

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL MILLBECK ON Tuesday
16 July 2013 at 2.30 pm**

PRESENT : Mr J Wilson (in the Chair) Mrs J Boniface Mrs B Bulman Mr C Corder Mr T Gibbs
Mrs K Hind & Mr T Ryan

In attendance : Clerk & Members of the public : Gill and David Edmonds, Tina Sykes, Gill
Brocker, Maggie Climie, Mr & Mrs Gamye, Mike Bulman, Paul Brownrigg,
Bernie Keith, Tom Donaldson.

The Chairman welcomed Marion Fitzgerald the newly elected Allerdale BC member for this area, and also a large number of people who were attending the meeting.

2013.45 **Apologies for absence** None required

2013.46 **Minutes** The Chairman was authorised to sign the Minutes of the last meeting,
held on 21 May 2013.

2013.47 **Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of Interest The Chairman requested Members to declare any interest they had in any of the Agenda items. Cllor Corder declared a possible interest in the planning application regarding a hydro –electric scheme, as he was Chairman of the VHC which was also contemplating such a scheme, and indicated he would not take part in the discussion of that item on the Agenda. No other interests were declared..

2013.48 **Opportunity for Public Participation**

Tom Donaldson said that in relation to the hydro electric scheme he was worried about possible noise nuisance from the turbine house situated 100 yards from his house. Louvres on this structure were inconsistent with sound-proofing. No final drawing for this had been supplied. Paul Brownrigg (the relevant applicant) said the structure would be subject to Building control, that there should be no audible noise at a greater distance than 30 feet, that he understood concerns about noise and was anxious to allay these, and that he would consider the siting of the louvres in relation to noise, and the planting of a hedge or willow screen on an earth bank. The location of the turbine house was determined by the speed/gradient of the watercourse.

Bernie Keith (wife of the applicant) observed that this was not untested technology : there were other similar schemes in existence.

Gill Edmonds asked if the electricity produced, which she had heard was sufficient to power 85 houses, would be used for specific houses in the village. The applicant explained that the power would go into the national grid, and the figure expressed the equivalent amount.

Tina Sykes asked if the scheme had taken over from the schemes being looked at by the Village Hall. The Applicant explained this was a separate matter. Maggie Climie said that the Village Hall investigations were not far enough advanced for a planning application to be submitted, and confirmed that the two schemes were independent of each other.

Mr Gamye noted that when electric work was done at the Hall there had been a poor external supply and asked if the scheme would be used to upgrade this. The Applicant responded that there was no requirement for him to upgrade the infrastructure.

Mike Bulman complained about the state of the road down from the Hall to Crookelty and asked the Council to pursue this. The Chairman urged people to write individually as members of the public, and asked the clerk to supply the contact details. Gill Edmonds suggested people made official complaints, and Marion Fitzgerald offered to contact highways on behalf of the community. Paul Brownrigg commented that the road was made worse by virtue of water running down from the Towers and freezing : to improve the drainage would alleviate damage. Tom Donaldson advised that he had been told that the workmen from Highways were only allowed to clear a length of 4 feet on either side of the drain, whereas the blockages extended ten times this distance.

Maggie Clime referred to the planning application relating to Aydon Cottage, where a response had been made by the Clerk under delegated powers. She felt the application was a great improvement and worthy of support. She was advised that the letter had been written in support of the application.

No-one wished to make further comments. The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their interest and contribution.

2013.49

Finance

- (i) The Bank Balances were noted as £2019.15 in the current account and £3619.33 in the Deposit Account. A copy of the cash book was circulated.
- (ii) Accounts were approved for payment to Andrew Wilson of £220 for grass cutting, and brushwood clearance.
- (iii) An Invoice had just been received for £400 + VAT for the contribution the Council had promised towards the new noticeboard; this would be paid as already authorised {**Minute 2013.35(v)**}

2013.50

Lake District National Park Authority

Applications **7/2013/2117 Brundholme Woods** New timber stacking and vehicle turning area; upgrading tracks; new tracks. **7/2013/2126 Crag Side CA12 4PY** Side extension for ground floor accomm; **7/2013/2137 Aydon Cottage Applethwaite CA12 4PL** alterations and extension. These applications had been received with deadlines for response before the date of this meeting. The Clerk had written responses – in each case to support the application – and this was ratified by the Council.

7/2013/2155 Run of River Hydro-Electric proposal Millbeck. The Councillors had previously studied the application and plans in detail. The Applicant was asked to clarify the size of the Turbine House - 4-5 m square (about the size of a double garage) and single storey. Concerns were expressed that the neighbouring property could be disturbed by noise, and that there was no detailed drawing of this. Concerns were also expressed about management of risk in the future but this was deemed not to be a planning consideration. The Chair commented that the application was well prepared and presented and asked if the Councillors wished to support it. The six members who voted on this occasion (Cllor Corder not voting) agreed to support it, but requested that their concerns about the noise disturbance should be passed to the Planning Authority with a request that these should be taken into account when framing the conditions of any approval.

United Utilities – Sewage Works

Discussions were ongoing with United Utilities regarding the landscaping of the site,

and progress was being made. UU had agreed to paint the fences green, to re-locate a new proposed hut, & probably to paint the sides of the filter beds. The planting had been increased, and a drawing was promised of how the site would look in 5 years time with the proposed planting. Pending matters were the horizontal surfaces, and the camouflaging of the large kiosk. The Planning Officer had confirmed that no landscaping plan had yet been submitted, and that he had sent the photographs of the site to the NPA's landscaping expert.

Japanese Knotweed The Park Officer had promised that they would try to add the weed on the footpath below Ben y Craig to the spraying schedule. No answer had been received about dealing with the weed on private land. This would be pursued further.

Planning Pow Wow A report was circulated regarding the up-dating session on 21 June. The National Park were keen to have all communications on line, but it was considered that hard copy plans were much easier to deal with as a group. However the Hall had a facility for projecting electronic copies of plans. The NPA were making efforts to liaise better with parishes.

2013.51

Cumbria County Council

Broadband Ms Climie reported that Underskiddaw was in the lowest of 4 categories of priority for upgrade. The Parish is connected to the Keswick exchange, and success in upgrading will depend on the result of a survey of the cabinet connecting to the Keswick exchange. However some more funding had been announced which might help. The government's latest aspiration was that 99% would have high speed broadband by 2018 – it was not clear whether the percentage related to people or properties – probably the latter. She was feeling more hopeful in the long term than previously but it unlikely that even 90% of properties would receive high speed broadband by 2015.

Highways In relation to a request to the Police to look into speed limits on the A591 the response from the Police was disappointing. People would be asked to look out for particular examples of dangerous speeding and report them. The road markings at the junction of Applethwaite Lane with the A591 needed to be changed as they now invited overtaking at the point of the junction.

Clerk was asked to invite Tim Shields to another walk round the village for a progress report, and also to write regarding outstanding matters on the Schedule, and to prioritise the white lines at the junction by the Hall, and the state of the road down to Crookelty.

2013.52

Cumbria Association of Local Councils

There was no circular for July. The June circular referred to the problem where street lights are fixed on structures which do not belong to North West Electricity – the power company will be removing these, and possibly not replacing them. Members of Public to be asked to identify any such. Mrs Edmonds said there should be a lighting plan for Applethwaite with the undergrounding papers.

2013.53

Derwent 7 This was still on going but was having some difficulty in working effectively. There were no Minutes yet from the meeting on 5 July.

2013.54

Members Reports

Website Cllor Boniface had supplied a report which had been circulated. The website was virtually up to date and there was some weeding out of old documents still to do.
Village Hall Cllor Corder gave an update on the recent and future events.

2013.55

Bulk Buying of Oil

Cllor Gibbs was looking into this and there would be a meeting with Age UK next week. Potentially group buying can save 10p per litre. It is necessary to know how many people would join a group – there need to be enough to make it worthwhile, but not too large to manage. This can be referred to in the next Newsletter, and it was suggested there could be a public meeting. Cllor Gibbs will find out the optimum size of a group.

2013.56

Mr Gamyne asked for support from the council for his efforts to get the National Trust to keep the garden tidy at The Towers. Councillors agreed that a letter should go to National Trust in support.

2013.57

Dates of Future Meetings Wednesday 11 September 2013 & Tuesday 19 November in each case at 2.30pm