

MINUTES OF URSWICK, BARDSEA AND STAINTON PARISH COUNCIL

From the meeting held on Thursday 28th September 2017

Stainton Recreation Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Cllr. L. Birchall, Cllr. P. Bolt, Cllr. D. Chamberlain, Cllr. N. Cowsill, Cllr. J. Keen (Chairman), Cllr. M. Turner, Dr. P. Attree (Clerk).

District and County councillors: Cllrs. J. Airey and J. Willis.

Members of the public: 3

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. J. Hannah, J. Winder, A. Butcher and C. Airey.

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

2. Declarations of interests

To receive declarations by elected and co-opted members of interests in respect of items on this agenda.

Cllr. N. Cowsill declared an interest in item 11a, planning application SL/2017/0779.

3. Requests for dispensations

None.

4. To authorise the Chairman to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17th August 2017.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th August 2017 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

5. To discuss the proposed Council ownership of Little Uрсwick Village Green.

Mark Fogden, of Savills (on behalf of the Crown Estates), attended the meeting to explain to councillors why the Crown Estates is disposing of its residue of lands held. The Crown Estates are prepared to transfer Little Uрсwick Village Green to the Parish Council for a nominal sum of £1. In addition, the Council would be required to pay its conveyance fees (cost to be established at a later date). After discussion, it was agreed to purchase the Green, to secure its future indefinitely.

RESOLVED: The Council resolved to purchase Little Uрсwick Village Green from the Crown Estates, for a nominal sum of £1.

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6. To discuss the future of Birkrigg Common.

Mark Fogden reported to the Council that the District Council's lease on Birkrigg Common terminated on 28th September 2017. Savills recently contacted the District Council to suggest that they take on ownership of the Common, but no reply has yet been received. The Council discussed whether there would be any benefit to the Parish Council in acquiring ownership of the land. It was agreed that it was not financially viable, as the Parish Council does not have the resources either to purchase or maintain the Common.

7. 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. Chamberlain reported that the development at Bankfield Hall had been approved by the District Council, although on a smaller scale than the original plans. The issue of increased traffic and speeding in the village had not been addressed. The development will also mean the loss of amenity parking spaces in Great Urswick, at the entrance to Bankfield and within the visibility splays. Cllr. Chamberlain broached the introduction of 20mph signs in Urswick with Cllr. J. Willis. This is to be followed up with County Highways.

The Clerk noted that the vegetation at the junction of Greenbank Gardens, Little Urswick and Church Road has been cut back, in response to the Council's repeated requests to County Highways. No action is currently planned by Planning Enforcement regarding the condition of the site.

The Clerk also noted that the cattle grid on the approach to Birkrigg Common from Great Urswick has been repaired.

Cllr. Birchall reported that hypodermic needles had been found near to the Parish Room in Great Urswick. These were removed and safely disposed of, and the matter reported to the Police. It was also noted that the damage to grave stones in the church yard had been repaired free of charge by a local stonemason.

The Chairman reminded members about the Urswick litter pick planned by a local resident for Sunday 1st October 2017.

- 8. 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. The Council was addressed by R. Johnston regarding planning application SL/2017/0687 – the Kirkby Moor Wind Farm. The original planning approval for the wind turbines stated that they would be removed in August 2018. The current planning application seeks to extend this period to 2027. This extension is opposed by many in the local community and beyond, as the wind turbines are seen as inappropriate features in the natural landscape. Their age, and developments in technology, has also rendered them inefficient as a means of generating electricity. The Council was asked therefore to reject the application. After discussion, it was agreed that the Council would object to the proposed extension of the operational period for the windfarm.

9. Report from Police on any matters of local concern and /or interest to Councillors and residents (for information only).

The Clerk read the following report from the Police.

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INCIDENTS OF NOTE

- 3 X Criminal Damage: Low Furness School Garden area (damage to poly tunnel and play equipment): St Mary's & St Michael's Church Yard (headstone crosses pushed over) and decorative stones moved from beck at the rear of a private dwelling.
- 1 X attempt burglary in a dwelling (minor damage to rear door no access gained) (Great Urswick)
- 1 X anti-social behaviour in church yard (offenders Identified and dealt with) (recovered air rifle in church yard – reunited with owner)
- 2 X assaults (both incidents parties known to each other and offenders prosecuted)
- 1 RTC (road traffic collision) (one vehicle no injury, minor damage (Birkrigg))
- Highway obstruction X 3 (oil spillage near Sea Wood; builders' vehicles causing obstruction - removed; drunk walking on highway – taken home)

Following continuous problems with parking and access at Kirk Flatt, Great Urswick.

South Lakes Housing have been contacted and they have now agreed to convert grassed area to parking for 7 vehicles near to 50 Kirk Flatt.

CRIME PREVENTION

- Speeding – Low Furness School – laser work carried out in area near to the school continues.
- SLDC Enforcement – joint patrols addressing dog fouling; littering and fly tipping (recent further complaints re dog fouling near to Low Furness School). Patrols planned for October.
- Second Community Safety Day held in July 2017 at Gleaston. Representatives from Community Speed Watch; Farm Watch and Heart Start. Advice provided by SLDC regarding recycling. 30 cycles security marked.

PARTNER AGENCY MESSAGES

- Trading Standards – Scam alerts via CCM (HMRC scam continues, travellers calling door to door re gardening work and looking for scrap metal).

10. Reports from District and County Councillors on matters of interest to Councillors and residents (for information only).

Cllr. J. Willis noted that the new piping at the Coot site in Great Urswick should be completed in the near future.

11. a) To consider/confirm the Council's response to the following planning applications:

SL/2017/0687: Kirkby Moor Wind Farm, Kirkby Moor and Lowick High Common, Grizebeck. Variation of condition no. 6 attached to planning permission 5/90/2312 (erection of 15 wind turbines and construction of access ways) to vary the temporary time condition to allow retention of turbines until 31 March 2027, followed by one year to carry out decommissioning works.

See item 8.

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SL/2017/0706: Edge Hill Farm, Mountbarrow Road, Ulverston. Change of use of an agricultural storage building to mixed use of agricultural storage and seating area for customers of the farm shop and café.

No objections received.

SL/2017/0752: Swarthmoor Hall Farm, Swarthmoor. Erection of feed and bedding store and laying of hardstanding.

No objections received.

SL/2017/0779: Stainton Green Farm, Stainton with Adgarley. Barn extension, hard-standing and revised gateway from track.

No objections received.

SL/2017/0806: Field off Halier How Lane, Great Urswick. Erection of a steel portal frame building for the storage of hay with part to be used as stabling for horses including change of use of the land for keeping horses.

No objections received. Query about size and visibility of structure.

b) To note decisions on the following planning applications:

SL/2017/0545: 5 Brow End Cottages, Great Urswick. Single storey and two storey extensions.

GRANTED with conditions

SL/2017/0411: Formerly the Coot, Great Urswick. Erection of dwelling and detached garage and partial demolition and alteration to existing building to form domestic store and greenhouse.

REFUSED

SL/2017/0632: Mid Town Cottage, Great Urswick. Variation of condition no. 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission SL/2015/0700 (first floor side extension).

GRANTED with conditions.

12. To receive an update from the Tarn working group and agree any actions.

The Chairman reported that the final two fishing pegs at the Tarn are to be installed. Problems were noted with the Catwalk, which without attention will become unusable. Cllr. Chamberlain stated that a construction engineer would need to be engaged and that advice would be sought from Cumbria Wildlife Trust about any works. It was agreed that the work would be unlikely to take place in the current financial year. It was noted that beck clearance should be undertaken by the Environment Agency on a regular schedule, to prevent a recurrence of high levels in the Tarn.

It was noted that Daniel Stubbs has re-joined the Tarn Working Group.

Cllr. Bolt reported that a problem with obtaining the correct fees for a fishing licence has been resolved.

Cllr. Chamberlain reported on the levels of algae and nitrate bloom on the Tarn. Cumbria Wildlife Trust are to carry out a 'dip test' for toxicity. The number of seagulls on the Tarn is also problematic.

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

None.

14. To discuss problems with Gypsy Lane, near Birkrigg Common, and decide on the Council's response.

After discussion, it was agreed to take no action.

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15. To discuss a resident's request to fill potholes on the unadopted access road (adjacent to the Stagger Inn), on Stainton Green.

Cllr. Cowsill provided a photograph of the potholes. The Council agreed to grant the resident's request to fill in the potholes, using local materials, providing there is no encroachment onto common land.

Action: Clerk to action – to issue a letter.

16. To discuss grass cutting at the Croft, Great Urswick.

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from G. James requesting that the Council now take on grass cutting at the Croft, which has been done voluntarily by G. James and N. Penny for many years. The Council agreed that this area be added to the schedule for 2018. It was also agreed to send letters to G. James and N. Penny thanking them for their efforts, on behalf of the Council.

ACTION: Clerk to action.

17. To consider provision for community projects in the budget for 2018-19.

It was agreed to allow £1000 in the budget for 2018-19 for community projects. Members could then approach the Council with proposed projects and a budget for completion. Projects from Bardsea and Stainton with Adgarley would be particularly welcomed.

18. To consider the reappointment of trustees for the John Preston and Urswick Grammar School trusts for a period of four years.

RESOLVED: The Council resolved to re-appoint the following trustees, for a period of four years:

Robert Forrester
Jean Simmonds
Lynda Hebbert
Peter Kapustynskyj

19. To discuss an increase in vandalism in the Parish.

Councillors discussed recent incidences of vandalism in the Parish, for example in Urswick churchyard. In addition, difficulties have been experienced in disused buildings in Urswick village – such as the Coot site and Bankfield. It was agreed to alert residents through social media, asking people to be vigilant, watch out for neighbours, and keep their property secure.

20. To approve the Council's annual return and certificate of conclusion of the audit for the financial year ending March 2017.

RESOLVED: To approve the Council's annual return and certificate of conclusion of the audit for the financial year ending March 2017.

21. To agree payments in accordance with the budget as listed in the report provided.

RESOLVED: the Council resolved that the following accounts be paid:

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Clerk's salary Aug-Sept	£669.76
Clerk's expenses Aug-Sept	£47.44
PAYE Jul-Sept 2017	£251.20
BDO - external audit fee	£120.00
CALC – training course	£75.00
Stainton Recreation Hall – room hire 28/9	£10.00

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

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

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

None.

24. Date and time of next meeting.

9th November 2017, Bardsea School Room, 7.30pm

PA 4th October 2017