# Underskiddaw Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of Underskiddaw Parish Council held in a virtual meeting room on Thursday 6th August 2020 at 14:00

**Present:** Jim Wilson, David Horsburgh, Tony Gibbs, Jan Boniface, Ian Hall

**In Attendance:** Becx Carter (Clerk), John Hayes,

**Apologies:** David Lake (Work Commitments), Chris Corder (Illness),

With 4 councillors present the meeting was quorate.

# 33/2020 Apologies for absence

**Resolved** that apologies were received from the above-mentioned persons

# 34/2020 Request for Dispensations & Declarations of Interest

None

# 35/2020 Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on the 30th June 2020

All members had received a copy of the minutes to read.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th June 2020 were confirmed as a true & accurate record the Chair was authorised to sign the minutes.

**Action: Clerk to upload the minutes to the website.**

# 36/2020 Public Participation

Question 1:

Concern had been raised by a member of the public regarding the possible siting of a new camping pod/shepherds hut & yurt on agricultural land within the Parish, it appears that this new hut has no planning permission. Access has been observed via the lay-by opposite Crosthwaite New Cemetery.

The Clerk noted that this could be reported to the LDNPA but that she has received written confirmation that due to the Covid-19 working restrictions and staff illness the LDNPA have suspended any form of compliance monitoring other than in extreme circumstances for the foreseeable future, so it is unlikely that any action would be taken regarding this issue.

Disappointed was **noted** by all present that the LDNPA are no longer taking forward compliance cases.

**Resolved** by all present that the Clerk report this to the LDNPA for compliance monitoring when they resume this function.

**Action: Clerk to report this to the LDNPA once an accurate geographical location has been established.**

Question 2: Mr Saxton’s Newsletter

Councillors present thanked Mr Saxton for the volunteer efforts he made over the Covid period and for the other voluntary work he does within the Parish.

However it was noted with disappointment that Mr Saxton had recently raised concerns in his newsletter about the Parish Councils performance during the Covid 19 period. No concern had been raised direction with the Parish Council. It was noted by all present that the Clerk has done significant amount of work during the Covid 19 period, and it was not clear what additional help or support the Council could have offered, no requests for help or assistance were received by the Parish Council. The council communicated with all members of the parish on the distribution list within the first week of lockdown being imposed stating that they would be disseminating information via the website and facilitated a local member of a neighbouring parish in collecting and delivering prescriptions.

Cllr T Gibbs mentioned the importance of ensuring that there is a satisfactory relationship between parishoners and the Parish Council.

It was noted that the Parish Councils hands are somewhat restricted by GDPR, and maybe in future articles could be included in the newsletters managed by others in the local area.

**Action: Clerk to draft a response to Mr Saxton congratulating him on his award for voluntary work, and all the work he undertakes within the parish, but noting disappointment that this comment was made in his newsletter. Clerk to ask if in future newsletters he could include reference to the Parish Council website where all information is shared.**

# 37/2020 Update from other bodies

##### Allerdale Borough Council

##### Cumbria County Council

##### LDNPA

##### Police

Not present & no report received. A tailored police report is no longer provided to Parish Councils, with detailed information being provided via the police.uk website which is only up to date to May 2020. This information is therefore significantly out of date.

# 38/2020 Clerks Report

**Resolved** by all present that the Clerks report circulated prior to the meeting be noted as received.

## Footway Lighting Transfer Allerdale Borough Council

The Clerk updated all present that ABC are looking to devolve responsibility for the electrical costs of street lighting to Parish Councils effective as of 2021. CALC have sought legal advice which has confirmed that ABC are entitled to do this, under S.3 of the Parish Councils Act 1957 Parish Councils can provide or contract for electrical services. ABC are proposing to transfer the electrical costs of footway lighting to Parish Councils (Highways Lighting is a Statutory function that rests with CCC).

Under S.101 of the Local Government Act 1972 a local authority can arrange for any of its functions to be done by another authority, subject to an agreement being formed between those two parties.

As Footway Lighting is a power and not a duty there is no statutory obligation for ABC (or a Parish Council) to provide footway lighting.

A spreadsheet & map of the light locations have been distributed to all Parish Councilors. Underskiddaw Parish Council is entitled to choose to take on the responsibility for some, all or none of the footway lighting going forward. Any ABC footway light that the Parish Council choose not to take on the electrical costs for will be removed by ABC at their cost.

The cost to Underskiddaw Parish Council would be in the region of £1288 per annum, which would equate to a precept rise of approximately £8.53 per annum per band D household.

**Resolved** by all present that the Parish Council request that all the lights are LED before consideration is given to taking on the electricity costs. Clerk to also request that the lights be switched off after midnight to prevent light pollution and costs.

**Action: Clerk to raise this query with ABC prior to the next meeting.**

**Action: Clerk to agenda this for the next meeting**

# 39/2020 Finance & Accounts

## To receive note of the Bank Balances

**Resolved** by all present that the bank balance be noted as:

Current Account £9,991.49 at 30th July 2020

## Invoices for approval

None

**Resolved** by all present that the Clerk invoice for her expenses and the additional hours for website accessibility work once this work is completed.

**Action: Clerk to prepare this invoice and circulate to all.**

## Approval & Signing of Bank Reconciliation

**Resolved** by all present that this be noted as a true and accurate record.

## Request for a donation Citizens Advice Allerdale

**Resolved** by all present that no donation be made as whilst all councilors present note the importance of the Citizens Advice they are not active or accessible to local persons, so no offer of donation was made.

# 40/2020 Lake District National Park Authority

## Decisions

**Resolved** that the below decisions be noted.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref** | **Address** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| 7/2020/2080 | Derwent View, Millbeck Village, | Conversion of redundant barn to form holiday let (farm diversification) | Approved with full conditions |
| 7/2020/2167 | Cherry Bank, Underskiddaw | Shed for storage of fodder and feed material & livestock bedding | Notification of Intention- Prior approval not required. |

## Planning Applications for Consideration

**Ref: 7/2020/2163**

Location: Land at Thrushwood, Keswick

Proposal: Agricultural building & associated access track

**Resolved** by all present that the Parish Council have no comments or objections.

# 41/2020 Members Reports

Village Hall- Mr J Hayes noted that the classes/bookings etc that would normally take place in the village hall have been cancelled since March. The village hall committee have been receiving regular updates from ACT and other bodies. The Village Hall Committee are hoping to have a virtual meeting in the coming weeks to discuss future plans. It is likely that any form of opening is likely to be in or after October 2020.

# 42/2020 Dates of next meeting

**Resolved** that the next meeting date be Tuesday 8th September 2020 at 14:00 in a Virtual Meeting Room.

It was noted that there is a requirement to be able to offer a blended meeting functionality until May 2021, where people can dial in as well as attend in person. As the venue that Underskiddaw Parish Council meet in is not digitally enabled it is likely that the virtual meetings will continue for the foreseeable future.

Signed……………………………………………………………………………. (Dated) ………………………….