

DRAFT MINUTES OF URSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

From the meeting held on Thursday 19th May

Bardsea School Room

Present: Cllr. J Keen (JK) (Chairman), Cllr. J. Winder (JW) (Vice chair), Cllr. N. Cowsill (NC), Cllr. D. Stubbs (DS), Dr. P. Attree (Clerk).

District and county councillors: Cllr. Janet Willis, Cllr James Airey, Cllr Caroline Airey.

PCSO Janine Wade

The Chairman thanked Peter Rixom, who recently stepped down as a member of Urswick Parish Council, for all his sterling work carried out as a councillor.

1. Apologies for absence
 Cllr J O'Donovan – bereavement; Cllr G. James – on holiday; Cllr D. Westfield – stuck in traffic; Cllr N. Cowsill – apologies for lateness (arrived 7.45pm).
RESOLVED: that the apologies be noted and the reasons noted.

2. Declarations of interest
 The following declarations of interest were made: N Cowsill – grazing rights Stainton Village Green; J. Winder – Little Urswick Village Green.

3. To authorise the chairman to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2011.
RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2011 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. To note the progress on items for action agreed at previous meetings, not on today's agenda.
 None.

5. Tony Markley, Cabinet Member for Highways, Cumbria County Council, to address the Council on the 'Better Highways' scheme
 Tony Markley briefed the Council on the 'Better Highways' scheme. He explained that the service is currently undergoing major restructuring, which is expected to be completed in approximately 10 months time. A new localised system will be set up in 2012. Additional funding for highway repairs is available – local committees will decide how this money is spent. Questions from councillors (JK, JW, NC) and members of the public followed. In response, Tony Markley explained that inspections are regularly carried out to identify defects, as well as responses to the emergency highways hotline. Cllr. James Airey stated

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that residents should contact their local county councillor if problems with highway maintenance are not addressed.

6. 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.

A member of the public described the following problems in Bardsea:

- The condition of the verges in Bardsea village, which are choked with brambles and nettles, making it difficult to walk.

Action: Council agreed to place this issue on the agenda for the next meeting.

- The excessive speed of traffic down White Hill lane, especially tractors. The area is a 20mph speed limit but this appears not to be enforced. It was pointed out that this is an issue for the police.
- The signpost from Bardsea to Urswick (on Main Street, at junction leading to Birkrigg Common) has not been painted for years and is almost illegible. An additional sign from Main Street indicating route to Orchard Road would also be useful. **Action: GJ to follow up.**
- Question re site/funding for a community bench in Bardsea, similar to those in Urswick. Finding a site for a bench would be problematic as there is no land currently available.

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

PCSO Janine Wade talked about the reorganisation of local police teams. The emphasis is currently on home security as warmer weather approaches and windows/doors are left open. Local police teams have reported a number of copper thefts – e.g. from public lavatories. Crime figures generally are low but there is a tax refund scam in operation, in which fraudulent phone calls are made in an attempt to obtain people's bank details. It was requested that any such calls be reported to the police, including as much detail as possible. A question was asked about vehicles parking off road on Birkrigg Common. The PCSO pointed out that the byelaws regarding parking are only enforceable by the South Lakeland District Council.

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

Cllr Janet Willis suggested that if there is a problem contacting the highways team the area stewards should be approached directly. She is also willing to follow up complaints to the hotline made by members of the public. In response to a question from a member of the public regarding the County Council's liability in the case of damage arising from highways' defects, Cllr James Airey pointed out that an inspection system is in place and that the County Council pays out thousands of pounds in compensation to individuals each year. Cllr

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Willis noted that the County Council would prefer to spend this money on road maintenance.

Cllr. Caroline Airey noted the eviction of travellers from Birkrigg Common over the recent bank holiday. South Lakeland District Council and the police moved them on within three days.

8a. To receive an update from Cllr James Airey regarding the closure of Bardsea toilets
Cllr Airey stated that he had arranged a meeting with local businesses and the District Council to develop a business plan for running the toilets. South Lakeland District Council has agreed to allow more time for a plan to be developed. The toilets could be opened for the summer period but this would need to be financially viable and sustainable. All interested parties were invited to the meeting. In response to a question about the deterioration of the premises, he noted that the toilets would be brought up to standard before they were handed over to the community.

9. Planning Applications and Decisions

1. To confirm the Council's response to the following applications (on which councillors' comments/objections forwarded to the planning officer by the clerk):

SL/2011/0208

Woodhead Bungalow, Hooks Lane, Wood Head, Ulverston

Replacement dwelling, detached garage and store and new vehicular access

SL/2011/0229

Mid Town Farm, Great Urswick

Single storey detached garage

SL/2011/0264

Burnsmead Farm, Little Urswick

Siting of free-standing photovoltaic panels

SL/2011/0225

Clerk Beck House, Church Road, Great Urswick

Re-instatement of first floor level in barn

SL/2011/0289

Harbarrow Farm, Stainton with Adgarley

Erection of a temporary 40.5m high anemometer mast

2. To note decisions on the following applications:

SL/2011/0129

Woodside Cottage, Bardsea

Single storey side extension, raising roof to provide accommodation at 2nd floor level and formation of dormer windows

WITHDRAWN

10. Tarn Association. To consider the Tarn Association's response to an invitation to a meeting with the Council

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The clerk read out a letter dated 27th April 2011, from the retiring chairman of the Tarn Association, in which he stated that the Tarn Association committee had dissolved and was therefore unable to meet the Parish Council. She then read out an e mail containing advice from the Cumbria Association of Local Councils about the remainder of the lease with Urswick Parish Council, signed by the trustees of the Tarn Association. Council members then discussed how to proceed.

RESOLVED: The clerk to write to the trustees of the Tarn Association regarding their obligations set out in the lease with the Parish Council.

11. To approve proposed Council meeting dates for 2011-2012

RESOLVED: Council meeting dates for 2011-2012 were agreed.

12. To consider the co-option of a councillor for Bardsea

Mr. Brian Abbott, a resident of Bardsea, spoke about why he would like to be a parish councillor. The Chairman (JK) proposed that he be co-opted, seconded by Cllr Winder.

RESOLVED: Council unanimously agreed that Brian Abbott be co-opted onto Urswick Parish Council as councillor for Bardsea ward.

13. To note progress on rural bus service no 10

Cllr Willis explained about two bus services which will replace the No 10 service, and will be retained for 12 months. Cllrs Willis and J. Airey both contributed revenue funding to achieve this result. The Chairman thanked them for their support. Cllr Willis stated that it was a case of 'use it or lose it' for the service as it needed to be commercially viable.

14. To receive an update on drains and drainage. DS/GJ

DS noted that the drains on the Hagg had been cleared and sandbags provided to prevent flooding. Item to be retained on the agenda.

15. To receive an update on the Local Area Partnership.

Cllr. Nancy Cowsill volunteered to be the Council's representative at LAP meetings.

16. LAP tourist Information boards – to receive an update on progress

A decision was made on the design of the information boards.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to use the 'Exploring Urswick' design for the information boards. Action: Cllr. GJ to contact BB Designs to progress work.

17. Byelaws for Urswick Tarn - to receive an update on progress re obtaining signs at the Croft and the Landings (DW)

Action: Cllr DW to inform the Council of quotations received for providing byelaws signs.

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18. To consider a request for funding for Highlights Rural Touring Scheme at Bardsea Malt Kiln

RESOLVED: The Council regretfully refused the request.

Action: Clerk to write to inform.

19. To consider a request for affiliation to the Cumbria Playing Fields Association

RESOLVED: The Council regretfully refused the request.

Action: Clerk to write to inform.

20. To consider a request for a maintenance payment from Little Urswick Village Green Association

RESOLVED: The Council unanimously agreed to make a maintenance payment of £150 (LGA 1972, Section 137).

21. To discuss the matter of the caravan on P. Stables' land

RESOLVED (caravan removed).

22. To approve the Council's internal audit review Parts 1 and 2

RESOLVED: The Council approved the internal review audit Parts 1 and 2.

23. To approve the Council's statement of internal control

RESOLVED: The Council approved the statement of internal control.

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

RESOLVED that the following accounts be paid:

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| Clerk's expenses Apr 2011 | | AON Limited – insurance | £621.52 |
| Broadband allowance | £10.00 | Clerk's salary April 2011 | £371.18 |
| Mileage expenses (induction courses) | | Urswick WI (50% costs refurbishment bench) | £13.00 |
| 116 x 65p (Urswick to Crooklands x 2) | £75.40 | Bardsea Schoolroom Association – room hire | £22.00 |
| Printer cartridge | £19.99 | | |
| Total | £105.39 | | |
| Little Urswick Village Green Association | £150 | | |

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

The following items of correspondence were noted:

CALC broadband bulletin April 2011; Cumbria Police Authority – appointment of independent custody visitors; Journal of Neighbourhood Renewal training team – training sessions on community development, neighbourhood renewal and community safety; Cumbria County Council – consultation on Cumbria’s libraries; Letter from Miss J.D. Simmonds thanking Parish Council for contribution to children’s holiday club 2011; Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust – invitation to join; Lakes Alive – vagabonding; E mail from Imelda Winters-Lewis re arts installation on Birkrigg & fact sheets; Invitation to meet Lakes Alive ‘Harmonic fields’ team; Cumbria County Council – electoral review; Great Urswick Post Office – service re-opening; NALC Communities in Action Conference & Exhibition; Dept of Communities and local government – a guide to tree preservation procedures; TPO 231 2011 Daisy Hill Great Urswick; Cumbria Timber Transport Group – consultation on agreed route maps; CALC circular April 2011; Standards Committee Agenda 12 April 2011 and minutes for 8th Feb 2011; E mails re No 10 bus route; E mail from Jeanne Green re closure of Bardsea toilets; CALC circular May 2011; The Localism Bill – NALC update; E mail from Bill Rawlinson, Tarn Association, dated 4th May 2011; Letter from Martin Stables, Tarn Association, dated 27th April 2011; NALC Communities in Action – conference and exhibition; Cumbria County Council – consultation re additional transport funding ; E mail from A Dewar dated 10th May 2011 re parish road maintenance; E mail from Cllr Janet Willis replying to A Dewar re highway maintenance; CALC – invitation to events and councillor training; E mail from Seamus Walsh to Cllr Nancy Cowsill re Stainton with Adgarley bonfire; Cumbria Association of Local Councils notification of meeting on 9th June 2011; SLDC Standards Committee Annual report on ethical standards.

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

Bonfire at the Landings – November 2011.

Condition of verges in Bardsea village

Quotations for byelaws signs

27. Date and time of next meeting.

23rd June 2011, Urswick Parish Room, 7.30pm

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