been invited to express their views on this to CALC so that these could be represented.

County Councillor Lister advised that some groups of parishes were arranging their own gritting through partnerships. It was agreed that this would be worth investigating, in our case via Derwent 7.

2012.71

Cumbria Association of Local Councils

A Report on the AGM had been circulated. The Report referred to consultations about Unitary Government and it was agreed that the Clerk should send a letter supporting moves towards this end.

Notification had also been received that the Boundary Commission had made proposals which so far as Underskiddaw was concerned would mean it would become part of a Parliamentary Constituency along with Penrith, & Eden Valley whose MP was currently Rory Stewart. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to the online consultation in support of this suggestion.

2012.72

Derwent 7

This had gone into hibernation owing to lack of funds. A grant had been received from the LDNPA Sustainable Development Fund, so meetings would resume. Possible themes to be pursued were : joint gritting; housing occupancy conditions. The first meeting would be on 7 December and the Clerk would attend.

2012.73

Members' Reports

Website Councillor Boniface is hoping to get the Minutes up to date on the Website very shortly. Details of members' interest need to go on the Website, and Cllor Boniface suggested that this be done by way of a link to the appropriate page on the Allerdale Website.

Village Hall Committee As Councillor Corder is Chairman of the VHC Councillor Boniface suggested that he should take her place as Parish council representative, which he was willing to do. The Chairman supported by the Councillors expressed appreciation to Cllor Boniface for all the work she had put in to fulfill this role over a number of years.

Cllor Corder reported that the social programme was being very successful. The plans for a hydro electric project were developing, although slowly. The main hold up is that the Environment Agency's Licence to Extract Water (which would be replaced lower downstream) is delayed because agreement had not been reached on how to measure the flow. The Licence was required before grants could be

applied for.

The foundations of the building were being damaged by the beck. Advice had been received from a consulting structural engineer, who was looking into a claim on the insurance.

The Committee was on the brink of publishing next year's programme.

The Land Purchase was approaching exchange of contracts.

Neighbourhood Forum

Cllor Bulman reported that the Police Station in Keswick had been formally closed, although there would be an intermittent attendance.

The Theatre by the Lake brought £3m annually into the local economy. Attendance was divided between locals (60%) and visitors (40%).

2012.74

Future Meetings : Dates and Times

Agreement had been reached with the Artists that the Parish Council could occupy the small room towards the end of the Artists' sessions. This meant that meetings could take place in the Village Hall on Tuesdays. Initially the time of 2.00pm would be tried, but if this caused difficulties the meetings could start at 2.30 pm.

The next meeting would therefore be on **15 January 2013 at 2.00 pm in the Village Hall**. Subsequent meetings would be on : 19 March; 21 May; 6 July; 17 September; and 19 November.