

UNDERSKIDDAW PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL MILLBECK ON
TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2013 AT 2.00

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

In attendance: Clerk; Megan Jones Community Support Officer Cumbria Police; David Atkinson, Agent for J Spedding.

The Chairman welcomed Ms Jones, and David Atkinson

- 2013.72 Apologies:** none required from Councillors. Marion Fitzgerald, Allerdale BC member sent apologies.
- 2013.73 Minutes:** The Chairman was authorised to sign the Minutes of the last meeting, held on 11 September 2013
- 2013.74 Declarations of Interest:** The Chairman requested Members to declare any interest they had in any of the Agenda items. Cllr Boniface and Cllr Ryan declared an interest in Item 13 (possible restrictions on second homes)
- 2013.75 Public participation:** No parishioners present. David Atkinson spoke under Item 5 of the Agenda (Tree Felling)
- 2013.76 Tree Felling in Underskiddaw** David Atkinson, Agent for the Spedding Estates, brought a copy of the Forest Plan and outlined plans for future felling on estate land in Underskiddaw. The work which would have most impact on the Parish would be the clear felling of Aeroplane Wood, which lies to the north of the bridle path beyond the car park at the top of Gale Road. This was a wood of poor quality with difficult access. The intention was to turn it into an area of natural woodland. Owing to the condition of Brundholme Road the timber would have to be brought out via the car park and down Gale Road and straight on through the Parish to Dancing Gate. It was estimated it would take 12 weeks to clear, given suitable weather conditions. There were approximately 3,000 tons of timber to take out which would mean 120 lorry loads. The loads would be taken at the rate of 2/3 a day. Two hours would suffice for the lorries to go up the road, be loaded and come down. It might be possible to do this early in the morning and avoid weekends. It was pointed out that there were visitors cars parked there very early, and some kind of road management would be necessary. The Estate had written to Karl Melville at Cumbria County Council to discuss this but no response had been received. Policing and good signage would be necessary. It was pointed out that a lot of debris had accumulated in the ditches by the roadside, and Mr Atkinson agreed to look at this. Summer was a good time to fell because it was less damaging to the watercourses, and the lorries caused less damage to the roads; on the other hand winter was good because there were fewer visitors and it was less damaging to wild-life – eg red squirrels. However the requirements of Natural England were paramount and it might be considered that the wild life would recover quicker than the watercourses. There did not appear to be many dreys there but a survey would have to be carried out. He would liaise with Cumbria Wildlife Trust to do this next summer. Mr Atkinson would consider a suggestion that the car park could be extended. If he could

arrange a meeting with Highways he would try to get some work done to the road. The haulage contract would require the lorries to move slowly, which in any case would be essential and their weight was distributed in such a way that on each square foot of road the pressure was less than that of a car. The Estate could not however undertake to bring the road up to a complete state of repair. All personnel would be warned to watch out for people and cyclists.

Part of Gale Gill plantation will be clear felled and re-planted with Spruce. The part near Gale Road is broadleaf mixed with self-seeded conifers, and this will be cleared of conifers, and have enrichment planting.

The Estate would have to apply for planning permission to improve the stacking area, and for various licences from Natural England and the Environment Agency. Mr Atkinson would arrange meetings with NPA and EA and other authorities and will invite the parish to attend.

2013.77 Finance

- (i) The following Bank Balances were noted : Current A/c £2837.15, Deposit A/c £3,619.33
- (ii) It was noted that the second instalment of the Precept had been received : £1627
- (iii) Cheques were approved to be written : Clerk for Salary £800; Royal British Legion for Poppy Wreath £20; A Wilson Grass Cutting £45; Data Protection Annual Registration Fee £35. The Clerk was also authorised to write and have signed a cheque to HMRC for £200 for PAYE plus whatever amount was advised to be due for Employer's National Insurance contribution.
- (iv) It was noted that the External Auditor had approved the Accounts and had no comment to make. Notice of electors' rights in respect of the Accounts had been advertised on the Notice Board. No Audit fee was payable this year under the new arrangements.
- (v) It was agreed that £50 should be sent to West Cumbria Rape Crisis Centre, and £100 to the Great North Air Ambulance Service.
- (vi) The half year statement and the statement of the expected outcome to the year end were noted. The Reserve for the Information Board had now been paid out, and the remaining Reserves were : Grit Bins (£962); Election (£1,000); Land Purchase (£1,000); Neighbourhood Watch (£270). The remaining funds available to be held as a General Reserve were £2035, including £1151 from previous year.
- (vii) The Council considered a draft budget and agreed to include £200 for Donations, £300 for Training and £700 for parish improvements. IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the Budget provisionally and to set a Precept of £3,000 subject to a review of both in January when further information had been received from the Government via Allerdale as to what provisions were to be introduced this year for precepting and budgeting in particular government grants.

2013.78 Lake District National Park Authority

Decision 7/2013/2155 Hydro-electric Proposal Millbeck Approved

LDNPA Partnership A list of the priorities of the Partnership had been circulated. The

Council did not have any further suggestions to add.

2013.79 United Utilities – Sewage Works

A further meeting had been held attended by Cllors Wilson, Bulman and Corder, Kevin Richards from the LDNPA, and Simon Povey, Alan Richardson, Louise Plant and Caroline Brumwell from United Utilities. UU expressed themselves anxious to do all they could to improve the appearance of the filter beds and huts. There had been a 30% increase in the holly planting; matting had been put on the filter beds; the posts had been painted; the blue building would be removed; they were still looking for colours to paint the green building; the control building would be built in January/February. They were talking to the neighbouring owner about planting outside the fence. Kevin Richards said he looked forward to the final plan being submitted.

It was agreed that an email should be sent to UU expressing appreciation for what they done, but asking how long it would take to decide about the paint for the intrusive green box to be painted – how were they getting on with changing the colour?

Also Kevin Richards to be asked to confirm that ongoing maintenance provision would be included in the landscaping plan.

2013.80 Cumbria County Council

In the absence of any guidance from Cllor Bowness it was agreed not to make any comment on the CCC Budget.

2013.81 Traffic Speed & Police Matters

Community Police Officer Megan Jones reported on some minor incidents in the area and drew attention in particular to a number of bike thefts, particularly from gardens and sheds. With regard to Community Speed Watch schemes she said there were none currently in existence in the area. Their purpose was to monitor compliance with existing speed limits, rather than to provide evidence of the need for a reduced limit. Speed limits tended to be changed only in the event of accidents. In order for there to be a CSW in Underskiddaw there would need to be volunteers from Underskiddaw, even though they might be deployed elsewhere, with other people coming in to do the watch in the parish. Councillors felt people might be reluctant to man a speed watch post in their own area, but suggested volunteers could be sought in the next newsletter. Ms Jones agreed she would pursue the question of the white line at Millbeck with her contact in Highways, and would also find out what the result of a Highways meeting was at Bassenthwaite. The dangers of speeding bikes was also mentioned, but these were even more difficult to deal with than motorists since they carry no identification.

2013.82 MRWS

The Members had read the Consultation document which had been circulated. They noticed that many of the terms used were inadequately defined – eg “directly affected” “local community”. They also considered it was wrong to leave out the County Council from the decision making bodies, and to downgrade the contribution of Parish Councils, in view of the stress the Government laid on their importance in relation to “Localism”. They felt it was wrong for the government to be coming back with proposals clearly having reference to the previous discussions in West Cumbria, when a decision had already been reached there under the previous rules. The Clerk was

asked to draft a response highlighting these points.

2013.83

Cumbria Association of Local Councils

(i) The training opportunities were noted.

(ii) North West area joint meeting of Parish Councils. The Chairman had attended this and gave a report. With a suitable project it is possible to obtain grants of between £500 and £5,000. The Blencathra Centre is being replaced by an office at Threlkeld – the Chairman had suggested Development Committee meetings could be held there occasionally, instead of in Kendal. The Planning surgery will resume in the Moot Hall from 10 -12 on Wednesdays. The Parish tour next year is on 14 September 2014. Suggestions were requested and the chairman suggested the Sewage Works.

2013.84

Derwent 7

A paper had been received from a member of D7 giving information about some proposals being prepared to press the government to make it necessary to get planning permission for change of use if a house was changing from owner occupation to being a second home or holiday let. Doubts were expressed about the feasibility of this, and also about how it would be policed without undue interference. No response was suggested to this, but D7 should be asked whether houses owned by Landlords but let on long residential tenancies should be included in the proposals or not.

2013.85

Allerdale BC

A letter had been received asking if the Polling station was in a convenient place. Given that postal voting was now widely used it was not thought there was any merit in disturbing the existing arrangements.

2013.86

Skiddaw Youth Hostel

A letter had been received asking for an expression of support for the Hostel to enable it more easily to obtain grants. The Clerk was instructed to write in support.

2013.87

Members' Reports

Cllor Corder reported that the Music Hall had been a great success. Next year's programme was settled. New recruits were needed for the Committee and Officers, and several long-serving people wished to retire. He had some new material to put on the website and would forward this.

2013.88

Dates of future meetings The next meeting would be as arranged on Tuesday 21 January at 2.30. It was agreed to review the days and times which members found convenient and to see if any change ought to be made. Meetings could not take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday at an earlier time than 2.30.