# Underskiddaw Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Underskiddaw Parish Council meeting held in Underskiddaw Church Rooms at 14:00 on the 19th July 2022

**Present:** Joe Saxton (Chair), Jan Boniface, Diane Griffiths,

**In Attendance:** John Hayes (Village Hall), Ian McCoy (United Utilities), Jill Perry (Shadow Authority of Cumberland elected member), Marcus Campbell Savours (Allerdale Borough Councillor)

**Apologies**: Cllr Ellen Barker (Work commitments), Cllr J Lambert (Family Commitments), Cllr D Horsburgh (Work Commitments)

With 3 councillors present the meeting was quorate.

# 44/2022 Apologies for absence

**Resolved** by all present that the above-mentioned apologies from Parish Councillors and the reasons for absence be accepted.

# 45/2022 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17th May 2022

**Resolved** by all present that the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th May 2022 be signed as a true and accurate record by Cllr Joe Saxton.

**Action: Clerk to upload the minutes to the website and circulate to all.**

# 46/2022 Request for Dispensations & Declarations of Interest

Cllr J Boniface noted that she runs a holiday cottage business so abstained for discussion relating to agenda item 53/22 (i).

# 47/2022 Exclusion of Press & Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960).

None

# 48/2022 Public Participation

None

# 49/2022 Application for Co-option (1 Vacancy)

None received

# 50/2022 Update from other bodies (If present)

## ABC

Keswick Leisure Centre- Marcus is working to get ABC to commit to as much as possible prior to them ceasing to exist on the 1st April 2023. ABC have now agreed to do an options appraisal over the next few months, the outcome of this will then be passed on as an undefined/unspecified project to the new Unitary Authority to take forward.

## United Utilities

The Clerk confirmed that in response to the actions raised at the May 2022 meeting that the following responses have been provided:

* Applethwaite Lane Kiosk will be finished in local stone
* An independent review of the project will be considered when the project has been completed and all land is reinstated. UU confirmed that any independent review would be done once it is all completed and reinstated which is another year to 18months away on the whole pipeline. UU confirmed that have several companies that they use as part of a framework for things like that independent reviews.
* The estimated loss for the Allerdale District in terms of trees is 156.
* Legacy funding- Some information has been provided but it has been cleansed so much that it provides no useful information.
* UU confirmed they will look to meet with landowners once the reinstatement is completed. Ian on behalf of UU confirmed that they don’t want to talk to any landowners at this stage until the pipeline is in the ground and reinstatement has taken place then they can review the lessons learnt. This may encompass into an independent review, but this is not set in stone yet.
* Ian confirmed that it is his belief is that over 80% of landowners are happy with how the project has been handled. UU recognize that a lot of the issues have been in Underskiddaw Parish.

It was agreed that the responses to the questions provided by UU be appended to the minutes of the meeting.

UU confirmed that what they had provided to the Parish Council regarding the legacy fund, wasn’t an error it covered a 7-mile radius, so included some Copeland projects. The information included some details of regional projects as well. Ian has to complied with GDPR and cleansed the data accordingly.

**Action: Ian McCoy to discuss with Cumbria Community Fund on what information about the successful projects can be shared with the general public.**

**Action: Clerk to share the data that was received from UU with all Parish Councillors for reference.**

The Village Hall asked for clarification to be included in the minutes as UU stated in the May 2022 meeting that they had not received any correspondence from the Village Hall. This is incorrect and the Village Hall has provided copies of emails they sent to UU on multiple different dates.

Ian clarified that Underskiddaw Parish Council should come up with a list of what the community/parish might want support with and then this should be sent to UU. Ian noted that he couldn’t take part in any discussions about possible projects as he needs to remain impartial.

*Possible Project Ideas for United Utilities.*

1. John Hayes laid out the case that the Village Hall needs better storage heaters/insulation to reduce its ongoing running costs, and this has been supported by a recent building condition survey.

Ian suggested that any project ideas should go to UU via the Parish Council. This should be in the form of a list of opportunities and rough costings, and then UU will consider the budget and the potential legacy this would leave. UU are likely to look more favourably on longer term legacy projects that has a scale of the benefits and those that will last for a number of years.

**Action: Village Hall to come back to the Parish Council with a list of projects along with guestimate costings and suggested possible benefits to be sent to UU for them to consider.**

**Action: Cllr J Saxton to approach the Church Committee to see if there are any projects for the Church Room that should be submitted.**

**Action: Clerk to pass this on to UU for consideration.**

**Resolved** by all present that an application be submitted to UU for funding to support the Village Hall and the Church Room (if applicable) once they are prepared.

It was noted that it is not clear who set the criteria on the Legacy Fund that was administered by Cumbria Community Foundation, if this was CCF directly of if UU directed any criteria.

## Cumberland Shadow Authority

Ms J Perry introduced herself to the council.

**Action: Clerk to share Ms J Perry’s email address with councillors for information.**

**Action: Clerk to add Ms J Perry’s contact details to the Underskiddaw Parish Council Observers list.**

# 51/2022 Clerks report

The Clerk Report had been circulated to all prior to the meeting. The receipt of this report was noted by all.

# 52/2022 Road Sweeping

Consideration was given to the contracting of a company to complete a road sweep of the whole parish, with the bill borne directly by the Parish Council, as ABC only commit to do it once every two years. Cllr J Saxton has obtained a quote to do both sides of all the roads in the Parish and part of the main road and that this would be circa £800.

Cllr J Boniface noted that there is a big issue where the sides of the road are dropping away on the top road, between Applethwaite & Millbeck (that road sweeping won’t resolve).

**Action: Cllr Boniface to provide images of this issue to the Clerk for reporting on HIMS.**

The Clerk noted that to contract someone to do roadsweeping work would require consent from the Highways Authority (Cumbria County Council), for permission to work on the public highway. Additionally, it was noted that for the Parish Council to pay for road sweeping could be potentially classed as double taxation, as road sweeping is a duty that ABC holds and is funded by taxes to do so, so to expend parish council funds which are raised by taxation on this as well may not be considered acceptable.

It was noted by all present that it would be beneficial if the delegation of authority for Parish Councils to take more responsibility for things like parish maintenance could be considered during the LGR process.

**Action: Clerk to agenda the issue of road sweeping for a future meeting**

# 53/22 Correspondence for discussion

## Short Term Holiday Lets Consultation

The Clerk had circulated this to all councillors prior to the meeting.

**Resolved** by all present that individual responses be submitted rather than a Parish Council one as a whole.

# 54/2022 Finance & Accounts

## To receive note of the Bank Balances

**Resolved** by all present that the bank balance be noted as

Current Account £11,831.78 at 30th June 2022

## Invoices for approval

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **To** | **For** | **Amount** |
| CALC | Training | £20.00 |
| Crosthwaite PCC | Room hire (May meeting) | £25.00 |
| Crosthwaite PCC | Room hire (June meeting) | £25.00 |
| Becx Carter | Expenses | £105.82 |

**Resolved** by all present that these invoices be paid.

**Action: Clerk to organise the payment of these accounts.**

## Bank reconciliation & spend against budget report

**Resolved** by all present that the bank reconciliation & spend against budget report be signed as a true and accurate record by the chair of the meeting.

# 55/2022 Lake District National Park Authority

## Decisions

**Resolved** by all present that the below decisions be noted as received.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| 7.2022.2083 | Gale Cottage, Applethwaite | Widening of first floor window to south elevation of Gale Cottage | Approved with conditions |
| 7.2022.2073 | Endymion House, Millbeck | Demolition of stable and creation of garden room | Approved with conditions |
| 7.2022.2112 | Valley Crest, Access Road to Houses from the A591, Thrushwood | Demolition of existing single storey garage and construction of new single storey garage with associated external works | Approved with conditions |
| 7.2022.2087 | Elder Cottage, Applethwaite | Two storey rear extension | Approved with conditions |

## Planning Applications for Consideration

None

# 56/2022 Members Reports

## Village Hall

Covered elsewhere on the agenda.

# 57/2022 Dates of next meeting.

**Resolved** by all present that dates for the forthcoming meetings of Underskiddaw Parish Council be set as:

20th September 2022-Underskiddaw Church Room

15th November 2022-Underskiddaw Church Room

Meeting Closed 15:23

Questions Underskiddaw Parish Council would like answered by United Utilities

1. How do we complain about any work that is being done on the UU pipeline? As we have outlined, land issues need to be escalated by the land owner to their land agent who will engage with UU. This has always been the process for initial complaints. Anything else can be directed to me via our stakeholder relations mailbox - [stakeholderrelations@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:stakeholderrelations@uuplc.co.uk)

# When will the pipeline work be finished, including all reinstatement, and only routine maintainenance taking place?

As we outlined at the meeting, the aim is to have the majority of the reinstatement completed in fields this year but as we explained this is pending agreements with landowners that is slowing down our plans for the valley.

1. How are Farrans Roadbridge still involved in the project in Underskiddaw? Farrans Roadbridge are the pipeline contractor. They laid the pipe and are responsible for any remedial work. UU has only taken over the reinstatement as explained at the meeting.

# The Planning regulations set by the National Park said no land should be improved – can you assure us that no land has been bettered (by improved drainage etc) during pipeline work?

Field by field reinstatement plans have been agreed with all landowners that the planning authority has approved.

1. What are you doing to improve wildlife in the area that the pipeline covers? We are not improving the wildlife. The commitment on the project was to return the area as we found it.

# What projects has the legacy fund paid for a) in Underskiddaw and b) more generally?

As you are aware, Cumbria Community Foundation did not receive and legacy fund applications from Underskiddaw. More generally over £500k was allocated to our community fund with the same being invested in to tree planting.

# What projects has the tree-planting fund paid for in a) Underskiddaw and b) more generally?

The purpose of the engagement is to allocate the funds in the West Cumbria Water Supplies Tree Planting Fund to plant trees and create new woodland and to facilitate the individual tree planting schemes taking up the funds by providing administration, reporting and monitoring (outputs/outcomes) activities. It is estimated that for Allerdale district the losses were 156 trees

A summary of the trees planted is below

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Geographical  area | Trees  planted | Hectares  planted | Hedgerows  (M) | Field  Trees |
| Allerdale | 3961 | 1.763 | 1459 | 24 |
| Borough |  |  |  |  |
| Council |  |  |  |  |
| Copeland | 3869 | 3.267 | 631 | 102 |
| Borough |  |  |  |  |
| Council |  |  |  |  |
| Lake District | 51199 | 19.476 | 4877 | 135 |
| National Park |  |  |  |  |
| Authority |  |  |  |  |
| Total | 59029 | 24.506 | 6967 | 261 |

In the Underskiddaw area there is a substantial tree planting scheme at Mirehouse.

# Are you providing funds to plant trees in the area that the easement covers?

You cannot plant trees on a pipeline easement.

# Why has your estimate of the project completion be delayed by over 4 years and re-estimate at least four times?

Our estimate of project completion has never changed. The local dates have changed and this is explained in the minutes of the meeting from May 22

# The changes in personnel over the years of the UU project (as demonstrated by the historic minutes shared with you by Becx) has made it incredibly difficult to keep track of who is best to talk to, it has therefore been hard to establish rapport with liaison staff, this has resulted in delays in receiving replies to queries throughout the project? How will this be handled going forward? Do you recognise/accept that this has been a fundamental issue with the project?

Although project managers have changed through the project, they are not the link for a Parish Council. The stakeholder manager is the key contact for a Parish Council and there has only been one change through the project where I replaced Gaynor 3 years ago. However despite this change, Gaynor and I are still both available to answer your questions and attended the meeting in May 2022.