

## MINUTES OF URSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

From the meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2012

### Urswick Parish Room

**Present:** Cllr. J. Keen (Chairman), Cllr. G. James, Cllr. J. O'Donovan, Cllr. D. Stubbs, Cllr. D. Westfield, Cllr. J. Winder (Vice Chairman), Dr. P. Attree (Clerk).

County/District councillors J. Willis.  
PCSO Paul Harris.

1. Apologies for absence  
Cllr. N. Cowsill, County Cllr. J. Airey.  
**RESOLVED: that the apologies be noted and the reasons noted.**
2. Declarations of interests  
  
Cllr. D. Westfield declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 12.
3. Requests for dispensations  
None.
4. To authorise the chairman to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

**RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.**

5. 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).

Cllr. G. James noted that he had received correspondence from South Lakeland District Council about the land adjacent to Daisy Hill Cottage, Great Urswick. The matter has been referred to the December Planning Committee for authorisation to issue an enforcement notice, in accordance with the engineer's report regarding the wall.

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 complained about the lack of action regarding the management of Birkrigg Common (in particular damage to the quarry wall) and the footpath on Bardsea foreshore. A 20mph sign on Coopers Lane, Bardsea has suffered damage and

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not been repaired. He also noted that the delay in hearings on the District Council's land allocation document could provide an opportunity to ensure that the Bardsea area's amenity aspect is preserved. Cllr. J. Willis offered to follow up on the footpath and 20mph sign. The Clerk will follow up the damage to the quarry wall on Birkrigg Common.

Mr. R. Wilson reported on a recent sonar survey of Great Urswick Tarn and offered councillors the opportunity to inspect the report. He noted that he has alerted South Lakeland District Council, and the estate agents and solicitors dealing with the sale of the Coot site, Great Urswick, to characteristics of the marl bench which could impact on development.

7. To consider a request from Furness Diving Club to carry out a litter pick dive at Urswick Tarn.

Mr Hewitt of Furness Diving Club outlined the nature of the proposed dive and answered questions from councillors.

**RESOLVED: The Council resolved that Furness Diving Club should be permitted to carry out a litter pick dive at Urswick Tarn – date to be arranged.**

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

PCSO Paul Harris reported that more police patrols have been introduced to combat speeding in the Parish. He also reported on mountain bike thefts, flooding problems and a sighting of a possible poacher.

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

Cllr. J. Willis reported that she had received no feedback concerning Reeds Gardens, Little Urswick. Flooding at Hooks Lane, Little Urswick has been addressed by the Highways authority. She noted a forthcoming meeting regarding flooding – Cllr. D. Westfield offered to pass on information to residents. Councillors reported that the grit bin at Little Urswick Green is empty. The Clerk asked councillors to check other bins in the Parish and report back. Cllr. G. James asked Cllr. Willis when a visit from the highway stewards is to be expected. Cllr. Willis replied that dates had not been set, as at present the County Council Highways department is busy reacting to problems as they arise. Cllr. James stated that the Parish Council is totally dissatisfied with the service.

10. To agree the co-option of a councillor to fill the vacancy for Bardsea ward. The co-opted councillor to sign the Declaration of Office.

The Chairman invited Mrs. Judith Kilty to address the Council to outline why she was interested in becoming a councillor, and what relevant skills and experience she possessed. It was unanimously agreed that she be co-opted as a councillor.

*Draft – to be confirmed at next meeting*

**RESOLVED: the Council resolved that Judith Kilty be co-opted as an Urswick Parish councillor, with special responsibility for Bardsea ward.**

Judith Kilty then signed the Declaration of Office, in the Clerk's presence.

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

Cllr. D. Westfield reported that the Tarn Working Group is to meet in Jan/Feb 2013 to plan for the forthcoming season. Boat permits are due for renewal, and notices will be placed on the Parish boards accordingly. The number of boat licences issued for Urswick Tarn has not been capped this year, and this has presented no problem. The situation will be reviewed in Autumn 2013. Cllr. Westfield also noted that Byelaws signs will be re-erected in the Tarn vicinity.

12. To review proposed plans for a jetty at Cllr. Westfield's property, Tanah Lot, Great Urswick.

Cllr. Westfield left the room while this item was discussed. Plans for the proposed jetty were examined by councillors and a discussion took place. It was noted that the footprint for the proposed jetty was slightly smaller than the one which used to exist at the property, and that a new jetty could be erected without damage to the reeds.

**RESOLVED: that the Council raise no objections to the proposed plans for the jetty at Tanah Lot, Great Urswick.**

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

None. It was noted that Cllr. G. James will substitute for Cllr. N. Cowsill at Local Area Partnership meetings, in her absence.

14. To discuss services currently provided by the District Council that could be adopted by the Parish Council (JO).

Cllr. J. Willis provided examples of the type of services that have been devolved to parish councils in Cumbria – e.g. markets, public toilets, grass cutting. Cllr. D. Westfield queried whether funding is available for parish councils for this purpose. Cllr. Willis replied that the District Council is willing to speak to councils about locally designated spending. The Clerk raised the possibility of a precept cap, which could potentially restrict spending rises. It was agreed to keep this item under review.

15. To discuss the Village Design Statement and agree on whether grant funding should be returned (JK/RW).

Mr. R. Wilson updated councillors on progress with the Village Design Statement. He noted that a problem had been that South Lakeland District Council had been unwilling to adopt the document as part of the planning process. The Clerk noted that a letter from Action with Communities in Cumbria to the Council chairman suggested that the

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£1000 grant should be repaid if the Statement was not to be published. It would then be possible to pursue grant funding for refreshing the Community Led (Parish) Plan. It was agreed that Mr. Wilson should consult with Julia Wilson at Action with Communities in Cumbria about how best to proceed. Cllr. G. James offered to attend the meeting. The matter will then be discussed at the next Council meeting.

**Action: Clerk to contact Julia Wilson to reply to letter re Urswick Village Design Statement grant.**

16. To authorise the Chairman to approve the Clerk's attendance at training courses, up to a maximum cost of £100.

**RESOLVED: The Council resolved to authorise the Chairman to approve the Clerk's attendance at training courses, up to a maximum cost of £100.**

17. To approve an increase in the Clerk's salary from Point 18 to Point 19 on the NALC scale, to take effect from 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012 (JK).

Cllr. G. James outlined the results of a staff appraisal for the Clerk undertaken by the Chairman and Cllr. James, which was satisfactory.

**RESOLVED: The Council resolved to approve an increase in the Clerk's salary from Point 18 to Point 19 on the NALC scale, to take effect from 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012.**

18. To decide whether to adopt a grant awarding policy (Clerk).

Councillors discussed draft grant awarding policy documents prepared by the Clerk. It was agreed that the documents be amended to include an equality and discrimination statement, and a note that the Council reserves the right to request feedback or receipts to demonstrate how the grant money has been spent and/or to inspect the outcome of the expenditure. The documents will then be presented for approval at the next meeting.

19. To consider requests for grants from the following organisations:

- Great North Air Ambulance
- Marie Curie Nursing Service

**RESOLVED: The Council resolved to decline the requests for grants.**

**Action: Clerk to write to the organisations.**

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

**RESOLVED: that the following accounts be paid:**

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SLDC – refund LAP grant info boards £255.00	Clerk’s expenses Oct- Nov 2012 £40.33
SLDC – refund LAP grant railings £1600.00	J. Simmonds – Poppy wreath £17.00
Clerk’s salary Oct- Nov 2012 £570.72	Urswick PCC Room hire 6/12 £10.00

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

The following items of correspondence were noted:

ACT/VAC supporter form; Cumbria County Council Public consultation on draft budget proposals for 2013-2014; E Mail from A. Dewar re suspension of Land Allocations hearing; Cumbria County Council local news and views – Winter 2012; Local Area Highways manager re salt/grit bins; Local Furness & Ulverston Neighbourhood Forum summary of meeting held on 23 Oct 2012; Walney Extension Offshore Windfarm – supp documents, consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008; call from NALC for council nominations to the smaller councils committee; CALC annual report 2012, circular November 2012, minutes of AGM, minutes of South Lakeland District Association meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2012, Circular Dec – Jan 2013, and sundry information; Cumbria in Bloom appeal.

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

Village Design Statement

Revised standing orders and financial regulations

23. Date and time of next meeting.

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013, Bardsea School Room, 7.30pm.

PA 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2012

