# Underskiddaw Parish C ouncil Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of Underskiddaw Parish Council held in a virtual meeting room on Tuesday 15th September 14:00

**Present:** David Lake, Jim Wilson, Chris Corder, Ian Hall, Tony Gibbs,

**In Attendance:** Becx Carter (Clerk), John Hayes (Village Hall), 1 member of the public.

**Apologies:** Jan Boniface (Family Commitments), David Horsburgh (Work Commitments),

With 5 councillors present the meeting was quorate.

# 43/2020 Apologies for absence

**Resolved** that apologies and reasons for absence were received and accepted from the above-mentioned persons

# 44/2020 Request for Dispensations & Declarations of Interest

None received

# 45/2020 Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th August 2020

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

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th August 2020 were confirmed as a true & accurate record subject to one minor correction, the Chair was authorised to sign the minutes.

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

# 46/2020 Public Participation

Q. A member of the public raised concern about the condition of the fields/area at the bottom of Applethwaite Lane. The area is very visually intrusive, and there is a large amount of debris on the site, including the large blue pipes that they have recently removed from the two becks. Additionally, the parishioner raised queries regarding when the intend to restore the beck banks, and replant the trees removed for the works. Currently they have reseeded the grass through hessian which won’t withstand heavy rainfall.

**Resolved** by all present that Underskiddaw Parish Council understand and support the concerns raised by the Parishioner and have raised these concerns with United Utilities on a regularly basis but with no success.

**Action: Clerk to raise these issues with United Utilities again and circulate the response received to all councilors & the parishioner.**

Q: Applethwaite Fingerpost at (6.30pm) on 11th September 2020 this sign was demolished during a road traffic accident. Cllr J Wilson has spoken to the police and they haven’t had an accident reported, local witnesses saw the vehicle being removed by a family member on a trailer but by this point the registration plates had been removed from the vehicle.

As this accident had not been reported it would be classed as a failure to stop and the Police suggested that a post be placed on Social Media to ask if anyone knows anything about the incident.

It is not clear who the owner of the sign is, but it maybe hark back to the old Cumberland & Westmorland counties. In the past Underskiddaw Parish Council have paid to have the signs refurbished, and local opinion is that the sign should be replaced as it forms part of the historic heritage of the parish.

**Action: Clerk to prepare a report to be shared by Cumbria Crack to seek information on this accident.**

Q: Concern was raised regarding a blocked drain in the area of Gillside/White Lodge/Wideaways on the U2225.

It was noted that this issue should be reported to Cumbria County Council Highways Information Management System for them to resolve the issue. It was noted that this is the best way to report an issue as then the CCC Highways Team will contact the informant on the way to site.

**Action: Cllr D Lake to report this issue on the HIMS**

# 47/2020 Update from other bodies

No external bodies present to provide an update.

The Clerk noted that with regard to Allerdale Borough Council & Cumbria County Council the National Government is actively driving a devolution agenda across the UK. The most likely outcome of this is the reform of the existing two tiers of local government within the County.

Cumbria County Council have agreed to submit a proposal which if it were supported by Government would see the creation of a single unitary council for the whole of Cumbria. This would lead to a saving of circa £96mill over five years. CCC are hoping for a response in the Autumn regarding this proposal. Q.1.

No decision making is required at this stage but the Clerk made Councillors aware that further discussion relating to this would take place over the coming months & years.

**Action: Clerk to agenda this for future meetings as required.**

# 48/2020 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 confirmed the responses from Allerdale Borough Council to the two queries raised following the August 2020 meeting:

Q.1. Will all lights be converted to LED heads prior to the transfer of electrical costs to the Parish Council? All lights will be converted to LED heads as and when they fail, but this will not be completed prior to the transfer date of the electrical costs.

Q.2 Can the lights be switched off after midnight to prevent light pollution and reduce costs? No formal response has been received to this query, but the Clerks knowledge from other parishes is that this is costly to install and the cost would need to be borne by the Parish Council.

The Clerk noted that an article had appeared in the ‘Underskiddaw Insider’ recently asking for resident feedback on the possibility of the Parish Council taking on the electrical costs of the footway lighting. This is a newsletter ran by a private individual and the placing of the article had not been discussed with the Parish Council. It is unknown if any feedback received by the writer of the newsletter will be fed back to the Parish Council or not.

**Resolved** by all present that this matter be deferred until the November 2020 meeting to allow for any feedback from the ‘Underskiddaw Insider’ to be received, and for formal clarification on the costs of timers to be received.

**Action: Clerk to agenda this matter for the November 2020 meeting.**

**Action: Clerk to speak to the member of the parish who prepares the newsletter and ask for a copy of the feedback to be provided to the Council prior to the November 2020 meeting, stressing that we don’t want to duplicate the canvasing of opinion.**

## Correspondence from a Parishoner regarding the Borderlands Broadband Scheme

The Clerk informed all present that correspondence had been received from a parishioner raising concerns that the Parish Council had not taken responsibility for distribution information to the parish regarding the Borderlands Broadband Scheme that was announced in the press and via a circular email earlier in the year.

**Resolved** by all present that this correspondence be noted as received. The Borderlands Broadband Scheme is an independent scheme run and managed by the Borderlands programme which community groups can apply to. Legal advice received from NALC is that Parish Councils should not apply on behalf of local communities for this funding, but that applications should be made via legally constituted community groups.

## Letter from Mr S Jackson (Keswick School) regarding building works

Mr S Jackson had written to the Parish Council to advise them that following the extension of the Lairthwaite Building in 2014 a fault was discovered with the roof. After significant time and investigations the School are now able to proceed with the corrective works. These works require a significant covered scaffold construction to allow for the works to be undertaken in the winter months. For safety and access one tree has been removed, and others have been trimmed back. It is anticipated that the project will be complete by Mid-December and following that the scaffolding and cover will be removed.

Mr S Jackson wanted to let the Parish Council know about the works as they can be seen from the parish. If any parish councilors or parishioners have any queries regarding these works these can be addressed to the Clerk for collation prior to passing on to Mr Jackson.

**Resolved** by all present that this information be noted as received.

## Grass Cutting/Parish Maintenance

The Clerk informed those present that she had received correspondence from Andrew Wilson asking when he should cease all activities in the Parish for the Winter, in line with recent instructions given.

The previous Council discussions relating to this matter requested that Mr Wilson cease undertaking and charging for leaf blowing but that he continue with the remainder of his work (grass & hedge cutting, drain clearance etc).

**Resolved** by all present that Mr A Wilson be asked to continue with all his standard areas of work (grass cutting, drainage clearance, removal of dropped branches etc) with the exception of the leaf blowing & clearance.

**Action: Clerk to convey this decision to Andrew Wilson & his Finance Administrator.**

# 49/2020 Finance & Accounts

## To receive note of the Bank Balances

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

Current Account £9,881.09 at 31st August 2020

**Action: Clerk to evidence to the Bank Statement to Cllr J Wilson.**

## Invoices for approval

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **To** | **For** | **Amount** |
| Andrew Wilson | Grass Cutting & Parish Maintenance | £138.12 |
| HMRC | PAYE | £225.40 |
| TSOHOST | Website Expenses | £76.67 |

**Resolved** by all present that this invoice be paid.

**Action: Clerk to upload the invoice to the Bank Account and seek authorization from Cllr’s Wilson & Boniface**

## Approval & Signing of Bank Reconciliation

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

## Website Accessibility Policy for Approval

The Clerk confirmed that the necessary works had now been undertaken on the website and the website and all documents since Sept 2018 are as accessible as they can be. A Website Accessibility Policy now needs to be adopted. The Clerk had drafted a policy in compliance with the current legislative requirements and this had been circulated to all prior to the meeting.

**Resolved** by all present that this policy be adopted with immediate effect.

**Action: Clerk to upload this to the PC website.**

## NALC Salary Award

The National Joint Council for Local Government Services has reached agreement on the new pay scales for public sector workers. This equates to a 2.75% increase.

The financial impact on Underskiddaw Parish Council is £58.24 per annum

**Resolved** by all present that the Clerk be awarded the nationally agreed salary rise.

**Action: Clerk to process this pay-rise**

# 50/2020 Lake District National Park Authority

## Decisions

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref** | **Address** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| 7/2020/2076 | Burnside Caravan park, Underskiddaw, Keswick | Use of land for the siting of 37 Caravans for year round occupation | Approved with conditions |
| 7/2020/2163 | Land at Thrushwood, Keswick | Agricultural building & associated access track | Approved with conditions  |

Keswick Garden Centre- It was noted that this was approved at Development Control Committee despite the significant local objections regarding safe access & pedestrian infrastructure, and lighting/dark skies impact that this development will have.

**Resolved** Underskiddaw Parish Council remain very concerned regarding the safety of this development in particular with regard to the safety of pedestrians accessing this site.

**Action: Clerk to write to the LDNPA and CCC Highways raising this concern and asking for TDU’s to obtain data on the average speed of the traffic on this stretch of road.**

It was noted that the current planning policies & reforms (and lack of enforcement from the LDNPA) make a mockery of the planning system.

## Planning Applications for Consideration

**Ref: 7/2020/2186 & 2185**

Location: Millbeck Hall Cottage, Millbeck, Keswick

Proposal: 1. Conversion of existing attached barn to provide additional accommodation for use within the existing dwelling. 2. Opening up of blocked window opening in existing house and rearrangement of external stair over. 3. Landscaping of garden & addition of timber summer house & shed

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

**Action: Clerk to submit these comments.**

**Ref: 7/2020/2021**

Location: Skiddaw Bank, Millbeck, Keswick

Proposal: New garage extension to existing dwelling in place of existing car port

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

**Action: Clerk to submit these comments.**

# 51/2020 Members Reports

Village Hall- A written update had been provided by John Hayes prior to the meeting confirming that following much deliberation the Village Hall have decided to remain closed for the time being due to the complexities of the risk assessing and compliance with Covid Secure measures, a review of the situation will be undertaken every month or so.

MP Survey- Cllr T Gibbs noted that the local MP has recently undertaken some form of local canvasing and has subsequently sent contact information to those that have completed the questionnaire reminding them that they can contact the MP with relevant issues.

**Action: Cllr T Gibbs to share the details with the Clerk.**

# 52/2020 Dates of next meeting

**Resolved** that the next meeting date be Tuesday 17th November 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) ………………………….