

UNDERSKIDDAW PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL MILLBECK ON
TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2014 AT 2.30 PM

PRESENT: Mrs J Boniface, Mrs B Bulman, Mr T Gibbs, Mrs K Hind, Mr T Ryan & Mr J Wilson (Chairman)

In attendance: Clerk; Ms Marion Fitzgerald Allerdale Borough Councillor; Dr Tom Donaldson Parish Resident.

The Chairman welcomed Ms Fitzgerald

2014.01 Apologies : Cllor C Corder on holiday, apology accepted.

2014.02 Minutes: The Chairman was authorised to sign the Minutes of the last meeting, held on 19 November 2013

2014.03 Declarations of Interest: The Chairman requested Members to declare any interest they had in any of the Agenda items and no such declaration was made.

2013.04 Public participation: Highways matters were discussed – minuted at **2014.08**

2013.05 Finance

- (i) The following Bank Balances were noted : Current A/c £2782.15,
Deposit A/c £3,620.59
- (ii) Cheque approved to be written : £67 CVs for Payroll services
- (iii) It was noted that the amount advised for PAYE and Employer's Insurance subsequent to the last meeting had been £249.40 and in accordance with **Minute 2013.77** the Clerk had obtained cheque and paid this.
- (iv) Evidence that the title to the Land adjoining the Village Hall had now been registered in the names of the Village Hall Trustees was produced to the meeting and it was therefore Resolved that the reserve of £1,000 held to assist in the purchase of this land should now be released to the Trustees of the Hall and a cheque for £1,000 was written and signed. Copies of the Title to the land were inspected.
- (v) The Provisional Budget and proposed Precept for 2014/2015 were reviewed in the light of two pieces of information. The first was that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant (CTRS) was to be £151.91. The Concurrent Grant for Grass Cutting no longer existed. The CTRS had to be treated as part of the precept, and was being passed on by Allerdale BC who received it from the Government to help to compensate for District Councils taking on the cost of Housing Benefit. The second piece of information had been received only that morning from CALC and was that Government had still not decided whether to cap the Precepts of Parish Councils. If a cap were to be imposed then the Parish Precept would remain at the level set this year until the cap was removed. In view of this, after discussion, it was agreed to reduce the expected in year deficit slightly by a small increase in the Precept as this would also protect the position against a possible standstill in future years. The result

was that the total amount to be received from Allerdale would be £3,300 : consisting of the indicated amount of the CTRS grant (£151.91) and the Precept (£3,148.09). It was Resolved that the figures in the Budget would be adjusted accordingly, and the Precept form would be filled in as :

Total Funding requirement	: £3,300
Less CTRS Grant	151.91
giving a Precept of	£3,148.09

The Clerk was instructed to complete the Precept Request form with those figures and submit it to Allerdale BC.

- (vii) It was agreed that the Clerk should be authorised to book in to a Finance Training Course with CALC at a cost of £80.

2014.06

Lake District National Park Authority

- (i) Applications 7/2013/2291 Little Dodd Garden Centre (Cherry Bank) External Garage and 7/2013/2319 Material amendments to 7/2013/2029 internal garage to become playroom. The letter written by the Clerk was noted in which no objection was raised to these proposals, on the basis that the development would be required to be in accordance with the Revised plans, and that the condition excluding the General Development Order would be retained.
7/2014/ 2002 Lonscales Farm CA12 4TB Construction of Agricultural Building over existing concrete surfaced stock pens. Clerk was instructed to write in support of this.

- (ii) United Utilities Sewage Works – Landscaping The situation was reviewed : there had been four meetings with UU over the past 14 months about the appearance presented by the works to the surrounding countryside. It was pointed out that this was right in the middle of Wainwright’s favourite view. Some agreed work had been carried out, and some of the landscaping planting would take time to mature – the current appearance was still unsatisfactory. A number of points were made and the Clerk instructed to write again to UU, copy in Kevin Richards at LDNPA and check whether a formal landscaping plan had been submitted.

- (iii) Some useful future dates were noted : Parish Forum (LDNPA Partnership meeting) 12 May 2014; Parish Tour 11.9.2014; Planning Training from CPRE 15 May 1.30 – 5 in Penrith.

- (iv) 10 Peaks Fell Race Notification received from Organisers of event on 28th June, asking for permission. Parish Council has no power to prevent this, but agreed Clerk should reply thanking them for the courtesy, and asking for them to deal with litter and be aware of parking difficulties.

- (v) National Park Partnership - Annual Summary. This was noted.

2014.07

Allerdale Borough Council

- (i) District Councillor Marion Fitzgerald agreed to arrange for the leaf litter to be cleaned from the road leading from the Hall to the A591 (see Minute **2014.08**)

(ii) Cllor Fitzgerald mentioned two useful initiatives. The public could be involved in reporting Litter – to help in a campaign to clear up litter. It would be possible to report litter direct from a smart phone, by photographing it and sending to a designated website – recognition of the location would be automatic.

The second initiative is The Big Switch. Allerdale will negotiate with Energy companies for a better deal which would then be offered to those who had signed up, although they would be under no obligation to take up the deal. The more interest Allerdale could demonstrate the better the deal was likely to be. The deadline for this was 17 February 2014 and signing up could be done on the telephone or on line, or in person at Allerdale Offices

(iii) The Parish Council had been interested in a request from a neighbouring council to object to a big windfarm scheme. This proposal had been withdrawn, but would no doubt be revived, and she would let the Council know if this happened. The issue which was emerging was the cumulative effect of the large number of schemes.

2014.08

Cumbria County Council

Highways

The question of the road leading from the Hall to the A591 was discussed. Dr Donaldson raised this issue. There were two main things wrong with this road : the lack of a clear white line at the junction near the Hall and the invisibility of the Halt sign (which were safety issues) and secondly the general condition of the road. Both these issues had been repeatedly drawn to the attention of different officers in the Highways Department over a number of years, they were on the Highways repairs Schedule as agreed with Tim Shield in December 2012/January 2013, and up-dated in April 2013, August 2013 and October 2013, and they had been reported individually to Highways Hotline in October 2013. A check on the tracking site had shown in the previous week that the question of the white line had been referred to a team, and that the condition of the road had been dealt with, the latter not being the case. Councillor Fitzgerald was in the process of arranging for Allerdale highway cleaners to clear the road, so that its true condition could be re-assessed, and further complaints made.

Councillor Wilson and the Clerk had attended a “Meet the Highway Team” in December and had learned that extensive re-organisation had been done in the previous 9 months on account of Government budget cuts, and that this process was likely to start again in 2014. Councillor Fitzgerald said that Allerdale had been informed that maps had been supplied on which repairs should be marked and that Parishes should contact the Better Highways team. The maps supplied had in fact been too small to be of use at the level of detail required, but the clerk would investigate reporting faults on-line. The Better Highways Team was a shifting body – but if Hotline references could be quoted there might be some help from that direction.

The Clerk was also trying along with other clerks to get definitive guidance on the best way to present the Schedules of Repairs so that it would be taken notice of.

A serious pothole was reported at the junction of the Terrace Road with A591.

2014.09

Cumbria Association of Local Councils.

The Report on the Allerdale Parishes Joint Meeting held on 12 December 2013 was

noted.

2014.10

Derwent 7

It was noted that the next meeting was to be on 3 March 2014 Cllor Wilson confirmed he would join the Transport Group.

2014.11

Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting

It was noted that this should be held between 1 April and 1 June. A number of names for speakers were mentioned and it was agreed that one or two of these should be pursued and the date fixed to suit the speaker so long as a reasonable number of councillors could attend.

2014.12

Members' Reports

Cllor Boniface reported that the Website was virtually up to date and she was putting the finishing touches to it.

2014.13

Dates of Future Meetings

The survey of Councillors' availability had shown that Tuesday afternoon remained the slot which suited most people. There was therefore a choice between meeting at the Hall but only when the Art Group had left, or meeting at the Church at 2.00pm. It was agreed that meetings should be at the Hall at 2.45. Meetings would be on the third Tuesday of March, May, July, September, November and January.