# Underskiddaw Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Underskiddaw Parish Council Annual Council meeting held in Underskiddaw Church Rooms at 16:30 on the Tuesday 14th November 2023

**Present:** David Horsburgh (in the Chair), Jan Boniface, Jana Lambert, Dianne Griffiths

**In Attendance:** Becx Carter (Clerk & RFO), Libby Bateman (Fibrus), Cumberland Council Jill Perry, 3 members of the public

**Apologies**: Ellen Barker (Illness)

With 4 councillors present the meeting was quorate.

# 64/2023 Apologies for absence

**Resolved** by all present that the above-mentioned apologies be noted as received.

# 65/2023 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12th September 2023

**Resolved** by all present that the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th September 2023 be signed as a true and accurate record by Cllr David Horsburgh

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

# 66/2023 Request for Dispensations & Declarations of Interest

None

# 67/2023 Exclusion of Press & Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960).

None

# 68/2023 Public Participation

None

# 69/2023 Hyberfast GB Update

Ms L Bateman (Fibrus) attended and provided a brief update:

* Fibrus is delivering a Government Funded project to connect to 60,000 rural properties across Cumbria to full fibre. (This is separate to the Fibrus commercial contracts that are happening in Keswick, Workington, Cockermouth etc).
* It is part of Project Gigabit, when the tender for the contract that Fibrus is delivering was released the voucher schemes that had been active were suspended.
* Fibrus is currently working on the Keswick hinterlands, there are 15 properties in Underskiddaw that Fibrus HAVE to get to, there are 157 properties that are ‘deferred’ from their contract as another commercial operator has said they will connect to them in the next 2-5 years. These are subject to rolling market re-assessment so if they are not connected by a commercial operator then Fibrus will come back to ‘pick these up’.
* Where possible Fibrus are using existing infrastructure (e.g. ducting/poles), in the LDNPA it is default that the infrastructure has to be undergrounded.
* Fibrus are working with Viperoptixs which are a local company to do the installing of the infrastructure.
* Fibrus/Viperoptixs are flexible around road closures and try and allow people access to properites where they can.
* Fibrus have to finish the whole project by 2026.
* There are two properties that are out of scope in the Underskiddaw Parish area as it is not financially viable to access these.

**Action: Libby to provide a list of properties that are included/excluded to the Clerk**

* It was noted that some properties have been offered a voucher scheme in the area with We Fibre and this might explain the 157 that are ‘excluded’ from the Fibrus contract.

**Action: Libby to submit a query back to Connecting Cumbria regarding the fact that the We Fibre scheme seems to have ‘paused’ within the parish, with a view to re-opening communications via Connecting Cumbria.**

* The Village Hall have been approached by We Fibre, who have noted that they are having problems with the infrastructure locally and this needs to be resolved before We Fibre can connect any further properties.
* Concerns were raised by members of the public that the road closures state no vehicular access to residential properties and this is causing distress and confusion.
* Libby confirmed that they would never prevent people from accessing their homes, but there might be short delays (15mins ish) whilst machinery is moved etc.

**Action: Libby to confirm to the Clerk an update on road closures to the Clerk before 20th November**

# 70/2023 Update from other bodies (If present)

## Cumberland Council

Cllr J Perry provided a short update:

* The final garden waste collection has now taken place, which is 6 weeks earlier than in previous years, and this is the same date that Copeland used to finish (a case of leveling up of council tax and levelling down of services).
* Lakes to Sea Community Network was launched in early November in Kirkgate Centre in Cockermouth and as well attended.
* An event was held on the 31st October 2023 where the Food Cumberland Strategy was launched, a baseline data gathering survey is going to be on the website if individuals want to complete it.

# 71/2023 Clerks report

1. *To consider Parish Maintenance/Grass Cutting*

The Clerk confirmed she had met with Cllr D Horsburgh to discuss the areas that used to be included in the work that the previous Parish Maintenance contractor undertook. The Clerk will put these locations on to maps before the January 2024 meeting, when the advertising and letting of a contract can be discussed.

The areas are:

1. Grass area around the War Memorial adjacent to Underskiddaw Parish Church to be cut 2/3 times a year (first cut after the bulbs have finished flowering)
2. Shelf Road all drains to be kept free of vegetation (cutting back brambles and vegetation around them), and to be kept clear of leaves in the winter (To be checked monthly and action taken accordingly)
3. Footpath from Thrushwood along the A66 to have the grass/vegetation cut alongside it twice per year
4. PROW from Field View to Thrushwood needs cut back/strimmed twice a year
5. Road from below Orchard House up to the Shelf Road to be strimmed/cut back once a year (at the end of the growing season)
6. Leaves to be cleared off this stretch of road twice per annum

**Action: Clerk to draft the maps and share via email and speak to relevant parties regarding consent prior to the January 2024 meeting.**

# 72/2023 Finance & Accounts

## To receive note of the Bank Balances

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

Current Account £15,651.40 at 31st October 2023

## Invoices for approval

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **To** | **For** | **Amount** |
| Becx Carter | Expenses | £56.41 |
| Crosthwaite Church | Room Hire | £25.00 |
| Becx Carter  | Salary | £419.25 (Via SO) |
| HMRC | PAYE | £279.20 (Via SO |
| CPRE | Subscription | £60 |
| Becx Carter | Back Pay | £156 |
| Becx Carter | Balance figure for Qtr 3 due to change in Pay Code | £181.19 |

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

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

## To consider & approve the bank reconciliation & spend against budget report

**Resolved** by all present that these be approved as a true and accurate record.

## To approve the Clerks Statutory Salary, increase for 23/24

**Resolved** by all present that the £1 per annum statutory salary increase for the Clerk as confirmed by the National Association of Local Councils be adopted and associated back pay to the Clerk & HMRC to be paid.

**Action: Clerk to update the standing order figures accordingly**

## To consider the draft budget for 24/25

The Clerk had circulated a draft budget to all with the meeting papers, based upon the actual and expected expenditure for the current financial year the Clerk is recommending a 0% change in the precept.

The budget will be updated and tabled again in January for a final decision to be made.

**Action: Clerk to update the budget and table it for consideration again at the January 2024 meeting.**

## Parish Clerk Pension Provision

The Clerk notified all present that she would like to request that Underskiddaw Parish Council commence a pension scheme for the Clerk, legally as an employer Underskiddaw Parish Council has to run a pension scheme if requested to do so by the Parish Clerk.

**Resolved** by all present that the Clerk request Cumbria Payroll Services set up a pension scheme for Underskiddaw Parish Council paying a 5% contribution effective from 1st April 2024

**Action: Clerk to confirm the final figures relating to this as part of the updated budget in January 2024**

# 73/2023 Lake District National Park Authority

## Decisions

None

## Planning Applications for Consideration

**Ref: 7/2023/2206**

Location: Crosthwaite Conference Centre, Church Lane

Proposal: The operation of a temporary basis on an annual basis for three weeks during July & August, with the installation of a permanent approved waste treatment plant to provide offset Waste Water Mitigation

**Resolved** by all present that Underskiddaw Parish Council have no objections to the temporary campsite at Crosthwaite Conference centre which is within the Parish. The Parish Council are making no comment or submission relating to the Skiddaw Street aspect of this proposal.

**Action: Clerk to submit this response**

**Ref: 7/2023/2197**

Location: Easedale, Thrushwood, Keswick

Proposal: Refurbishment of existing detached property, including conversion of part of the existing garage and raising of the existing roof

**Resolved** by all present that Underskiddaw Parish Council have some concerns about the over domination of this building as part of this proposal which would be out of keeping with adjacent properties (ridge height and proximity to other buildings) and this should be considered as part of the LDNPA planning decision making process.

**Action: Clerk to submit this response**

# 74/2023 Members Reports

## Village Hall

The first roof light has been installed.

A decision by the LDNPA is due on the replacement windows and doors and it is hoped that this will be approved.

A further application for the demolition of the gents toilets has been submitted but not validated due to a bat survey being required which can’t take place until Spring 2024. Then a further lottery bid could be submitted.

Wednesday afternoon coffee sessions are being very well attended (as a continuation of the Winter Warmth Fund from Winter 2022/23)

# 75/2023 Dates of next meeting.

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

16th January 2023 16:30- Underskiddaw Church Room

Meeting Closed 17:35

**Action: Clerk to speak to Crosthwaite PCC about changing the room booking for the Jan 24 meeting.**

Thanks were noted to those that organised the Remembrance Service for the Parish