# Underskiddaw Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Underskiddaw Annual Parish Council held in Underskiddaw Church Rooms at 14:00 on the 25th January 2022.

**Present:** Joe Saxton (Chair), Jan Boniface, Jana Lambert, Diane Griffiths, David Horsburgh

**In Attendance:** Becx Carter (Clerk), 1 member of the public, A/BC Cllr Sally Lansbury

**Absent:** Ellen Barker

**Apologies**: John Hayes (Village Hall Committee)

With 5 councillors present the meeting was quorate.

# 01/2022 To elect a Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year

## Election of Vice Chairperson

Due to no councillor being elected to the role of Vice-Chair for the forthcoming year this will become the first agenda item of any future meeting.

**Action: Agenda election of Vice Chair as first item of business on any forthcoming meeting.**

# 02/2022 Apologies for absence

**Resolved** by all present that the above-mentioned apologies and the reasons for absence be accepted.

# 03/2022 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on the 30th November 2021

**Resolved** by all present that the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th November 2021 be signed as a true and accurate record by Cllr Joe Saxton.

**Action: Clerk to upload the minutes to the website and circulate to all.**

# 04/2022 Request for Dispensations & Declarations of Interest

None received

# 05/2022 Exclusion of Press & Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960).

None

# 06/2022 Public Participation

One members of the public was present and requested that Underskiddaw Parish Council make representation to ABC about the closure of the Keswick Leisure Pool.

# 07/2022 Application for Co-option (1 Vacancy)

None received

# 08/2022 Update from other bodies

## ABC-Sally Lansbury.

**Local Government Reorganisation-**In May there will be elections for the shadow authority (Cumberland), for Keswick there will only be 1 councillor in the new authority (down from 4 currently).

There are opportunities for Parish Councils to request devolution of activities.

Q: Is there a working party looking at the role of Parish Councils.

A: Yes CALC are leading on this.

Cllr J Saxton requested that in the future a report be provided to Parish Councils on what has been reported within the Parish and how problems are progressing.

**Keswick Leisure Pool**-A/BC Cllr S Lansbury confirmed that the pool was shut without any consultation with any Councillor on ABC. Keswick Leisure Pool defaulted to ABC when Keswick Bridge timeshare went bankrupt. Cllr S Lansbury identified that there has been a Leisure Needs Analysis commissioned and there have been over 600 responses, and a report is awaited.

Cllr S Lansbury & Cllr M Campbell-Savours are pushing the message that the Pool is more than just a pool it is a community hub and should be retained/restored. There needs to be a stronger business case for ABC to consider moving this forward.

A member of the public raised concerns that in the past when it was being built the local community raised a significant amount of money to have it built and this appears to have been forgotten, and ABC have neglected the Keswick Leisure Pool over the pandemic period.

It was noted that what is required for Keswick is a proper swimming pool.

**Resolved** by all present that Underskiddaw Parish Council make representation to Allerdale Borough Council about the importance of re-opening the Keswick Leisure Pool, and to highlight that the decision to close it appears to have been flawed, and raise concenrs that the report on the condition of the pool has not be shared in the public domain. Underskiddaw strongly object to the closure of this valuable community asset.

**Action: Cllr J Saxton to submit a letter of representation regarding this to ABC.**

**Keswick Flood Group-** Sally asked if anyone would be interested in flood sandbags, but Cllr J Saxton noted that the suggestion had been it would be £2.50 per sandbag. Cllr J Saxton noted that a local resident had volunteered to store the sandbags.

**Action: Cllr J Saxton to forward the relevant information to S Lansbury who will take this forward.**

**Community Climate Grants (Cumbria Action for Sustainability)-** Keswick Car Share is growing in popularity where personal cars are used like ‘hire cars’ so people can book to use them and some proportion of the running costs e.g. insurance are covered.

A/BC Cllr S Lansbury suggested that Underskiddaw Parish Council consider possible options for Community Climate Grants in the future. E.g., A shared/pool car, or solar panels, or double glazing e.g. on the Village Hall.

**Action: Cllr J Lambert to pass this information to the Village Hall Committee.**

 **Waste Collection-** A/BC Cllr Lansbury noted that all household waste is recycled (even if it is in the general waste bin) but anything that is in bulky waste is not recycled.

A/BC Cllr Lansbury confirmed that Tetrapak recycling is not going to move forward at this stage, as the recycling of them is not profitably (there is only a recycling plant in Halifax). The same is true with food waste (it is not economically viable).

**Action: A/BC Cllr Lansbury to share information with Cllr J Saxton on how to dispose of large/bulky items for inclusion in the Parish Newsletter.**

# 09/2022 Clerks report

The Clerk Report had been circulated to all prior to the meeting. The receipt of this report was noted by all.

## Local Government Reorganisation-Update on Elections

Correspondence has been received from CALC updating councils on the progress of the Local Government Reorganisation. A crucial and very significant impact of this on Parish Councils is that the current Structural Change Order is proposing that the dates of town & parish council election arrangements will not change.

The result of this is that if (as Underskiddaw Parish Council is) a council is due to hold its elections in May 2023 these will go ahead unchanged. The issue is that in May 2023 this will be the only election taking place that year. Which means that Parish Councils would need to cover the entire cost of the election in that year. This will need to be factored in to the 23/24 Parish Council budget.

The Clerk has requested indicative costs from ABC but these have not yet been received, but it is understood that this could run to 1000’s of pounds.

Following the May 2023 elections, the next election will be 2027 when the new unitary authorities hold elections, and the aim is that all local council elections will align with the principal authorities moving forwards.

**Resolved** that this information be noted as received.

**Action: Clerk to keep councillors updated on this issue and to ensure that the full costs are factored in to the 2023/24 budget, which will mean a significant precept rise.**

# 10/2022 Matters for Discussion

## Parish Plan

**Resolved** by all present that no further action be taken.

## Queens Green Canopy

**Resolved** by all present that information be shared in the Underskidaw Insider and no further Parish Council action be taken.

## Maintenance Plan for Underskiddaw

Cllr J Saxton confirmed that the contract is that each Parish is only diarised for road sweeping every two years.

Cllr J Saxton has raised issues relating to CCC Highways with C/CCllr A Bowness but no update has been received.

## United Utilities West Cumbria Pipeline

The two specific issues that have been raised is that there are issues with the hedging reinstatement including on Applethwaite Lane, the aim is that they will have done all reinstatement work done by Summer 2022, but this appears unrealistic.

The Footpath from Thrushwood to Field View is very muddy and UU need to resolve this.

Concern was raised that the condition of the land that they have been working in is appalling, and it is not back to the same standard that it was in when they took over the working easement.

Cllr Joe Saxton proposed that United Utilities be invited to the March meeting of Underskiddaw Parish Council to allow for members of the public to attend and receive an update on how the project is progressing and to ask any questions they may have.

Cllr J Boniface noted that the Parish Council have tried their hardest to communicate with UU but there is an ongoing issue with lack of communication and change of personnel.

**Resolved** by all present that the Clerk invite UU to the March meeting

**Action: Clerk to issue the relevant invitations and agenda UU for the appropriate meeting.**

# 11/2022 Finance & Accounts

## To receive note of the Bank Balances

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

Current Account £11,472.68 at 31st December 2021

## Invoices for approval

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **To** | **For** | **Amount** |
| Crosthwaite PCC | Room Hire | £25 |
| CALC | Training Fees | £100 |
| Andrew Wilson | Maintenance Fees  | £702.50 |

**Resolved** by all present that these invoices be paid.

**Action: Clerk to organise the payment of these accounts.**

## Approval of Bank Reconciliation & Spend against Budget Report

**Resolved** by all present that the Bank Reconciliation & Spend against Budget report be accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

## Consideration of Draft Budget for 22/23

The clerk had circulated a copy of this draft budget to all councillors. This was noted as received.

The anticipated budget for 22/23 for Underskiddaw Parish Council is £8,700. It was recognised that the Parish Council is likely to have 1 full year of precept in reserve at the end of the 21/22 financial year which is compliant with good governance. The Clerk confirmed that no additional figures have been added for Parish Maintenance either in terms of contracting a road sweeper or drain surveys and clearance.

The clerk confirmed that based on draft figures if the precept was to remain the same as 21/22 at £7,063.35 this would equate to a rise of £3.33 per year for the average Band D household, (or 0.06p per week), this is due to a change in the number of properties registered within the Parish to pay council tax. This is something that is outside of the Parish Councils control.

The other options the Clerk had proposed as part of the budget are a 5% precept rise and a 10% precept rise. If a precept rise of 5% was approved this would equate to an increase of £5.72 per annum (or 0.11p per week), and if 10% were approved this would be £8.11 per annum or (0.16p per week).

Cllr J Saxton suggested a 0% rise, only one councillor was in support of this.

Cllr J Boniface suggested a rise of 5% this was passed by a majority (4 councillors).

**Resolved** by all present that a Precept of £7,416.52 be approved for the 22/23 financial year.

**Action: Clerk to file the precept demand.**

# 12/2022 Lake District National Park Authority

## Decisions

None to be recorded.

## Planning Applications for Consideration

**Ref 7/2021/2374**

Location: Crosthwaite Conference Centre, Church Lane

Proposal: Operation of a temporary self-catering campsite for 3 weeks to run in conjunction with the Keswick Convention in 2022

**Resolved** by all present that Underskiddaw Parish Council have no comments or objections relating to this application

**Action: Clerk to submit this response to the LDNPA.**

**Ref: 7/2022/2005**

Location: Field View, Applethwaite

Proposal: 1.Enlargement of the garden appurtenant to Field View. 2. To retain the use of the hardstanding area as a parking area for vehicles belong to or visiting field view.

It was noted in the application that the hardcore that he has used is spoil from the beck and is to be retained to prevent the hardcore from going to landfill.

Concern was noted regarding a number of issues:

* That there is a significant track now going to the stock shed which appears to be without planning consent.
* That the applicant appears to possessing/managing the land outside Field View and in front of the post box which is not within the curtilage of Field View.

**Resolved** by all present that Underskiddaw Parish Council object to this application due to the ongoing loss of open green field space as part of this application, additionally they have concerns about the increased water run off during periods of intense rainfall with the increased area of hardcore, and finally the Parish Council have concerns about ongoing development creep on the site.

**Action: Clerk to submit this response to the LDNPA.**

**Ref: 7/2021/2352**

Location: Burnside Caravan Park, Underskiddaw

Proposal: Use of land for the siting of caravans-amendment to the number of caravans from 37 to 38 (condition 3 on Planning Permission 7/2019/2084)

**Resolved** by all present that Underskiddaw Parish Council have no comments or objections relating to this application

**Action: Clerk to submit this response to the LDNPA.**

## Planning Enforcement Update

**Field View Applethwaite-Wood Pod**

The Clerk confirmed to all present that concern had been raised about the Wooden Pod style building in the field next to Field View. The member of the public has checked the LDNPA website and can only seem permission for a stock shed/agricultural store and not a Pod.

The Clerk confirmed that this issue had been raised with the LDNPA in 2020, the LDNPA response was:

*‘Planning Permission would not be required for the Pod. The Pod appears to meet the definition of a caravan and has been sited on land which is used as a domestic garden. An incidental caravan in the garden of a house does not amount to development and therefore doesn’t require planning permission. In this case we have found no breach in planning permission, and we will be closing the case’.*

**Resolved** by all present that the information from the LDNPA be noted as received.

**Action: Clerk to convey this information to the member of the public that raised the concern.**

# 13/2022 Members Reports

## Village Hall

No update received.

# 14/2022 Dates of next meeting.

**Resolved** by all present that dates for the forthcoming meetings of Underskiddaw Parish Council be set as:

15th March 2022- Underskiddaw Church Room

17th May 2022- Underskiddaw Church Room

19th July 2022- Underskiddaw Church Room

20th September 2022-Underskiddaw Church Room

15th November 2022-Underskiddaw Church Room

**Action: Clerk to update the website.**

All present noted thanks to A/BC Cllr S Lansbury for attending.

Signed

Dated

Meeting Closed 15:32