

MINUTES OF URSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

From the meeting held on Thursday 21st June 2012

Urswick Parish Room

Present: Cllr. J. Keen (Chairman), Cllr. B. Abbott, Cllr. N. Cowsill; Cllr. G. James, Cllr. J. O'Donovan, Cllr. D. Stubbs, Dr. P. Attree (Clerk).

County/District councillor J. Willis.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllrs. D. Westfield & J. Winder, Dist. Cllr. J. Airey.

RESOLVED: that the apologies be noted and the reasons noted.

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr. G. James declared a personal interest in item 16 on the agenda, Cllr. N. Cowsill declared a personal interest in item 8a.

3. To authorise the chairman to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2012.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2012 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. To note progress on matters not on today's agenda – for report and observation only (items requiring a decision to be placed on agenda of next meeting).

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.

Item 8a on the agenda – Planning application no. SL/2012/0448, field adjacent to Harbarrow Farm, Stainton with Adgarley, erection of a single turbine (maximum blade tip height of 62m), widening of an existing field access, creation of a new access track

and associated infrastructure - was brought forward for discussion. Members of the public registered the following objections:

Size of turbine; visibility from Stainton; distance of proposed turbine from other properties; precedent for similar applications; potential health considerations; noise nuisance; interference with birds' migratory flight path.

The Chairman asked members of the public to register individual objections to South Lakeland District Council's planning department. The Parish Council would support residents' objections. Cllr. J. Willis stated that she supported residents' concerns and would register her objections to the application. Cllr. G. James suggested that members of the public attend the planning meeting where the application will be discussed.

Item 9 on the agenda was brought forward for discussion. A member of the public outlined objections to the proposals for Urswick Tarn: these included the proposed increase in car parking, inappropriate grass mowing, and the lack of management of the Tarn area. The member of the public stated that the Council's consultation was inadequate and did not include the prime users of the Tarn area, such as walkers, wildlife photographers and fishermen.

Cllr. G. James summarised the feedback on the Tarn proposals. He stated that if residents do not want to extend the car parking area this would not be taken forward. Cllr. James pointed out that as there are only seven fishing pegs at the Tarn it was unlikely it would be inundated with fishermen. He stated that since the closing of the Coot, access to the Tarn for residents was limited. The proposal to raise the level of the 'catwalk' was to allow people to walk down in winter. Respondents considered the provision of an information board on wildlife species to be useful. The Cumbria Wildlife Trust has advised that a wildflower meadow would not work. Cllr. James stated that the Tarn Working Group would take on board points made by members of the public and would revise the proposals for the Tarn.

A member of the public noted that, on the pathway to the Tarn, cutting back the briars needs to be done periodically, and planned in a managed way. He pointed out that different habitats need cutting at different times. He stated that the weeds cleared from the fishing pegs are still lying at the Tarn edge and need moving.

The Clerk noted that Cllr. Westfield, whose property adjoins the Tarn, has been in touch with the Environment Agency for advice concerning the vegetation at the Tarn edge. When the Agency replies, the Council will be provided with a copy of the letter.

The Chairman pointed out that the Tarn is for the enjoyment of the whole village and not just residents adjoining the Tarn.

Cllr. James noted that he has cut the grass at the Tarn, and that a cherry tree at the Croft is dying back and may have fungus. A member of the public stated that more trees have been cut down than planted, and asked if it is still the Parish Council's policy to encourage tree planting. Cllr. James replied that an amendment to the management

plan, drawn up in 2009 by the Tarn Association, identified those trees which needed to be felled in the Tarn area.

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

None.

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

Cllr. J. Willis spoke on the following issues:

a) Car parking at Stockbridge Lane, Ulverston. A trial of charging 20p per hour has been agreed and new equipment is to be installed.

b) Village Green, Little Urswick. A request by a resident for the extension of the kerb would require funding by the Highways Department. However, this would need to be considered alongside other priorities. Cllr. Willis is to contact the resident.

c) Highway stewards. Restructuring of the service has taken place. The Parish Council should shortly be informed of the dates stewards will visit the Parish.

d) Greenodd roundabout.

e) Stainton drop-in meeting. The main issue was speeding through the village, to which the Police will respond.

8. Planning applications and decisions

a) To consider the Council's response to the following applications:

SL/2012/0448

Field adjacent to Harbarrow Farm, Stainton with Adgarley

Erection of a single turbine (maximum blade tip height of 62m), widening of an existing field access, creation of a new access track and associated infrastructure. (See item 5 for discussion)

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

SL/2012/0352

Aurora Park, Scales (Aldingham Parish)

Erection of single wind turbine (79.6M to blade tip)

The Clerk noted that Council's response to this application had been received.

c) To note decisions on the following applications:

SL/2012/0091

Woodside Farm, Weint Lane, Great Urswick

Erection of 20.3M high (to blade tips) wind turbine

REFUSED

9. To receive an update from the Tarn working group and agree any actions. (DS/DW/GJ)

See item 5.

10. To consider the Council's response to a letter from Mr. H. Stables regarding Tarn vegetation.

The Clerk read Mr. Stables' letter regarding the loss of vegetation at the Tarn edge, in the region of Cllr. Westfield's property. The issue was discussed and the question was raised about possible reasons why the reeds have reduced in volume. Cllr. James is to contact Cumbria Wildlife Trust to seek advice.

Action: Clerk to reply to Mr. Stables to state that the Parish Council is investigating the matter.

11. To receive an update on the Local Area Partnership (NC).

Cllr. N. Cowsill reported that roads and drainage were prioritised by the LAP. She is to provide a plot of the grit bins in the Parish and check which need attention. Priorities for additional grit bins should be reported to Cllr. Cowsill. There may shortly be a request to the Council for the cost of painting railings in a neighbouring Parish. The Clerk noted that funding was received from LAP for this purpose. Speed indicator devices are being considered for funding. If this is granted, the Police will position and maintain the devices. Broadband speeds in the Parish are being monitored. The next LAP meeting is on 19th July 2012.

12. To consider the provision of speed indicator devices for the Parish (JK).

See item 11 above.

13. To discuss revision of the Parish Plan (GJ).

Nothing to report.

14. To consider the replacement/refurbishment of railings at Skeldon Moor (GJ).

Cllr. James has obtained costings for the railings. Seven metres are required at £28.50 + vat per metre. Cllr. James reported that he has spoken to Cllr. J. Willis about obtaining

fixings for the railings. A local blacksmith is to provide a price for this. He has also contacted the Probation service about painting the remaining railings in the Parish.

15. To consider the Highway Stewards' schedule for works in the Parish (Clerk/GJ).

See item 7c.

16. To review the reinstatement of the wall at Daisy Hill site, Great Urswick.

South Lakeland District Council's Planning Officer has notified the Parish Council that an appeal has been submitted by the applicant to the Planning Inspectorate, against the refusal of planning permission for a dwelling on the site. It is normal practice to await an appeal decision before following through an enforcement case. It was noted that the Parish Council will be consulted to reaffirm their views.

17. To consider the Council's response to the National Grid Consultation (BA/Clerk).

Cllr. B. Abbot reported to the Council on the six options for comment in the consultation. After discussion, it was agreed that the Council would comment on those options affecting the Parish (Options 1 and 2), after further information was sought.

Action: Clerk to contact to register details of the Parish Council, to obtain updates on the consultation, and request larger scale maps. Clerk to contact the officer at South Lakeland District Council dealing with the Planning Performance Agreement.

18. To discuss the maintenance of Stainton Green (NC).

Cllr. N. Cowsill reported that she has received a request that a small committee of volunteers be formed to open up the erratics on Stainton Green, and clear them of brambles and weeds.

RESOLVED: that the Council raise no objections to the formation of such a committee.

19. To approve the Council's accounting statement and annual governance statement for the year ended 31 March 2012 (Clerk).

RESOLVED: to approve the Council's accounting statement and annual governance statement for the year ended 31 March 2012.

20. To confirm meeting dates for the remainder of the 2012-2013 Council year (JK/Clerk).

RESOLVED: To confirm meeting dates for the remainder of the 2012-2013 Council year.

21. To consider the Council's meeting venue in Bardsea (BA/Clerk).

Cllr. B. Abbott reported that the Bardsea Schoolroom Committee have reduced their charges for hiring the Bardsea Schoolroom. It was agreed that the Council continue to meet in the Schoolroom.

22. To authorise payment of bills and expenses received since the last meeting (Clerk).

RESOLVED: that the following accounts be paid:

Clerk's salary May 2012 £285.36	G. James – refund paint etc £199.87
PAYE on Clerk's salary (Apr-Jun 2012) £214.00	J. Winder – refund masonry paint £8.99
Clerk's expenses May 2012 £33.63	Urswick PCC – room hire 21/6 £10.00

23. To note correspondence received and decide on any response required (Clerk).

The following items of correspondence were noted:

Letters re proposed developments at Urswick Tarn from D.A. Ledward, D. Higgin, K. McDaniel, S. Marshall, M. Turbitt, W. Blacklock, J. Walker, D. Poole, M.& J. Valentine; Letter and photographs from H. Stables regarding loss of vegetation at Tarn; Urswick Events Committee letter thanking Council for donation for Jubilee event; Urswick PCC letter thanking Council for donation to Holiday Club; SLDC notification of submission of Land Allocation Development Plan Document (DPD) and invitation for submissions on the conformity of the DPD with the National Planning Policy Framework; Changes to contracted bus services in the South Lakeland area coming into effect from September 2012; H. Madden PCSO – notification of drop-in session at Stainton on 16th June; Defra streamlined rights of way regime proposed; Tree Preservation Order No. 240 Land at Daisy Hill, Great Urswick, confirmed on 16 May 2012; Tree Preservation Order No 231, Daisy Hill, Great Urswick, not confirmed as order 240 (2012) applies; Tree Preservation Order No 99, 1994 Daisy Hill, Great Urswick revoked; Cumbria Action for Sustainability Heat project; Walney Extension offshore wind farm Community Newsletter No. 2; CALC training dates; SLDC Standards Committee 1st June 2012 agenda & minutes of meeting on 7 Feb 2012; LAP request for views on Centrica's consultation process re proposed Biomass Power Station at Roosecote; newsletter for Act Gazette – summer 2012; SLDC invitation to Partnership Event 13 July 2012; notification of Low Furness and Ulverston Neighbourhood Forum on 27th June 2012; Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership Update 1 June 2012; CALC circular June 2012; LAP actions and date of next meeting; Low Furness and Ulverston Neighbourhood Forum agenda 27th June 2012; Letter from S. Beattie re planning application no. SL/2012/0448; Letter from Urswick W.I. Re site for oak tree sapling – **Action: Clerk to contact WI to acknowledge and pass request to Little Urswick Green Committee**; e mail from J. Airey – update on Birkrigg Common; e mail from H. & N. Howker re planning application no. SL/2012/0326; e mail from K. Lawson, SLDC, re reinstatement of the wall at Daisy Hill, Great Urswick.

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

Adoption of new Code of Conduct for councillors.

25. Date and time of next meeting.

Thursday 9th August, Stainton Recreation Hall, 7.30pm.

PA 25th June 2012