

**UNDERSKIDDAW PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING held in the Underskiddaw Church Rooms on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**PRESENT :** Mr J Wilson (in the Chair), Mrs B Bulman, Mr C Corder, Mrs J Boniface, Mr I Hall, Mr T Gibbs, Mr T Ryan, C/CC Cllr A Bowness, A/BC Cllr M Grainger,

In attendance: Becx Carter Clerk, Mr C Sanders (United Utilities, Capital Programme Manager), Mr D Baines (United Utilities Senior Project Manager), Mrs D Marsh (United Utilities Project Co-ordinator), Mr J Neenan (Farrans Roadbridge Project Manager), Mr A Connolly (Farrans Roadbridge Design Manager), 25 members of the public.

**2017.12 Apologies for absence.**

**Resolved** that apologies be noted from Ms J Saxton.

**2017.13 Minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**Resolved** that the minutes be signed as a true and accurate record by Cllr J Wilson in his role as Chair of the meeting.

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

**2017.14 Declarations on Interest.** The Chairman requested Members should declare any interest they had in any of the Agenda items.

No declarations of interest or requests for dispensations were received.

**2017.15 United Utilities – West Coast Pipeline Project Presentation**

Mr D Baines gave an overview of the project prior to a question and answer session. A summary of the presentation is provided below, followed by the notes from the question and answer session.

The project starts at Thirlmere Dam, and runs to the (to be constructed new) water treatment works on the outskirts of Cockermouth. The pipeline itself is two 900mm diameter pipes laid next to each other in a trench approximately 2.0 m deep.

The main site compound for this area, including the administrative hub where David & the contract partners will be based is off the A66 between it and Calvert Way on the downhill (westbound) approach to Crosthwaite Roundabout. UU & Farrans Roadbridge (FRB) are working closely with Kier Highways/Highways England to consider the installation of a new slip lane off the A66 to access this site.

The pipeline will be laid over a period of 3 seasons. In agricultural land the works are constrained to March- October. Season 1 (2017) the pipe-laying activities will take place within the Underskiddaw Parish from the Burnside Lodge site, crossing the Underscar Road, through the fields below Applethwaite, crossing the Applethwaite road, and then across the A591 to proceed through the fields on the lakeside of the A591 up to Dodd wood where the Pipeline will be buried under the A591 during a road closure of circa 10 weeks commencing in January 2018. The period of work in each field will be circa 6 weeks, but the fencing will be in place for 18months-2 years.

Work will start from mid-May onwards on the installation of the fencing for the easement area (40m wide corridor). The fencing will be standard post & rail fencing. The fencing will remain in place until at least spring 2019 when the reinstatement of land is expected to be complete and the re-seeded areas are stock proof. The aim is to remove the fencing in Spring 2019 but this is weather dependant.

Signed..... Dated.....

The fencing will only be removed once the ground is a) stock proof and b) back to pre-entry level conditions in terms of ground condition/settlement etc.

A contract is in place between UU and their contract partners (Farrans & Roadbridge) that reinstatement success has to be checked after the fencing is removed to ensure that no degradation occurs as a long term impact of the pipe-laying.

Q: What control is there for reinstatement & who is overseeing it to ensure it happens?

A: UU have a contract with the partners and they have strict conditions they have to comply with to ensure that the land is back to pre-entry condition. To support this activity the route has been flown over twice during winter & spring and copies of this footage will be provided to each landowner as the 'baseline' for restoration standards.

Q: Will land drains be reinstated that are damaged by the project?

A: Yes UU have a responsibility to reinstate them and responsible for the reinstated drains for a period of 6 years (laid down by statute). In addition measures are taken during the project construction period to reduce the drainage impact e.g. Clay stanks are included along the route to prevent water migration along the route, soil is compacted under the drains to prevent settlement. UU confirmed that professional land drainage company is used for such works (ADAS) in addition to local contractors who are used to support the works.

Q: Could this 6 year period be extended as settlement on a project of this size could take years resulting in drain problems after the period has ended?

A: The Statutory period is the minimum and is what UU are contracted to currently. Mr C Sanders stated that he couldn't commit to any further periods at this stage but agreed to look into this and report back to the parish council.

**Action: Mr C Sanders to look into UU contracting to a longer than 6 year drainage monitoring period and to report back to the Parish Council.**

Q: Where is the bulk of the water being transported by these pipes required? If it is the west coast why can't the lakes in the Western Lake District be used to remove the need for this large infrastructure project?

A: To abstract from a local water source would be cheaper but less resilient. At any point given the current system the West Coast is less than 6 weeks from being in drought measures.

Q: Will there be enough water in Thirlmere to supply the West Coast or will levels in Thirlmere need to be held higher to ensure a resilient supply?

A: No change is being made to the Thirlmere Water Levels Agreement, when this pipeline goes 'live' the amount of water being piped to Manchester will be reduced resulting in the same amount of water being extracted in a day (100million litres to West Cumbria & 100million litres to Manchester) as opposed to the 200million litres to Manchester currently.

Q: Are you going to stop removing water from Ennerdale?

A: Yes, abstraction from Ennerdale must cease by April 2022 and in about 10 years time once all the ecological/environmental studies and matters are completed the dam will be removed and Ennerdale will return to being a natural water body.

Q: Other than resilience why shouldn't one of the West Coast water bodies be used?

A: Because UU can't control the catchment that feeds in to the other West Coast Bodies as they don't own the land. At Thirlmere the land is owned by UU and can be managed in terms of run off/contamination – ie: catchment management.

Q: Why couldn't the water be moved by the river system which naturally flows from Thirlmere to the West Coast?

A: This wouldn't provide the necessary security of supply.

Q: What other options were considered? Desalination? Wast Water?

Signed..... Dated.....

A: All other options have been considered and the one involving the least disruption with the best value was the pipeline from Thirlmere.

Q: Can you describe the compound off the side of the A66, will be it be screened?

A: The response to this question involved the access route only and is covered above.

Q: Can reassurance be provided that under no circumstances that both the A66 & the A591 will not be under formal road closures at the same time?

A: Yes. This is something that Cumbria County Council are insisting upon and is being managed by the relevant Highways Teams (CCC & Highways England).

Q: How long will the agricultural land be out of action?

A: 18months- 2years for livestock purposes.

Q: How will UU deal with access for farmers to livestock/fields that are disrupted/split by the pipeline easement?

A: Some areas/fields will be out of action for the full 18months-2 years. Where possible UU will work with land owners to provide reasonable access. There will be a period whilst the pipeline is being laid where NO access will be possible across the easement for health and safety reasons. Outside of the actual laying period UU will consider, where appropriate, the installation of two 5 bar gates in the easement fencing, that when 'opened' would provide a closure to accessing the easement and these could be used to allow stock/agricultural movement.

Carl Sanders & David Baines both noted the serious concerns that have been identified regarding the lack of consultation/communication with tenant farmers. UU have focused on consulting land owners & land agents which it has clearly been demonstrated has not always been consistently successful in getting the information to tenants.

Q: What is the timescale/period of works during the minor road closures?

A: Joe Neenan from FRB confirmed that the detailed Highways Plans are now being prepared in conjunction with Cumbria County Council, and applying for the relevant permits for temporary road closures, traffic management/speed reductions. The highways plan will include different types of work on the minor roads. The rough plan for these crossings would be 2-3 days of traffic under traffic management whilst fencing recessed access points are installed (road not closed but managed by traffic management personnel), followed by a road closure of approx. 5 days for each minor road crossing (Underscar/Applethwaite). This would then be followed by another 2-3 days of traffic management whilst the fencing etc is removed at the end of the project. On the minor roads where possible the final reinstatement will be done during the same road closure as the pipe laying to minimise disruption. UU confirmed they would have road plates on site to allow residents access to areas affected by road closures. It is expected the first works in the highways with traffic management will be to form access/egress points into fields from May 17 onwards.

United Utilities & C/CC Cllr A Bowness noted the serious concerns of the local community regarding the possible closures of Applethwaite/Underscar Road whilst Millbeck bridge is still closed.

**Action: C/CC Cllr A Bowness to raise this issue with CCC Highways and see if the works on Millbeck Bridge can be bought forward.**

**Action: United Utilities to feedback to the Parish Council within 2 weeks of this meeting date on the impact of the Millbeck Bridge Road Closure and the proposed pipeline activity.**

Q: Who will decide/how will the diversions be managed?

A: The final decision on all Highways Matters rests with Cumbria County Council (or Highways England in terms of the A66). UU will be submitting a traffic management plan to

Signed..... Dated.....

CCC who will have to approve them. The relevant traffic orders will then be applied for (with a 12 week lead in time).

Q: What is the role of the sub-depot off the A591 opposite the Applethwaite Road End? What will its access/working times etc be?

A: This will be an intermediate compound used for the storage of pipes/fittings/welfare facilities/skips for waste. Traffic will be accessing the site on a daily basis. The site will be used for a period of approximately 6 months, with heavy use for a period of approximately 4-6 weeks. Thereafter, with intermediate usage after this period of installation/construction of washout facilities & kiosks. Once the project has moved past this area restoration will be undertaken on the site in Spring 2018.

Q: How will the lay-down area be accessed from the A591?

A: It will be accessed via the pipe easement corridor (where the hedges have already been cut back). This is based upon guidance from CCC on the most appropriate highways sightlines for this site.

Q: Will more hedgerows be being removed? And are UU complying with the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1971 which states that hedgerows can't be removed once bird nesting season starts in March?

A: UU are in compliance with all relevant legislation and good practice, and the relevant statute does allow for removal of hedges in the bird nesting season as long as no birds are nesting at the time & with relevant consents. UU has a full time ecologist working on the project to ensure nothing is nesting in any areas that need vegetation works.

Q: Why was the Burr Oak removed from the field between Croft House Field and Applethwaite Road?

A: The pipeline had to cross this field, UU asked the land owner his preferred route and he selected the route that saw the removal of 1 tree (the Burr Oak) as opposed to the three trees which would have had to be removed on the alternative route. The Landowner then organised the felling and removal of the Burr Oak himself.

United Utilities noted the serious concerns raised by residents regarding the lack of consultation/communication with the parish. There was very limited communications until the project commenced on site with the removal of hedgerows/marketing of the Underskiddaw Oak. In addition it was reiterated that in rural areas tenants as well as landowners MUST be consulted and communicated with on agricultural land

Q: Are the kiosks permanent? And if so what size will they be/frequency of installation?

A: They are at automated line valves, so 4km intervals. The kiosks will be circa 1.2m high by 1.2 m wide on a concrete pad that is circa 6m \* 3m. In addition to the kiosks there will also be air valves & scours at intervals along the route.

Q: Tourism- What consideration has been given to the fact that the majority of the works in agricultural land/minor road crossings are taking place during the tourist season? And what additional publicity/notification are UU going to do to notify tourists of the impacts of this project on their stay?

A: Advanced notification will be given where possible, the exact detail of this is not yet confirmed but will be in due course.

Q: There is a lot of confusion around the current plans/impacts of the works/lack of consultation/communication with the necessary people. Will there be somewhere locally where concerned persons can go to speak with an individual about any problems or concerns?

A: Yes there will be a customer team that will be here and publically visible and can be contacted about individual issues. A phone number and contact methods will be made available and distributed via the Parish Council, the UU project website, the local noticeboards etc.

Signed..... Dated.....

**Action: United utilities to confirm the contact details for the local team to be circulated by the Parish Council, and to be displayed on the noticeboards locally.**

Q: The plans that are currently publically available show a significant amount of hedgerows/trees 'at risk' e.g. the splay at Applethwaite Road End. Will these areas definitely be being removed? How do concerned residents find out the definitive plans for vegetation removal?

A: The exact detail of this will be in the finalised vegetation removal plans that are still being worked on.

**Action: United Utilities to share the finalised plans showing vegetation removal with the Parish Council/local residents as soon as possible.**

Q: Has consideration been given to 'laying' the hedges, or just cropping them low to the ground rather than removing them on visibility splays?

A: Laying- UU confirmed this was not something they had come across before but that they would look into it. Cropping - where possible hedges are being maintained but cropped to 900m to allow the necessary site lines.

**Action: United Utilities agreed to provide a month by month 1 page timescale for expected works within the Parish that can be erected on the Parish Noticeboards/website so local residents are aware of the planned works.**

Q: What are you doing to protect badgers, squirrels, toads along the route corridor?

A: A full time ecologist is on board looking at all these matters and more.

Q: Once the detailed plans for the Underskiddaw area are finalised could you offer to do a guided walk along the route showing the exact line of the route & detailing any vegetation still to be removed?

A: UU are happy to do this with the tenants/landowner affected but are reluctant to organise a public site meeting. UU agreed to feedback any notes from these site meetings to the Parish Council.

**Action: UU to provide feedback from the meetings held with landowners/tenants to the Parish Council for distribution.**

Q: Have you been liaising with the school as the A591 is used by many school buses?

A: Preliminary dialogue has taken place and will continue to speak to them.

Q: The legacy fund has gone awfully quiet is it still in existence?

A: Yes, an administrator for the fund is currently being sought.

Q: Is the Pipeline project actually creating any jobs within the LDNPA?

A: No specific figures available for this, but they are using local subcontractors where possible.

Q: The planning documents state the project is costing £354million with £52million of it being spent in Cumbria, where is the rest of the money being spent?

A: No comment on this specific matter. Both Mr Sanders and Mr Baines could not understand where these numbers had arisen.

Q: How much is the legacy fund?

A: Mr Sanders refused to disclose an exact figure as it would be "inappropriate" at this time.

It was suggested by a member of the public that UU should speak to Cumbria Community Foundation as a possible 'host' for the fund.

Q: How/which routes will the excavated material leave the site? Circa 20,000 lorry loads?

Signed..... Dated.....

A: Where possible excavated material will be used to back fill, however if necessary material will be removed via road to registered and licensed facilities. The exact details of the routes will be included in the haulage plans.

**Action: UU to provide copies of the relevant haulage plans to the Parish Council when they are finalised.**

Q: What are the working hours of the lay-down depot?

A: Working hours are between 8-6 Monday to Friday, 8-1 on a Saturday & no working on Sundays/Bank holidays unless by prior agreement with Environmental Health officers from Lake District National Park authority.

Q: How will UU ensure that the highways/roads are kept clear of mud/debris?

A: A road sweeper will be on call to ensure that the roads are kept clear. If necessary they will follow the trucks as they leave the sites.

Q: Can you speak to your contractors/consultants to ensure that they don't park on grass verges/local green areas when visiting sites, as already the grass area at the bottom of Applethwaite road has been damaged by contractors parking on it.

A: UU agreed to this and informed all present that contractors/staff/any personnel involved in the project would have an induction from UU and be reminded regard grass verges/litter etc.

At 15:15 this matter was drawn to a close by the Chair and United Utilities and Farrans Roadbridge were thanked for attending. The Council look forward hopefully a better communications dialogue going forward.

**Resolved** that it be agreed by United Utilities that the accepted notes from this meeting were the ones prepared by the Parish Clerk.

**Action: Clerk to distribute the minutes to all parties ASAP after the meeting.**

**Action: United Utilities to be invited to speak again at the July meeting once the project is in progress within the Parish.**

2017.16

**Opportunity for Public Participation**

Tree Preservation Orders- It was suggested that TPO's be applied for on a number of local trees.

**Action: Clerk to look at the process and costs of this and agenda for the May meeting.**

2017.17

**Update from other bodies on relevant issues. (If present)**

a. Police Report

Website only updated to end December.

b. Cumbria County Council

C/Cllr A Bowness informed the meeting that there is a new Highways reporting system for road defects that has recently been launched.

**Action: Clerk to circulate the link to the new reporting system to all councillors.**

C/Cllr A Bowness confirmed to the meeting that Cumbria County Council have received a significant amount of money from central government for the Allerdale Area for Highways Repairs in the aftermath of Storm Desmond. This money is a significant increase on the standard annual budgets (a 3-4 times increase), and is in the region of 18-20 million over the next 3-4 years. C/Cllr A Bowness confirmed that Millbeck Lane would be on the list for works.

c. Allerdale Borough Council

Signed..... Dated.....

A/BC Cllr M Grainger informed the meeting that there is an Electoral Review being undertaken on the Allerdale Boundaries. It was noted that the proposal is to move Underskiddaw Parish from the Boltons & Wharrels Ward to the Keswick Ward.

**2017.18**      **Clerks Report**

All matters were covered in the Clerks written report circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

a. Defibrillator Fundraising

It was noted by the meeting that £1420 had been raised via fundraising, along with the confirmed Lake District National Park Sustainable Communities Grant. Full funding is now in place.

The phone box has now been adopted by the Community Heartbeat Trust and it is hoped that the equipment will be installed in the near future.

**Action: Clerk to continue to pursue this matter and report back at the April meeting.**

**Resolved** that the Community Heartbeat Trust/Keswick first responders be invited to the next Underskiddaw Parish Council meeting to speak about the unit and its usages.

**Action: Clerk to look into this and agenda it for the May meeting.**

b. Keswick Garden Centre Update

The Clerk updated the meeting that the LDNPA had received information and attended the site and confirmed that the owner stated a business was still operating from the site, and that they had asked the owner to remove the roof & the debris that was stacked around the old café building.

**Resolved** by all present that there is no business operating from the site and that the Council still have concern about compliance with the planning conditions.

**Action: Clerk to speak to the LDNPA about further investigation into this matter.**

c. Alteration to the Parish Boundary

**Resolved** that Underskiddaw Parish Council fully support Keswick Town Council in submitting a request to Allerdale Borough Council for a review of the Parish Boundaries to move the Underskiddaw Boundary to the A66 so that Calvert Way would be included within the Keswick Town Council area.

**Action: Clerk to confirm this resolution to the ABC & KTC.**

d. Millbeck Bridge Update

**Resolved** that it be noted with great disappointment that further investigation works are being undertaken with all necessary repairs to be undertaken in the June-Sept working period. All works to be undertaken & completed prior to the bridge being re-opened to full traffic.

e. Mail out to ALL Parishioners regarding communication methods.

**Resolved** by all present that in light of the UU Pipeline and other necessary communications that a letter be sent to ALL households in the Underskiddaw Parish asking them for an email address for Council communications. This letter to also include dates of the future Parish

Signed..... Dated.....

Council meetings, the Council web address and correspondence details. For those that don't have an email address the letter to ask for the best method of communication.

**Action: Clerk to prepare this letter for approval by Cllr J Wilson & J Boniface prior to sending.**

**Action: Clerk to distribute this letter to all households ASAP.**

2017.19

**Finances**

i) *Bank Balances*

**Resolved** that these were noted as:

Current Account	£5,569.37 on 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
Money Manager	£2,626.01 at 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2016

ii) *Cheques*

**Resolved** that the following cheques were approved by all present and signed by Cllrs Wilson & Boniface

Becx Carter	Expenses	£78.90
Crosthwaite Church	Room Hire	£20.00
HMRC	PAYE	£101.60
Becx Carter (VIA SO)	Salary	£405.95

**Action: Clerk to process the above payments**

iii) *Approve financial reports*

**Resolved** by all present that the Bank Reconciliation and Spend Against Budget Report be approved.

iv) *Approval of internal auditor.*

**Resolved** by all present that Ms A Love be appointed as Internal Auditor for the Financial Year ending March 17.

**Action: Clerk to complete the audit prior to the May meeting.**

v) *Request for funding from Cumbria Dyslexia Project*

**Resolved** by all present that whilst this appears to be from a worthy cause applications for funding need to not duplicate statutory funding and need to be received from properly constituted bodies.

**Action: Clerk to convey this decision.**

A query was raised regarding the overspend on grass cutting during the past financial year.

The Clerk confirmed that it was due to lateness of invoices being submitted & also additional work incurred in the immediate aftermath of Storm Desmond.

2017.20

**Lake District National Park Authority**

i) Decisions:

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

Signed..... Dated.....

Ref	Location	Proposal	Decision
7/2016/2198	Croft Head Cottage, Applethwaite	Replacement conservatory and new oil tank	Approve with conditions
7/2016/2266 & 67	Underscar Manor, Underskiddaw	New boundary wall to the east garden to improve privacy and delineate public/private space and erection of greenhouse	Approve with conditions
7/2016/2337	Red House Lodge, Underskiddaw	New fence, internal boundary walls and drainage works	Approve with conditions
7/2016/2007	Underscar Manor,	Remodeling and enlargement of annexe and installation of new mezzanine level to estate office located in rear courtyard of the manor house	Listed Building Consent granted
7/2017/2014 & 2015	Ormathwaite Farm, Ormathwaite, Keswick	Reconstruction of partly collapsed Listed Barn to form 2 no dwellings to be used as holiday accommodation (Resubmission of application 7/2015/2226)	Approve with conditions

ii) Sewage Works

The Clerk informed the meeting that the cladding works are planned for 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017 (Weather permitting).

iii) Planning Applications for Consideration

None

iv) Consultations for consideration

-Electoral Review of Allerdale- Draft Recommendations

**Resolved** by all present that the recommendations included in this align with the request of Underskiddaw Parish Council made during the January meeting.

-Keswick Mountain Festival-Cycling Event

**Resolved** that receipt of this consultation be noted and the Clerk to circulated the updated maps once they are received (avoiding the Millbeck Bridge Closure and any associated UU pipeline works).

**Action: Clerk to circulate the revised map when it is received.**

-Underscar Manor Woodland Management Stakeholder Engagement

**Resolved** that receipt of this be noted and approved by the Council with one comment to be submitted enquiring if the new Footpaths are to be public access (this was promised when the development started).

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

2017.21

Cumbria Association of Local Councils

- a) The Council noted the receipt of the monthly circulars from CALC
- b) The Council noted receipt of the minutes (19.1.17)

Signed..... Dated.....

c) The Council noted the next meeting date as 4.5.17

**2017.22**      **Members Reports**

i)      Village Hall- None received.

**Resolved** that it be noted that a Parish Councillor to try and attend each Village Hall meeting in rotation so as not to put the burden on any individual councillor.

ii)      Derwent 7

None

**2017.23**      **Date & Time of the Next Meeting**

**Resolved** that it be noted that the July meeting has been rescheduled for the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 (AGM & APM)

Meeting Closed at 16:00

*Items raised after the meeting:*

-Clerks overtime regarding United Utilities Pipeline to be added to the May agenda.

-Reimbursement for grill installation on culvert to be put on the May agenda

Signed..... Dated.....