

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL MILLBECK on
WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2010 at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT : Mr J Wilson (in the Chair) Mrs J Boniface Mrs B Bulman Mrs E Helme Mr J Wood

In attendance : Clerk. Dr T Donaldson

2010.69 **Apologies** Mr T Gibbs Mr D Roberts

2010.70 **Minutes** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 September 2010 were approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

2010.71 **Declarations of Interest** The Chairman asked Members to disclose any interest they might have in any item on the Agenda. No such declaration was made.

2010.72 **Opportunity for Public Participation** Dr Donaldson asked for a progress report on the refurbishment of the Noticeboard outside the Village Hall. The Clerk explained that she had not followed this up and apologised for lack of progress. She would contact the National Park with a view to furthering this.

2010.73 **Finances**

(i) The balances at the Bank were noted as :

Current Account No 50829528 £3197.30

Deposit Account No 51070916 £1315.66

(ii) Cheques were authorised to be signed :

J Boniface – Website expenses	£7.03
A Wilson Grass cutting	£75.00
Royal British Legion – poppy wreath	£17
Clerk’s expenses	£7.92
Clerk’s Salary	£800

(iii) It was resolved that Website expenses up to £50 could be reimbursed to Cllor Boniface without prior authorisation and to be confirmed at subsequent meeting. It was agreed that a recent expense of £18 should be reimbursed.

(iv) The Bank had requested details of assets and liabilities. Cllor Wood advised and it was agreed that the Bank should be told that the Parish Council account was not a business account, and no figures should be given.

(v) A year-end estimate and draft Budget had been circulated. In view of last year’s hard winter and cuts to the County budget, it was agreed to allocate £1500 out of this year’s surplus for purchase of grit bins, grit/salt and labour of spreading. It was also agreed in view of healthy remaining surplus and requirement for economies all round that the precept would be reduced by 10% to £2,700. The grass cutting grant to be applied for would be £250. The budget as then approved and the Clerk authorized to notify the amount of the precept to Allerdale BC. Copy statement and approved budget annexed. The purchase of 4 grit bins was provisionally agreed on the basis that the County Council would fill these.

2010.74 **Lake District National Park Authority**

(i) The Minutes of 8.10.10 and 28.10.10 from the Planning Committee were noted and it was agreed that certain errors contained in them relating to those present would be correct before the Minutes were presented at the next Planning Committee

meeting.

(ii) Decision noted : Approval of Car Park at Fitz Park, which the Council had supported.

(iii) Application withdrawn was noted Sewage Works Inlet 7/2010/2221. The Council had opposed this strongly in view of the effect upon nearby dwellinghouse, and Planning Officials had requested withdrawal as insufficient details had been given about its effect on adjacent property.

(iv) Meeting on site with United Utilities at the Sewage Works to discuss 7/2010/2221. The Council had been invited to meet United Utilities on site, in view of its objection to the proposal. These objections were emphasised at the site meeting, and the Council formed the view that United Utilities had not given any serious consideration to alternative locations for the proposed work. Following withdrawal of the proposal a copy of the letter from United Utilities to the adjacent house owner had been received, and this indicated that they would consult him fully before re-submitting the application.

(v) Site Meeting re Ben y Craig 2010/2217. The Council had been invited to send one representative to a site meeting with the Development Committee following the Council's objection to the retrospective application for the approval of the additional work at the property (external staircase, glass casing on balcony, window re-arrangement and internal alterations). Cllor Bulman attended and was able to point out the high visibility of the site from many surrounding view points. She was also able to contradict the assertion of the applicant's agent that there had never been a front door. It was agreed to gather evidence about the existence of the green lane below the property, as although it was not a registered footpath it had been used by parishioners for upwards of 60 years. It was a possibility that at some time in the past the width of the path had been reduced, by the moving of a fence.

(iv) Up-date

Crosthwaite Meadow Enforcement Orders had been served and it was understood that the occupant had until 25 November to appeal and in the absence of an appeal the site should be vacated by 25 January 2011.

Underscar The grant of planning permission for the change of use of the Hotel to a dwellinghouse had left in doubt the effect of previously existing planning permission conditions. The approval for change of use seemed inexplicable in terms of the policies quoted as being applied. The permitted use of areas within the grounds was uncertain. The Clerk had therefore written requesting clarification on a number of points. It was reported that further activities at the property included : change of sign at the gateway; new walls built or in preparation downhill from the entrance into Oxley's and uphill beyond Burr Gill; new drainage which appeared likely to drain water on to the road. The Clerk would write also about this.

General It had been suggested at the last meeting that a letter summarizing various complaints should be written to leading officials at the NPA – to the Chief Executive, the Head of Development, the Chairman of the Authority and the Chairman of the Development Committee. This suggestion had not been minuted and Councillor Boniface requested it be minuted at the present meeting. The clerk had prepared a draft which had been sent round to Members, and this was discussed and amendments agreed – the revised draft would be circulated before being sent.

(v) Core Strategy The final approved document had been received along with a guide as to how to use it for commenting on planning applications. It would be necessary to be very familiar with its provisions, and to use the correct method for evaluating applications if comments were to be effective. It was agreed to buy second copy for the Chairman to hold at a cost of £20.

(vi) Consultation on governance of NPA's had been received from the Government. Comments on it were requested – it did not contain any proposals so comments at this stage would be very open. The subject matter would be the way Members of the Park were appointed, how many of them there should be, and also questions as to how the Park could better serve its area. The LDNPA would also be organizing its own consultation through CALC so that Parish Councils' contributions could be co-ordinated. This was all very recent and further consideration would be needed,

2010.75

Cumbria County Council

- (i) Road at Brundholme Two properties in the parish had been severely affected by road problems in the Brundholme area. There were two accesses to their properties – one past the Calvert Trust Centre, and one through Threlkeld. The former had been closed and the cause of the road damage was an extensive landslip which it was considered uneconomic to repair. CCC had upgraded the alternative access, but the residents were still concerned about ice and snow making this road impassable. It was believed that some salt and grit heaps had been put there. Peter Marr had agreed that if empty dumper bags were placed where the residents believed they were required the CC would fill these. There was also a possibility of some grit boxes becoming available in three weeks. This was being organized.
- (ii) Highway Steward Scheme This was being re-organised. It was agreed to write to deplore the removal of the existing scheme which had worked very well. Clerk to ascertain details of how the new scheme would operate.
- (iii) West Cumbria Waste Management Scheme A great deal of literature had been received in relation to this. Cllor Wood agreed to scan this to see what was immediately relevant to our parish, and to report back in due course.
- (iv) Local News A new glossy magazine which would be circulated as soon as possible.

2010.76

Cumbria Association of Local Councils

- (i) Clerks Direct to be circulated and Monthly Circulars noted.
- (ii) Cllor Bulman and Clerk had attended meeting with Rory Stuart MP about the Big Society. According to him the meaning was that when small local groups tried to do things and came up against obstacles then government should be helping to remove those obstacles rather than endorsing them.
- (iii) Meeting of CALC Allerdale district 9 December 7.00 pm Bothel Village Hall – Cllors Wood and Wilson and Clerk volunteered to try to attend.

2010.77

Emergency Plan

The Chairman explained a proposal to use Underskiddaw as a pilot for an Emergency Plan format suitable for small parishes to be tried out. Councillors felt that it was important to be sure first that a Co-ordinator could be found. This need not be a Councillor. It was agreed to consider who could be approached. It should not overlap with Neighbourhood Watch.

2010.78

Website Report Cllor Boniface reported that she was bringing the website up to date and that the Village Hall Committee had appointed a co-ordinator – M Climie.

2010.79

Derwent 7 Minutes of recent meetings had been circulated. The Environment Committee would not be formed due to number of existing committees. Environment issues would be dealt with through the cluster meetings, and Clerk would give some help in co-ordinating this.

2010.80

Members' Reports

Village Hall Committee Cllor Helme reported that further work would be carried out on strengthening the foundations of the Hall on the beck side. The Hall lighting was also being improved. The Insurance premium had increased by £150. The Committee was in dispute about electricity meter readings which had given rise to a large bill.

2010.81

Dates of Meetings

Dates were discussed for meetings up to May and the Clerk would check and confirm. A possible speaker for the APM was suggested as Mr John Spedding.

In its deliberations the Council took into consideration the provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and Equality and Inclusiveness legislation.