

UNDERSKIDDAW PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL MILLBECK ON
Wednesday 19 March 2008 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT : Mr J Wilson Mrs B Bulman Mr T Gibbs Mr D Roberts Mr J Wood
In attendance Clerk

Before the meeting those present observed a minute's silence to honour the memory of Tim Mann, formerly Chairman, who had died since the date of the last meeting.

2008.19 **Election of Chairman** The Members elected Jim Wilson, formerly Deputy Chairman, to the office of Chairman. John Wood agreed to act as Deputy Chairman until the Annual General Meeting.

2008.20 **Apologies** None required

2008.21 **Declarations of Interest** None made.

2008.22 **Minutes** The Chairman was authorised to sign the Minutes of the last meeting held on 17 January 2008

2008.23 **Matters Arising**
2007.90 Road Safety at Brundholme : The County Council's policy on fencing of dangerous roadsides appeared to have been removed from the Website. The Clerk had asked our County Councillor for a copy and this was awaited. **2008.11** A copy of the response made to the NHS consultation about treatment closer to home had been circulated to all members. **2008.07** The Clerk was still to pursue the question of the ownership and use of land next to Owl Cottage.

2008.24 **Public Participation** No member of the public was present.

2008.25 **Finances**

(a) The balances in the Accounts were as follows :

Current Account : £45.54

Deposit Account : £1120.38

(b) It was resolved to approve payment of cheques for £56.50 to Jim Wilson in reimbursement for payment made to Andrew Wilson (no relation) for grass cutting; and for £75 to CILCA as and when required for Clerk's Registration fee for qualifying examination.

2008.26 **Lake District National Park Authority**

Applications Approval was given for the responses made between meetings under the planning Consultation Policy in relation to **Dancing Beck Cottage** Extension & Alterations (Support); **Merlestead** (extensions & new garage) (strong objection) and **Rathvale (extension)** (support)

Approvals To note approval re **Keswick Convention** Temporary permission for caravans (no previous consultation having been received)

2008.27 **Allerdale Borough Council**

Receipt of the result of the Housing Needs Survey for the Parish was noted. This showed that there was a need for 5 affordable homes at the moment in the Parish : three two-bedroomed houses were wanted for renting, and one for buying. There was also a need for one 2 bedroom bungalow or ground floor flat. Additionally there was an open-market demand for two three-bedroomed houses, and one flat or bungalow. There was to be a meeting on 4 April with Nick Moor, Planning Officers, and a representative of Cumbria Rural Housing Trust to which it was hoped as many Members as possible would come. This was to explore the possibility of there being sites within the Parish to meet to the need for affordable homes, for which there was provision in the planning system. It was also expected that Mr Moor would explore the possibility of greater flexibility in the planning system for satisfying a need which was not so closely related to affordability.

2008.28 **Cumbria County Council**

(a) The County Council had announced two weeks of work in the Parish, one at the beginning of March and the other in August. Councillors had drawn up a comprehensive list of potholes and other defects which had been sent to the Highways Team. The Clerk had met the team leader Kevin Lumley on site, and had been advised that the work would be confined to the Terrace Road in Millbeck and Applethwaite (Ormathwaite having apparently been attended to last year). The work would to fill in the potholes and broken surfaces this year, and next year to run a top coat along the length of the road. The roads had been marked out with white paint, and some filling in of potholes had been done. The work was still in progress.

(b) The Community Travel Plan had been finalised : this was for Underskiddaw combined with Bassenthwaite and Snittlegarth. The top priority was for work in Bassenthwaite costing £50,000. The top priority relating to Underskiddaw was expressed to be a footpath from Thrushwood to Applethwaite road end. It had been pointed out to the Highways Team that such a footpath already existed, and that the second priority for Underskiddaw (a footpath from Common Hill to Applethwaite road end, estimated to cost £7,000) would be much more useful. It appeared that the question was academic since there was only £12,000 available for all three parishes : any figures quoted for costs were pure guess work. If there were to be some money left over it would be used up on a smaller project which fitted the amount of money available regardless of the priorities in the Plan. The Clerk was asked to find out what the consultation exercise had cost.

(c) In response to a request to Highways to cut the trees at Little Crosthwaite which threatened to bring the wall down on to the verge, a letter had been received stating that if such work was thought to be necessary it would be carried out not earlier than April.

2008.29

Cumbria Association of Local Councils

(a) Councillor Gibbs had attended a meeting of parish councils in Allerdale held under the auspices of CALC. He reported that the Allerdale Corporate Improvement Plan was to be revised with 6 priorities instead of 10. These would be : Housing, Environment, Economy, Service, Community and Health and Safety. More note was to be taken of the needs of individual communities. There had been an interesting presentation about the availability of Ordnance Survey maps to Parish Councils. These can be viewed but not obtained on line. Printed copies are available for a good reason to Parish Councils, in fairly widely defined circumstances. Further dissemination of information would be fairly strictly controlled.

(b) Councillor Roberts reported on a four part training course he had attended for new Councillors, on how to make a Parish Council effective. In particular the Council should do more than merely keep its administration going. It should be active in doing things for the community.

(c) The CALC circular was noted. All councillors should shortly be able to receive this by email.

2008.30

Correspondence from Statutory Bodies

(a) Information was received about the substantial roadworks on the A66 at Crosthwaite Roundabout.

(b) Councillor Bulman reported on the Neighbourhood Forum meeting she had attended. There had been a discussion about the provision of adult social care. 90% of home care is provided every day of the week. New larger care homes would be built near to the sites of local hospitals. The intention would be to re-build Ravensfield on the site next to Keswick Cottage Hospital. This would be both for nursing and residential care. The present building was inadequate because all rooms ought to be en suite. The big problem is the quantity and quality of staff. Home care and residential care were heavy on staffing. Whilst overseas staff were often brought in there could be problems with old people understanding them if their English was poor. There had been a debate on the relative merits of home and hospital care. The ideal size of a residential unit was 33.

Grants were given by NF to Keswick Scouts, Keswick Fair Trade and parents at Keswick School for hurdles.

(c) Information received from Cumbria Rural Housing trust about collecting information on second homes was considered and it was agreed that Councillors should collect information about the use of properties in relation to their delivery areas. This could be collated and forwarded to the Trust to build up a picture. The information would be statistical and not identify particular properties.

(d) Information was received about the Partial Review of Spatial Strategy. It was felt more enlightenment was needed on the Regional Assembly generally.

2008.31

Vacancy for a Councillor

The Vacancy had been advertised and an application for an Election had been signed by 10 electors and sent to Allerdale Democratic Services.

2008.32

Correspondence from Non-Statutory Bodies

A request had been received from the local First Responders Team asking for help financially or in finding further helpers. It was agreed to invite them to talk to the Annual Parish Meeting with a view to building up further support for them.

2008.33

Village Hall Committee

Councillor Helme reported on the meeting of the Committee held on 25 January 2008. Work was going on at the Hall. The finances were in a very sound state. The Christmas Fair organised by Alison Bell had been the best ever.

Councillor Bulman reported on the Village Hall AGM which Councillor Helme had been unable to attend. Chris Corder was now Chairman, and Phil Sykes had retired as Secretary. The water wall had been strengthened. There would be a full programme of events this year, but no Open Gardens as it was felt this needed to be rested for a while. There was a review of all the activities which had been suggested via the Parish Plan and a short list of possibilities was drawn up.

2008.34

Annual Parish Meeting and AGM

No response had been received from the proposed speaker and it was agreed that if this did not materialise there could be several short presentations - one from the Neighbourhood Watch Police Liaison Officer, one from First Responders, and also Bil Bell would be asked to talk about the new History Group which appeared to be thriving.

2008.35

Any Other Business (for discussion only)

The clerk was asked to obtain a copy of the up-dated Electoral Register, and to check the boundaries of the Keswick Time Share.

2008.36

Date of next meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting would be on Tuesday 8 April as agreed, and the next Parish Council meeting, being the AGM, would be changed to 21 May 2008 at 7.30 pm.

In its deliberations the Council took into consideration the provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and Equality and Inclusiveness legislation.