# Underskiddaw Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of Underskiddaw Parish Council held in a virtual meeting room on Tuesday 19th January 2021

**Present:** Jim Wilson (in the Chair), David Horsburgh, Tony Gibbs, David Lake

**In Attendance:** Becx Carter (Clerk, 1 local resident, Dr G Davis, Eugene & Jana Lambert (Planning Applicants), John Hayes, Ian McCoy, Cllr Sally Lansbury,

**Apologies**: Ian Hall (Medical appt), Chris Corder (illness), Jan Boniface (family commitments)

With 4 councillors present the meeting was quorate.

# 01/21 Apologies for absence

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

# 02/21 Request for Dispensations & Declarations of Interest

None received

# 03/21 Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th November 2020

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

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th November 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.**

# 04/21 United Utilities Presentation (Ian McCoy Stakeholder Manager for Cumbria & Paul Mckeown- Project Manager on the Team)

Notes from the presentation delivered by United Utilities are provided below.

Progress so far:

* In 7 years all milestones have been achieved ahead of the stretch target
* Despite Covid-19 challenges UU remain on track to outperform the 2022 Regulatory date for full water into supply-31st March 2022
* Majority of pipe is in the ground and the reservoirs are proceeding well.
* Castlerigg Tunnel won the longest pipe jack tunnel in the UK & North America.
* Covid 19- UU is classed as essential work so have been able to carry on. The majority of the administration/management team is home based. So no face to face meetings have taken place which have delayed communications.
* Communication has been primarily via the website, this has increased communication to the stakeholders.
* Increased staff illness/self-isolation has reduced the workforce from both contractors and sub-contractors
* Some of the suppliers have been furloughed which has caused a delay in material deliveries
* It is possible that Lockdown 3 may have different rules and have further impacts.
* It is predicted that water will go into supply from Williamsgate Water Treatment Works in 2021
* Both of the service reservoirs at High Leys & Moota Hill are constructed and have been hydrostatically tested ready for water.
* Raw Water Aqueduct from Thirlmere to Summergrove. Transitioning from construction in to the commissioning phase. Currently tests are being conducted on the new valves at Low Bridge End/Thirlmere a low flow test has been completed, and the high flow test is scheduled for early February (subject to weather, this is up to 561megalitres per day). A later maximum flow test in autumn will be in the region of 730-750megalitres per day.
* Power still needs to be installed to the line valves, and complete works at line valve kiosks, and then clean the pipeline and check for defects. Meaning that access is still required to easement until these tests have been completed in case any rectification is required.
* Remaining reinstatement is still outstanding e.g. boundary features, lines-mens gates, hedges, walls, topsoil, seeding etc. and any remedial works and removal of remaining flumes.

Q: Will the walls, fences and field boundaries be reinstated across the pipeline easement?

A: Yes- some of the work is seasonal, but also they still need to access the easement (washouts/air valves and fiberoptic setup) until the pipe is full of water and supplying Williamsgate. It remains a construction site so the construction fencing remains in place. Some works may get done this winter, but if not things will be picked up in Autumn 2021.

* The project has also crossed a number of water courses, they have now started restoring the water courses (e.g. Applethwaite Gill) they have re-shaped the banks and covered them in coconut mesh and then seeded with a mix of species. They will continue to monitor to observe slippage etc.
* Burr Gill- The grass growth on the coir netting is not as much as expected but the seed is there, if it doesn’t grow they will re-seed in the spring. The key thing is that if there is damage as a result of winter storms then UU will restore in the Spring.
* In terms of reinstatement a number of aspects are seasonal (tree & hedge planting, permanent seeding), other aspects are less seasonal (boundary features, linesman gates, removal of access points)
* Three line valves in U/S Applethwaite, a non powered one in the middle, and then Dodd Wood, and these are still ongoing in terms of construction and finishing.
* Trees that were on the line of the pipeline will be offset.
* United Utilities are not expecting much progress on restoration of hedges/trees etc this winter, it is more likely it will occur in 21/22.

Q: Are trees being replanted with just whipps or will mature trees be replaced, given that a lot of mature trees were removed.

A: It will be whips/small trees as these survive a lot better than mature trees.

Q: Can there not be a case for some slightly older trees to ensure it doesn’t all look ‘new’?

Q: What is the fibre optics for?

A: It is for remote control for the pipeline if required. One set of line valves are powered and can be remotely controlled, others have to be manually operated. The fibre-optics allow communications.

Q: Are the Line Valve Complexes every 1km?

A: They are approximately every 3km?

Q: How are the line valve complexes being finished?

A: They will be flat concrete platforms, they will be grass-creted in the main. This will be the same with the air valves. No plan for stone walling or anything.

Q: The final stages will be clearing up, but want to maintain access to the easement, can you say when local residents will be able to look on to the site and say UU have gone and the work is complete?

A: Pipeline will be operational in the Autumn 2021, maybe some remaining bits and pieces to do around the line valves. By **March 2022** all the field boundaries will be in, hedges planted and trees be planted, and we will be just waiting for it to grow back, the construction fencing will have been removed etc. The new hedges and fences will be visible as different but hopefully this will be less of a working easement.

Q: At the outset of the pipeline issue, there was discussion of a legacy/heritage fund circa £3million, but this seems to have disappeared. Where has it been spent?

A: Ian to provide a list of where the money was spent over the last 3 years. Over 1 million pounds has gone to environmental and community issues. If there was something that US was interested in up to the value of £10,000 an approach could be made to Ian.

**Action: Ian to provide this list to the clerk for wider dissemination.**

Q: Village Hall looked at applying for funding for an upgrade of heating, but the funds ran out rapidly. Funds went to projects 10miles away from the pipeline and as such ran out.

A: UU selected these boundaries to reflect the wider impacts of this project.

Ian & Paul were thanked for attending.

# 05/21 Public Participation

The Clerk confirmed that she had received an email from a parishioner thanking the Parish Council for requesting a dark skies area around the Keswick Garden Centre Site.

Additionally a query had been raised regarding the planning conditions on the Keswick Garden Centre Housing Development, and if any of these conditions have been discharged.

**Action: Clerk to contact LDNPA for an update regarding the Dark Skies area, and the discharge of the planning conditions**

At the Chair’s discretion Mr & Mrs Lambert were allowed to speak audibly at the meeting regarding their planning application which is for consideration later in the agenda (High Gale).

The aim of the project is to rebuild the house as a passive house, since moving to the parish in the last few years Mr & Mrs Lambert have enjoyed getting to know the local community and area. High Gale is their permanent residence. The aim is to reduce carbon impact and live sustainably. The current house is low in insulation, and hard to head.

Passive House- is aimed to be sustainable and with all energy provided via green electricity. Very air tight, very insulated and utilizes a heat recovery system, solar power, and batteries for storage of excess energy. It would have been impractical to undertake a restoration so going for a rebuild option.

The intent is to use local materials (Cumbrian slate) and local timber frame company. The build process will be minimally disruptive to residents.

No problems or queries were raised by the Parish Councilors, due to the secluded nature of the site it is not over looked or looks over anyone.

Q: What will happen to the waste materials from the existing building?

A: Yes hoping to reuse the slate off the existing roof, and reuse the stone as much as possible. Any rubble that is created will be utilized to form a terraced garden. The aim is that no rubble will leave the site.

The Council thanked Mr & Mrs Lambert for attending.

# 06/21 Update from other bodies

## Allerdale Borough Council- Cllr S Lansbury

The main focus is on the Local Government Reorganisation, Carlisle, Allerdale & Copeland joining together as become a dual unitary authority with Eden, South Lakes & Barrow as the other. Cumbria has been selected as one of the first areas to be taken forward.

It was noted that no two authorities have come up with the same proposals.

Cllr S Lansbury has a focus on waste & recycling and will share a web link with the clerk for distribution to all councilors.

**Action: Clerk to share this link with all councillors once received.**

Q: Is there any intention to recycle food waste?

A: Not at the moment but with the national government waste strategy that will come online in 2023 this could be included, as well as Tetrapak’s.

Local Occupancy Restrictions- There are issues with holiday lets sneaking into properties that are supposed to be local occupancy only. This is an ongoing matter, a project team has been set up to look at the ABC restrictions.

*Lake District National Park Authority- Dr G Davies*

There are two consultations open for response on Supplementary Planning Documents that will be new material considerations when the new local plan comes into force.

One is a biodiversity SPD, following the national push on this front, and will affect anything that needs planning permission.

The second document is the housing supplementary planning document and this indicates how Policy 15 (Housing Policy) will be implemented. Dr G Davies encouraged all to have a look at this document. One of the aspects of this would be a change to local occupancy clauses, currently one of the criteria that people can fulfil to occupy a local occupancy house (employment criterion) is being broadened, from just the North Distinctive Area to the whole county of Cumbria (and include self employment). The other aspects of the local occupancy criterion remain unchanged.

# 07/21 Clerks Report

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

## Replacement Fingerpost Applethwaite Lane

The Clerk confirmed that following an email discussion between Councillors in December 2020 that she has authorized CCC to incur the additional expenditure to have the Applethwaite Finger replaced at the same time as the destroyed fingerpost is replaced. This will cost £950 +plus VAT to Underskiddaw Parish Council.

**Resolved** by all present that this decision to approve the expenditure of £905+ VAT be ratified by all present.

**Action: Clerk to chase up the progress on this matter.**

## Dr G Davies LDNPA report

Cllr I Hall has contacted the Parish Clerk and Dr G Davies to raise concerns about the content of a recent update circulated from Dr G Davies LDNPA member. This update appears to suggest that in the Glover Report there are some significant contradictions. In particular relating to the National Park Authorities being ‘far too large to be effective’ and suggests replacing them with one single huge body (NLS). It also notes that they are ‘lacking in diversity, lacking people representations across age, gender, ethnicity and disability’ and ‘lacking in people who emphasis the purposes of securing nature and connecting people with our special places’. So the suggestion is to create the NLS in London which is likely to lack diversity, and the new NPA’s will have a limited number of members appointed by the NLS.

**Resolved** by all present that Underskiddaw Parish Council note concerns about the possible implications of the Glover Report and the likely increase in like of diversity and lack of local control or representation on the new ‘NPA’s.

Concerns were raised about the lack of enforcement in the current system and maybe a reform would resolve some of the current issues.

# 08/21 Finance & Accounts

## To receive note of the Bank Balances

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

Current Account £10,800.97 at 31st December 2020

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

## Invoices for approval

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **To** | **For** | **Amount** |
| Becx Carter | Salary (Via SO) | £441.92 |
| HMRC | PAYE | £110.40 |
| Unity Trust | Bank Fees (Via DD) | £18.00 |

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

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

The Clerk noted that an invoice had not been received from Andrew Wilson due to IT difficulties.

**Resolved** by all present that any invoice received following this meeting, be circulated to all for approval and payment prior to the March 2021 meeting.

**Action: Clerk to circulate this invoice to all as and when it is received.**

## Approval & Signing of Bank Reconciliation

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

## Draft Budget 21-22 for Consideration

The Clerk had circulated a Draft Budget to all councilors for consideration prior to the meeting, based upon the anticipated expenditure in 21/22 a small precept rice is required to ensure that the Parish Council doesn’t run its reserves to low. The increased expenditure is linked to additional parish maintenance works falling within the remit of the Parish Councils contractor.

**Resolved** by all present that a precept rise of 5% be approved, taking the precept to £7,063.35 for 21/22. This equates to a rise of £4.16 on a Band D Property per annum (8p per week).

**Action: Clerk to file this precept demand with ABC.**

## Cockermouth Mechanics Brass Band S.137 Donation

The Clerk informed those present that a request had been received for S.137 donation towards the ongoing costs of this charity, which along with being one of the oldest brass bands in the world, also has an apprentice band of 20 or so players. The group have been adversely impacted by the Covid restrictions and are seeking support to keep the tuition, instruments and music going. The Clerk confirmed that one member lives within the Parish, and 20 of the apprentices go to local schools (but for GDPR purposes their resident addresses can’t be disclosed).

**Resolved** by all present that a donation of £100 be made to this valuable cause.

**Action: Clerk to process this donation.**

# 09/21 Lake District National Park Authority

## Decisions

None

## Planning Applications for Consideration

**Ref: 7/2020/2307**

Location: High Gale, Applethwaite, Keswick

Proposal: Replacement dwelling

**Resolved** by all present that the Parish Council are fully supportive of these plans but would ask that the application of a local occupancy clause be considered for the new building, and if this is not possible rationale to be provided to the Parish Council on why this is not possible.

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

# 10/21 Members Reports

Village Hall- Currently the Village Hall remains closed and the Village Hall Committee are undertaking weekly checks to satisfy the insurance company.

# 11/21 Dates of next meeting

**Resolved** that the meeting dates for 2021 be set as:

23rd March 2021 14:00- Virtual Meeting Room

25th May 2021 14:00- Virtual Meeting Room (AGM & APM)

27th July 2021 14:00- Venue TBC

28th September 2021 14:00- Venue TBC

30th November 2021 14:00- Venue TBC

25th January 2022 14:00- Venue TBC

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

Meeting Closed 15:10