# MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF UNDERSKIDDAW PARISH

**18th May 2021 at 16:00 in the Carpark of Underskiddaw Village Hall**

**With Janice Boniface (Parish Councillor) acting as Chair of the meeting.**

Present: Becx Carter (Secretariat), 11 members of the public

Apologies: Bill & Alison Bell, John Hayes

Jan Boniface welcomed all those to meeting, and confirmed it was not a formal Parish Council meeting, it is a meeting of the electorate for Underskiddaw Parish.

It was noted that in terms of the Parish Council there are now only 3 parish councillors, as there have been 4 resignations. The remaining Parish Councillors on Underskiddaw Parish Council look forward to people putting themselves to take up these vacancies.

## Welcome & Introductions

Jan Boniface welcomed those present to the meeting.

## Apologies

As above

## The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2019

 Were agreed as a correct record by all present.

## Report from the Chairman

No report was provided following the resignation of Jim Wilson as a Parish Councillor of Underskiddaw Parish Council in March 2021.

The position of Chair of Underskiddaw Parish Council remains vacant and will be the first item on the agenda for the next meeting of Underskiddaw Parish Council.

Parishoners expressed their disappointment with the lack of annual report.

Jan informed people that the last ‘physically present’ meeting was in March 20, and the first virtual meeting was in June 20, since then the Parish Council has been held virtually up until 4th May 21, and local residents have joined both online and via the phone.

Jan confirmed she was happy to continue to Chair the remainder of the meeting unless anyone else wished to take the role going forward.

All present agreed that Jan should continue in the role as Chair.

## Questions and Open Discussion

It was acknowledged that the Covid 19 pandemic has been an awful time for everyone and has had significant mental impacts on everyone and as a parish we should focus on moving forward out of this. There are a number of different bodies that it is hoped will thrive in the community going forward, the Church, the Village hall, the Parish Council, and the various voluntary groups that are active in the Parish.

*Vacancies on Underskiddaw Parish Council*

Becx Carter as Clerk to Underskiddaw Parish Council confirmed that the Returning Officer for Allerdale Borough Council have now confirmed that an election is being called for the four vacancies on Underskiddaw Parish Council, following a request by more than 10 electors for an election to be held for each vacancy.

This election will be held on the 1st July 2021 and further timetable details are to follow.

Therefore there are no vacancies open for co-option and all four vacancies will be filled by the election.

As an election has been called Underskiddaw Parish Council is now subject to purdah regulations.

The cost of this election will be borne by Underskiddaw Parish Council and will cost between £2500-£3500.

**Action: Contact details to be shared with all, of the authority who set’s the election fees, to enable challenges to be made to the cost of such a small election.**

*Little Dodd*

An update was requested about Keswick Garden Centre. Members present were referred to the LDNPA website, and the previous Parish Council minutes.

*Parish Council lack of Power*

It was noted that Parish Councils (in particular Underskiddaw Parish Council) appear to lack power, and that the needs of the parish and parishioners often fall between the various authorities (ABC, CCC & LDNPA).

*Calvert Way*

It was noted that there was no public consultation on the recent boundary commission change for Calvert Way, and that members of the parish feel that they weren’t consulted on this matter.

It was noted that for the residents of Calvert Way they most closely aligned to the service centre of Keswick.

*Communications*

It was noted that there is a lack of communication with local Parishoners, the noticeboards and the website are insufficient.

At a recent Parish Council meeting it had been agreed that a report would be submitted for inclusion in each of the Underskiddaw Insider Newsletters.

Thanks were noted to David & Maria for the ‘shop’ and Gordie Oliver who collected prescriptions, and all other local volunteers who helped during Covid 19.

*Queries were raised regarding the donations to charity*

It was confirmed that the Parish Council has made a number of charitable donations over the year, and these are to locally based or locally important charities.

Following the meeting the Clerk to Underskiddaw Parish Council confirmed that the below donations had been granted in the financial year 20-21:

Air Ambulance- £100

Keswick & District First Responders -£60

Cockermouth Mechanics Brass Band £100

It was confirmed at the meeting that the donation to the Cockermouth Mechanics Brass Band was made on the basis that a number of its members and those that benefit from its apprenticeship shceme are resident within the Parish.

*Planning*

It was noted with disappointment that the Planning Service has now moved to almost exclusively digital consultation, and notices are no longer sent to neighbours and this has significantly disenfranchised the local members of the parish.

*Thanks*

Thanks were noted to Jim, Chris, Ian and Tony for all their dedication and work on the Parish Council over the years.