

DRAFT MINUTES OF URSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

FROM THE MEETING

Held Thursday 26th August 2010

At Bardsea Schoolroom

Present: Cllr Mr J Keen (JK) (Chairperson), Cllr Mr G James (GJ), Cllr Mr P Rixom (PR), Cllr Mr Daniel Stubbs (DS), Mrs H Gregson (Clerk)

County Cllr Janet Willis

Mr Martin Stables (Tarn Association), Mr Ray Wilson, Mr John Abramson, Mr Alan Swarbrick, Mr Alan Drury

PCSO Helen Madden

1. Apologies for absence- Councillors Paul Wren, Denise Westfield, Jeff Winder and Nancy Cowsill.
2. Declarations of interest - G James- Tarn Association
3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting (8th July 2010) Proposed DS
Seconded GJ
4. To note the progress on items for action agreed at previous meetings, not on today's agenda. None.
5. Public Forum: Questions, comments or concerns from any local resident. **NB.** The Council may wish to consider a matter in more detail at a later date before making a full response.

Mr John Abramson introduced himself and commented on the minutes of 8th July namely the reference to possible breaches of their lease of the Tarn by the Tarn Association in particular the concrete standing and the planting of willows in the Tarn Waters. He stated that in his opinion the Parish Council was in breach of its code of conduct by this public rebuke and that it appeared that the Council is as odds with the Tarn Association and its criticism was aimed at Martin and Harry Stables. He asked why the Council's concerns were not discussed with the Tarn Association before hand and suggested that this showed a lack of respect for the Tarn Association.

JK stated that these issues could have been discussed if the TA had come to the Parish Council, their landlord, and asked for permission to carry out their actions. Mr Abramson suggested that the Council's objections to the TA's actions amounted to unprecedented criticism and should not have been made public. The clerk interjected that Parish business discussed at a public Parish council meeting had to be minuted. Mr Abramson said that the council code of conduct should be to secure or preserve public confidence and that the Council should not have announced their concerns as it was disrespectful to the TA.

Mr Alan Dewar explained that he had been a resident of Bardsea of some 6 years. He said it was important to the ethos of the Parish to be regarded as a place of recreation and relaxation. He has attended the Local Area forum meetings in Ulverston and had taken up with police the issue of a tractor driver driving too fast. The bad road surfaces in the area plus the pot holes have been marked for attention for many months but have not been fixed. The highways authority have given no attention to footpath on the cast road by kiosk and all in all we don't seem to be getting value for money from the Highways department.

GJ commented that the road between Birkrigg and Bardsea was in the SLDC programme to be done 'in the near future' noted they have done about 8 out of about 50 areas which have been marked. GJ said that regarding the coast road footpath the highway steward has been down there to have a look. Mr Dewar said that there are two 20mph speed limit signs missing and JK commented that this limit cannot be enforced without speed bumps which haven't been installed. The problem seems to be that although the council is reporting these matters they are not getting the necessary support from the Highways authority.

PR said that he would make a general complaint at the next Local Area Partnership meeting.

Cllr Willis stated that the highway dept have had a lot of extra work to do in view of the floods and bad weather earlier in the year and, there is only a finite amount of money available. There is going to be a change in the way the highways hotline is managed with a new system of local teams reporting to a supervisor. At the moment problems are passed around many different people before they are auctioned, the new system will mean problems are directed to the correct team. It will be the end of this year before it gets to the South Lakes area.

Mr Dewar said it feels like we are being conned and JW responded that there is nothing in the budget.

JK said that the council will push and try our best.

ACTION: GJ - to speak to highways steward

Mr Alan Swarbrick commented on the actions of both the Mr Stables's indicating that he has spoken to at least 20 people in the village and that they think Parish Council is right in its concerns over the Tarn Association. He wanted to know what would happen if everyone acted without permission from the Parish Council.

6. Report from Police on any matters of local concern and /or interest to Councillors and residents.

PCSO Madden reported that the Trading Standards Dept had reports this week in Urswick of cold calling fish sellers and that 2 people have been arrested in contravention of Trading Standards Law. The gang involved were also being dealt with for aggressive selling. This issue ties in with no cold calling zones that have been previously discussed. Unfortunately the department have been dealing with a large case elsewhere. The incident involved 8 people in two vehicles and if anybody has been affected they should contact either Trading Standards or the Police.

There has been an outreach campaign at the auction mart signing more people up for the farm watch project.

School governors were concerned about speeding and intend to write to parish council. PCSO Madden commented that speeding is not easy to address and wondered how the Council wished to proceed. GJ suggested 20 mph signs when school is coming out and going in, JK commented that at these times speeding wasn't a problem as traffic was slowed by parked cars. PCSO Madden said that in an ideal world there would be somebody on duty in the village all the time but that this simply wasn't possible.

Mr Drury mentioned the 20mph signs in Bardsea, PCSO Madden replied that Highways Dept are responsible for signs. GJ to investigate and speak to highways dept. One sign is needed on Millers Lane and one on Ulverston Road near the golf course.

7. Reports from District and County Councillors on matters of interest to Councillors and residents.

Cllr Willis reported that she was going to mention highways new system and budgets cut which have been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

8. Planning Applications and Decisions

- i) To consider/confirm the Council's response to the following applications
SL/2010/0642 3 Stone Close, Stone Close, Stainton with Adgarley
Application for extension and alterations
SL/2010/0182 Bankfield Hall and the Coot Ammended Plans
SL/2010/0510 Holme Bank Farm, Little Urswick. Application for extension to cattle building

SL/2010/0593 Brookside Cottage, Bardsea. Application for two storey side extension and re-building of chimney stack

SL/2010/0422 The Cottage, Well House Farm, Bardsea. Application for alteration to sun room to form additional bedroom and entrance hallway.

ii) To note decisions on the following applications. None noted.

9. Tarn Association. Report on anything of concern and/or interest to Councillors and residents in particular. See items 12 & 13

Mr Stables mentioned a letter that had been produced by the previous clerk which could be used in the event of public queries. The letter needs to be updated with the current clerk's details. **ACTION: CLERK to update & forward to MS**

Re Jackson dispute - has this been finally resolved? Clerk advised that the area has been surveyed but will chase further information.

Re Byelaws- has work on these been concluded? Clerk advised that sealed copies have been submitted but not returned from relevant govt dept and will make enquires.

The next Tarn Association meeting is on Tue 7th Sept at the General Burgoyne.

Mr Stables commented that Stubb's boat back in water again. DS replied that it is coming out and that a University were coming to do a survey. Mr Stables stated that Boat licences are coming for renewal.

Regarding the Parish Councils comments from the previous meeting and the letter written to the Tarn association Mr Stables read a statement expressing his own concerns regarding the many hours of work put in by unpaid volunteers and suggested that a full apology was due from the Parish Council to the Tarn Association..

10. Local Area Partnership update. PR/DW

PR reported that he had circulated an email covering issues raised in particular Grit Bins which the clerk confirmed had been requested.

He also asked that councillors should identify roads within the Parish which were priorities for redressing.

Local Area Partnership funding is available for Parish council projects and PR suggested that metal fencing in Urswick was in a bad state of disrepair. GJ to pass on details to PR. Ray Wilson reported that the railings were installed by the old north Lonsdale Council who had agreed to maintain them in perpetuity.

11. Maintenance of War Memorial to discuss plans for cleaning. Progress report. JK reported that the hosepipe ban had halted any progress but the work would be completed by November.

12. Excavation of earth at the Landing to discuss following councillor's walk around Gt Urswick.

Bill Rawlinson's letter in response to the clerk's letter of 9th July was read as was the clerk's original letter.

PR stated that the notes he took at the TA meeting were passed to JK prior to the last Parish Council meeting.

GJ stated that he wrote to the TA on a personal basis concerning the concrete that was put there without the permission of the PC and also the willows changing the nature of the Tarn. He stated that he had emailed Bill Rawlinson and told him that he was available for a meeting.

JK stated that the attendance of a representative of the Tarn Association at Parish Council meetings is not mandatory and this was not suggested in their letter. JK stated that the council need a plan of what is going to happen to the pile of earth as it only has a partial answer. The pile of earth should be reported to the Environment Agency as it would appear to be is contaminated and can't be reused.

It has been moved - is it legal? JK asked what is going to happen to contaminated soil.

Alan Swarbrick commented that the pile of earth is an unsafe mess. Martin Stables said the earth will be spread out and rubbish picked out - it will be recycled. GJ stated that you cannot spread what appeared to be contaminated earth and the TA should confirm this with the Environment Agency. Alan Drury stated that there was a duty of care to report it to the Environment Agency. JK suggested that councillors would have a meeting with Tarn Association before the next Parish Council meeting.

13. Planted Willows and concrete at the catwalk update following clerk's letter to Tarn Association. Bill Rawlinson's letter in response. See also item 12.
14. Height of hedges at Church Road House and the possibility that they may be exceeding planning restrictions concerns raised by residents. -DW has spoken to the planning department who are looking into this.
15. General maintenance of the churchyard particularly the bushes blocking the view of the church from the road concerns raised by residents. DW has contacted the churchwarden. Council feels that this is a matter for the church rather than the parish council.
16. Proposed development of the Coot and Bankfield House – to discuss any progress. Architect Derek Churchman's letter in response to query about tree felling at Bankfield was read out.
Currently, Bat and Limestone Pavement surveys need to be completed on the Bankfield site.

17. Common/open access land to the Tarn. To discuss any progress made since meeting of Jan 2009. John Abramson had asked for information regarding common land adjacent to Church House Farm.

According to the DEFRA website The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 states that not all land registered as common land will be subject to access rights, areas excluded include gardens and golf courses. The previous clerk had stated that the area in question was common land without access. Clerk to contact previous clerk for clarification.

18. Dog fouling to discuss any progress made in attempts to reduce dog fouling in the parish. Councillors have reported incidents in Stainton but feel there is little more that can be done.

19. Grit bins. Clerk to update on request for grit bins for the parish. Clerk has requested appropriate bins from SLDC but as yet has not received a reply to her request.

20. Tree preservation orders in the parish. Clerk reported that there are three Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) in Great Urswick namely:

No. 99 1994 Daisy Hill

No. 175 2002 Bankfield

No. 225 2010 Land to the west of Bankfield.

21. To fix dates for future Council meetings –

7th October 2010 Urswick

18th November 2010 Stainton

6th Jan 2011 Bardsea

17th Feb 2011 Urswick

31st March 2011 Stainton

12th May 2011 Bardsea.

22. To discuss Precept for 2011/2012. JK has come up with details to be emailed round to all councillors.

23. Request from external auditors to verify minor alteration to audit forms.

To verify an alteration to the Annual return for 2009/10 as requested by BDO Unpresented cheques should have been deducted from ‘Balances carried forward’ and ‘Total Cash’ boxes and included in ‘Total other costs’ instead.

Proposed PR & Seconded DS

24. To authorise payment of bills and expenses received since the last meeting.

Clerk's broadband allowance £10

Postage £4.38

Black Printer cartridge £19.99

TOTAL £34.37

Room hire for Bardsea Schoolroom £15.00

25. To note correspondence received and decide on any response required.

No need for nuclear campaign letter

CALC meeting 2nd September

Electoral services – notices for noticeboards

Trustees of Urswick Grammar school

Changes to local bus services

Email from B Abbott

Email re planning application 16 Orchard Close

26. To receive items for the agenda for the next meeting.

Viewing platform on the Croft

27. Date and time of next meeting.

7th October 7.30pm Urswick Parish Rooms

HG 18/09/2010