# MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF UNDERSKIDDAW PARISH

**14th May 2019 at 14:00 in Underskiddaw Church Room**

**With Jim Wilson, Acting as Chair of Underskiddaw Parish Council in the Chair**

7 Parish Councillors were present along with the Clerk Ms Becx Carter and 4 members of the public

## Welcome & Introductions

Cllr J Boniface welcomed those present to the meeting.

## Apologies

None

## The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th May 2018

 Were read and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

## Report from the Chairman

The below report covered the period 1st April 2017-31st March 2018. The report was prepared & read out by Cllr J Wilson

The Council sat six times during the past year and in general the meetings were well attended by your Councillors.

Betty Bulman and Tom Ryan resigned from the council and we would like to thank them for their service to the community, especially Betty who was a Councillor for twenty-two years.

During the year we were fortunate to co-opt David Horsburgh and David Lake to the Council.

We were occasionally joined by Alan Bowness of Cumbria County Council; we were grateful for his input on matters concerning the County. Malcolm Grainger from Allerdale sent apologies but was unable to attend any meetings.

The Public is always welcome to attend any meeting and raise matters under Public Participation.

### Finances

In 2018-19 the Precept was £6407.36 an increase of 5% to the need to stabilise the Parish Councils Reserve and prepare for potential street lighting devolution in the coming year.

During the financial year the Parish Council have made donations to Keswick & District First Responders, and Great North Air Ambulance and have paid the ongoing management fees for the defibrillator that is housed in the Applethwaite Phone Box. The Parish Council received £2000 donation from United Utilities to recognise the disruption caused to the Parish by the Pipeline project. This funding was split equally between Crosthwaite Church to be spent on the Underskiddaw Church, and Braithwaite Institute to recognise the important role it played in community capacity building in the aftermath of Storm Desmond.

At the end of the year the Parish Council had £9,097. This sum includes contingency funds to cover any possible unforeseen expenses and complies with good practice for Parish Council reserve levels (3/4 to 1 year of Precept held in reserve).

### Highways

We still have many potholes in our roads which we hope will be attended to. We enquired through Alan Bowness C.C.C. if the temporary Speed limits on The A 591 could be extended and made permanent. CCC have confirmed that this is not possible as they are temporary measure during the Pipeline Project and the stretch of road in question does not fulfil the requirement for a 30mph limit. The section of road is rural & sparsely populated. Furthermore, the temporary 30mph limit is not being observed.

We asked C.C.C. to provide a mirror at the bottom of Applethwaite Lane a well-known hazard, they declined, so we are to ask United Utilities to set the hedge farther back when they replace it to assist visibility.

### Planning

Approval was granted for the following;

Somercoates Thrushwood Extension

Lake View Millbeck Shepherds Hut

Paddock Raven Lane Green House

7 Calvert Way Shed

Old Windebrowe and stables Alterations and Renovations

Barley House Underskiddaw Garaging

Lyzzick Gate Extension

Field View Stock Shed

Site of Keswick to Threlkeld Railway Reinstatement and Resurfacing

Chestnut Barn Millbeck Removal of flue and new windows

Spring Bank Underskiddaw New Porch

Borrowdale View Millbeck Alterations to garage

1-4 Little Crosthwaite Alterations to existing windows

Underscar Manor Restoration of Smoking Tower

Fellside Millbeck New Conservatory

United Utilities There have been on going applications

 regarding various conditions relating to the

 Pipeline.

### United Utilities

The need for this hideous violation of our Parish and surrounding countryside is still a mystery to me. Applethwaite Lane and The Ormathwaite road are still an eyesore and will take many years to recover. UUs seem to have little or no respect towards local landscapes and residents.

UUs attended the November meeting and stated that; reinstatement of land hedges walls etc. Would happen in 2019. Long way to go yet!

There are to be Kiosks at the bottom of Applethwaite Lane. Details of design are yet to be available. The Depot site opposite Joe and Julie Saxon still an eyesore which they deserve to have restored ASAP, having endured this disruption for three years.

The extra work incurred by Becx Carter our Parish Clerk, was at last acknowledged and UUs paid her for her time. Becx tenacity in dealing with UUs is admiral.

Little Dodd Garden Centre still gives us reason for concern. The front area is still an eyesore and has been for some time. The double garage beside the new house has been converted into accommodation. Kevin Richards of The LDNPA said is it does not have a bathroom or kitchen it does not require permission for change of use. He has not been on site to verify this.

The LDNPA are no longer providing us with paper documentation, so we have acquired digital equipment to enable us to access planning applications electronically.

We now have superfast broadband in the area and all our agendas minutes etc. Are on our website underskiddawparishcouncil.co.uk.

The Bulk Oil Buying scheme is still organised by Joe Saxon and has over 40 members.

Thank you Joe and for your efforts keeping the A591 tidy.

Geoff Davies Represents the Northern Distinctive Area Parishes on The National Park Authority. We receive regular updates from him.

Finally thank you to all the Councillors for their continuing support, and especially to Becx for keeping us all in order and the superbly efficient way she fulfils her duties.

## Questions and Open Discussion

4 Members of the public were present and raised a number of matters:

## **Communications.**

Concern was raised about the lack of knowledge within the Parish of the Annual Parish Meeting due to the cessation of the newsletter, and the lack of notices on the Village Hall noticeboard.

The Clerk confirmed that a copy of all meeting agenda’s had been sent to Mr T Donaldson at his request to place on the Village Hall noticeboard as the Parish Council had historically been told they couldn’t use the Village Hall noticeboard.

**Action: Clerk to send future meeting agendas to a member of the Village Hall Committee for inclusion on the Village Hall Noticeboard.**

**Action: Clerk to post notice of the Annual Parish Meeting in the Keswick Reminder prior to the May 2020 meeting.**

It was noted by members of the public present that they felt out of touch with the Parish Council and would prefer to have some form of a mail out prior to each Parish Council meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that following the imposition of the General Data Protection Regulations last year the storage of such data has become much more complex

**Action: Clerk to seek advice/guidance on the creation and holding of a mailing list of Parishioners Emails for the purposes of Parish Council meeting notifications.**

Mr J Hayes (Underskiddaw Village Hall Committee) offered to include an article/flyer with the next Village Hall Mail drop to ask for parishioners contact details to be provided to the Parish Council again if the Parish Council decide to prepare a mailing list once more.

**Action: Clerk to prepare an article/flyer to go out with the Village Hall next mailout once clarity has been achieved on holding a mailing list that is compliant with GDPR.**

## United Utilities Pipeline

Concerns were once again raised about the destruction and damage that this project was causing, and the lack of interest/care shown by United Utilities to the local community or the environment.

Specifically, concerns were raised regarding the ongoing pumping that UU are doing to empty the ‘hole’ at the bottom of Applethwaite Lane of water so they can continue to work in the area. This water is being pumped (most recently on the 12th May 2019) forcefully through pipework across the Underskiddaw Oak field, over the pipe that is currently ‘containing’ the beck and into the marshy area to the East of the beck. This is then flowing into the beck (including sediment and on Sunday oil was noted).

Local residents are concerned that this is impacting on the water quality and the fish stocks (no fish have been witnessed this year when previously there were spawning fish in these waters). Additionally, local residents are concerned that the works are unlikely to have Environment Agency Consent.

**Action: Clerk to contact United Utilities to raise this query**

**Action: Clerk to contact the Environment Agency regarding these concerns, and also to raise wider concerns regarding the fact that Applethwaite Gill now runs dry from Croft House down (this has only started occurring since Storm Desmond 2015).**

Concern was also noted regarding the amount of plastic waste that UU are leaving within the working easement/vicinity of the working easement including in water courses.

**Action: Clerk to raise these concerns with UU.**

The Clerk provided an update from United Utilities:

1. The details of the kiosks and chambers were provided to the Parish Council in January
2. The detail of the permanent structures are continuing to be discussed by UU with the local planning authority. Approval has not yet been given for these
3. Reinstatement in Underskiddaw is programmed to be completed by the end of July 2019. Hedge reinstatement will be completed over the winter 19/20.
4. The White Cabin at the old ‘depot’ on the A591 is being used for essential stores and will remain in place until the work is completed in the area

UU caveated this with the fact that weather either too dry or too wet can impact on the project timescales.

It was strongly noted by both Parish Councillors & members of the public that landowners & residents need to be aware for the design and location of the permanent structures along the pipeline as during the initial consultation before works began the promise from UU was the land would be reinstated to how it was prior to the works commencing and within 5 years it would be impossible to tell UU had been present.

**Action: Clerk to raise these concerns with both United Utilities & the LDNPA to ensure that the locations and design of the permanent structures are fully consulted on with the public and landowners.**

**Action: Clerk to contact United Utilities to ask that when the hedge reinstatement takes place that the hedge is ‘stepped back’ at the bottom of Applethwaite Lane to improve highway visibility given the refusal of CCC to sight a mirror at this dangerous junction.**

## Passing Place Applethwaite Lane

Concerns were noted regarding the continuing use for parking the passing place on Applethwaite Lane.

All present noted this concern but felt that this are wasn’t a formal passing place and as such there was little action that could be formally taken.

## Field View Development

A local resident noted that the development at Field View doesn’t appear to be a ‘stock shed’.

The Clerk confirmed that the Planning Consent was for a Stock Shed/Agricultural Storage Shed. No further action to be taken.

## Parish Council Meeting Time

A query was raised as to why the Parish Council meetings were held at 14:00 precluding working people from attending.

It was noted that 4 of the Parish Councillors work and manage to attend meetings and when the event was held in the evening in 2019 no improved attendance was achieved. Additionally, the Clerk is unable to service evening meetings due to other work commitments.

Meeting closed 14:30