**UNDERSKIDDAW PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING held in the Underskiddaw Church Rooms on Tuesday 7th January 2020 at 14:00**

**PRESENT:** Mr J Wilson (in the Chair), Mr Chris Corder, Mr David Lake, Mr Ian Hall, Mrs Jan Boniface, Mr David Horsburgh, Becx Carter-Parish Clerk, A/BC Cllr S Lansbury, C/CC Cllr A Bowness, 17 members of the public (including the Planning Consultant for ref 7/2019/2305)

With six councillors present the meeting was quorate.

Prior to the meeting commencing a minute’s silence was held in memory of Betty Bulman and recognition of her many years’ service on the Parish Council.

# 2020.01 Apologies for Absence

Mr T Gibbs

# 2020.02 Minutes of the 12th November 2019

**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.**

# 2020.03 Declarations of Interest & request for Dispensation

None

# 2020.04 Public Participation

Cllr J Wilson as the Chair of the meeting offered all members of the public present an opportunity to raise any issues or concerns that they may wish to. Cllr J Wilson reminded members of public that this was there opportunity to speak and that as per the Standing Orders of the Council members of the public are not encouraged to speak during the remainder of the meeting.

No member of the public spoke at this point.

# 2020.05 Update from other bodies (if present)

## Allerdale Borough Council

A/BC Cllr S Lansbury attended to introduce herself as one of the three Allerdale Borough Councillors who cover the Underskiddaw (and wider) area. She confirmed that she would try and attend meetings where possible, and if there were any issues of concern that these should be emailed through to her on [sally.lansbury@allerdale.gov.uk](mailto:sally.lansbury@allerdale.gov.uk) .

A/BC Cllr S Lansbury confirmed that her areas of interest on Allerdale Borough Council include environmental and climate emergency, scrutiny of the waste contracts, licencing & street lighting.

*Reporting issues*

Any issues with street lighting/waste collection etc should be reported via the Allerdale Borough Council Website <https://www.allerdale.gov.uk/en/myallerdale/> rather than via phone.

**Action: A/BC Cllr Lansbury to check with the relevant officers about updating the information on lamp-posts about how to report any faults (currently there is a phone number on each lamppost).**

*Refuse*

The current update is that the FCC interim contract will continue until 31st March 2020, after that the service is being taken back in house and will be managed by a separate company that is managed/run by Allerdale. The new service will start fully on the first Monday in April. It is hoped there will be minimal disruption during the transition, but all issues should be reported via the above-mentioned portal. The current staff are being bought over to the new contract on the same if not better T & C’s.

## Cumbria County Council

C/CC Cllr A Bowness confirmed that an interesting meeting had been held between Councillors and the Highways Team prior to Christmas which confirmed that the reason why gritters are often seen at odd times of the day is that prevention (of ice forming) is much cheaper than trying to remedy ice once it has formed (circa 1/8 of the amount of grit used). The gritters are tasked based up readings from roadside cameras and in road sensors that feed back to the Highways offices.

Additionally, CCC are working on the roll out of a programme ‘Working Together’ which will allow Parish Councillors/volunteers to access training and appropriate Personal Protection Equipment to undertake works on the side of the Highways (e.g. Grass Cutting/hedge trimming/sign clearing). Further details of this programme will be circulated with Parish Councils in due course.

*30mph Speed limit on the A591*

Concern was raised regarding the 30mph speed limit on the A591 that were put in for the UU works, and now are partly covered by plastic bags. It is unclear if the speed limit is enforceable or not.

**Action: Clerk to raise the concern with United Utilities & CCC formally to establish the legalities of a partial obscured speed limit.**

## Police

No report received

## Lake District National Park Authority

No report received

# 2020.06 Clerks Report

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

## Footway Lighting Transfer Letter

The Clerk informed all those present that Allerdale Borough Council are considering asking Parish & Town Councils to pick up the energy costs of lights from April 2021. These costs should be significantly less than the previously discussed cost of devolution of the street lights. Costs of the electricity would be confirmed during early 2020. ABC will continue to pick up the costs of the maintenance for the foreseeable future.

## Allerdale Borough Council Budget Consultation 2020/21

The Clerk informed all present that this consultation is now open for consultation and can be found on the Allerdale Borough Council website. Further savings are still required and three options that are being considered are:

1. Charging for Garden Waste Collection
2. Introducing a charge for replacement bins
3. Moving general domestic waste collections to fortnightly.

**Action: Consultation responses to be submitted on line via the Allerdale Borough Council Website.**

**Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2020 Nominations**

**Resolved** by all present that if any Parish Councils would like to be considered for nomination to attend this event they should let the Clerk know by the 10th January 2020.

## Damaged Fingerpost Applethwaite Lane

The Clerk confirmed that following the previous meeting information had been provided to suggest that this had been damaged by the contractors cutting the hedge, and that they would be willing to repair the sign, however the finger has now disappeared. Until it is located repairs can’t be considered.

**Action: Clerk to contact the contractor for details of their insurance.**

# 2020.07 Finances

### Bank Balances

**Resolved** that these were noted as:

Current Account £8132.36 at 5th December 2019

Money Manager £2633.77 at 30th November 2019

### Consideration of Draft Budget 20-21

The Clerk presented a draft budget for the forthcoming year. Key points highlighted were:

* 1. Website- There is a legal requirement to make alterations to all local government websites on accessibility grounds prior to Sept 2020 as such an increased website budget has been suggested
  2. Parish Maintenance- This budget has been increased to recognise the increased amount of work that is being done locally with the austerity measures in the higher authorities
  3. Parish Clerk Salary- As agreed at the Sept 19 meeting, the approved salary increase has been reflected in the budget.
  4. The cost per household increases even if the budget remains the same because of the loss of the 55 houses at Calvert Way and the other small areas of Keswick that were moved within the Keswick Town Council boundary during a Community Governance Review in 2019.

It was noted that with a 0% increase the Parish Council budget would run at a loss.

**Resolved** by all present that Parish Council budget be set for 2020/21 at £6,727.35 an increase of 5% which equates to £9.23 increase per week on the average Band D property.

**Action: Clerk to file the relevant paperwork.**

### Approval of Cheques

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

Crosthwaite Church Room Hire £25.00

Andrew Wilson Parish Maintenance £989.92

Becx Carter Expenses £25.40

Becx Carter Salary £661.92

HMRC PAYE £165.60

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

### To approve & sign the Bank Reconciliation and Spend Against Budget Report up to 5th December 2019

**Resolved** by all present that this be signed as a true & accurate record.

### Approval of Request for Read Only Internet Banking Access

**Resolved** by all present that Underskiddaw Parish Council apply to HSBC for read only access to internet banking to enable more timely financial reports to be prepared. The appropriate bank mandate was signed by Cllr I Hall & Cllr J Wilson & Cllr J Boniface with the Clerk being nominated as the Principle Officer.

**Action: Clerk to process this mandate form.**

# 2020.08 Lake District National Park Authority

### Decisions

**Resolved** by all present that the below decision be noted:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref** | **Address** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| 7/2019/2255 | Land near to Crag Side, Millbeck, Keswick | Agricultural building for the storage of hay, machinery & implements | Granted |
| 7/2019/2283 | Calvert Trust, Little Crosthwaite, Keswick | Replacement water supply tank | Granted |

### Planning applications for consideration

**Ref: 7/2019/2323**

Location: Crosthwaite Conference Centre, Church Lane, Keswick

Proposal: Operation of temporary self-catering Campsite for 3 weeks, to run in conjunction with the Keswick Convention in 2020

**Resolved** by all present that the Parish Council have no comments or objections to this proposal.

**Action: Clerk to submit these comments.**

**Ref: 7/2019/2305**

Location: Keswick Garden Centre, Underskiddaw, Keswick

Proposal: Demolition of existing garden centre buildings, erection of 11 new dwellings & conversion of holiday let to dwelling (12 units in total, 6 affordable & 6 local occupancy) with associated landscaping and car parking

At the Chairs discretion members of the public were allowed to speak under this agenda item.

The Clerk confirmed that at 12noon on the 6th January 2020 there were 14 objections on the LDNPA website, and 1 letter of support. Plus a lengthy letter of objection from Friends of the Lake District.

A robust discussion was held by Parish Councillors with Cllr I Hall starting the debate by making reference to the Friends of the Lake District objection which detail a number of grounds for objection. It was suggested that the Parish Council confirm the position of the Friends of the Lake District.

The planning consultant for the applicant in response to a question confirmed that an ecological report had been submitted with the application and if the application were approved by the LDNPA bio-diversity and priority habitat considerations could be managed via planning conditions.

Along with the Friends of the Lake District letter further concerns were raised:

* The site is currently an employment site, and this shouldn’t be lost.
* Underskiddaw Parish area already exists as three distinct settlements (Millbeck, Applethwaite, Thrushwood) this would create a fourth distinctive block. If more affordable/low cost housing was required it should be created within the existing settlements/communities rather than separating a new development from the existing communities.
* The A591 (and only access to this site) is a dangerous and fast road with no pedestrian or direct public transport provision. It is an unsuitable development in a rural area.
* This is a new housing development in an area which currently is not a residential area, and breaks up the green break between the A591 & the settlement that runs Underskiddaw.
* The Parish has already had significant development of affordable housing with Calvert Way, which albeit has now been moved to within Keswick Town Council boundaries, has more than sufficed the need for affordable housing. If further affordable housing was required additional housing within a community would be more appropriate.
* Infill development would be more appropriate than the creation of a ‘suburban cul-de-sac’ in a rural area. The site would be more appropriate for use as small work units to retain the employment function of the site.
* The type of housing being proposed will encourage occupiers with Children, concern was raised regarding the proximity of children to such a dangerous road with no pedestrian infrastructure.
* The proposed 12 properties would create a pool of light pollution in a currently dark area.
* The site is not a designated affordable housing site as part of the current or future LDNPA Local Plan. The Planning Consultant for the applicant confirmed that it would not be in the Local Plan as it was a windfall site.
* Concern was raised that if approved this would be the start of a larger development on the site and further detrimental impacts.
* The plan as before the Council would be overdevelopment of the site, and the proposed architecture is out of keeping with the local designs and vernacular.
* The current bungalow that is on the site, and is included in this application was conditions that it would not be used for residential purposes once the new house was built on the site (this is clearly specified in the planning approval Ref 7/2013/2029 Condition 4)

It was noted by all Parish Councilors and some members of the public present that it would be good for the community to have more young families. It was however noted that whilst the other members of the public agreed more young families would be a positive thing, it should only be as part of an appropriate housing development. This was also the feeling of the Parish Councillors.

At the request of members of the public present a show of hands was undertaken. Of those members of the public present 6 were in favor of the development and 10 were against. With 1 abstention.

1 member of the public noted that road safety concerns shouldn’t be part of the planning process, it is individual choice on where houses are purchased and potential occupiers/owners can choose where they live/purchase.

**Resolved** by all Parish Councilors present that Underskiddaw Parish Council object to this proposal on the grounds listed above, in addition the Parish Council fully support the letter submitted by Friends of the Lake District.

**Action: Clerk to submit these comments.**

# 2020.09 Members Reports

### Village Hall

Mr J Hayes confirmed that a meeting of the Village Hall committee is taking place in January 2020 after which a list of dates for future events etc will be distributed.

# 2020.10 Councilor Matters

None

# 2020.11 Date & Time of the Next Meeting

**Resolved** by all present that the next meeting date be:

Tuesday 10th March 2020 at 14:00

Meeting closed 15:00