

Minutes of a meeting of Underbarrow & Bradleyfield Parish Council held at Underbarrow Institute on Thursday 1st August 2024 at 7pm.

Present were Councillors Peter Swindlehurst (Chairman), Richard Carruthers, Charlotte Cartwright, Stuart Fairclough and Sally Soady, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Steve Bavin and Parish Clerk Kevin Price.

24/23 Public Participation: None.

24/24 Requests for Dispensations: None.

24/25 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest made in respect of any matters on the agenda.

24/26 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2024, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

24/27 Report form Westmorland & Furness Councillor:

- a. Councillor Bavin gave an extremely full report on the recent urgent closure of the Underbarrow and Brigsteer bridges, the public meeting held and various meetings and updates being publicised. The Clerk will circulate all information that comes to him on this issue, to all Councillors and others. Councillors are urged to ensure that the Parish Council is represented at all meetings that are set up to inform residents of the current position regarding the bridges and the resultant diversions. Newsletters are being issued periodically and the focus is on re-opening the two roads as soon as practicable.,
- b. A large number of potholes have been reported.
- c. Drains that had been reported have been inspected.

24/28 Planning: None.

24/29 Finance:

- a. *It was resolved to pay the following accounts:*

William E Huck	£50.00	Internal Audit – honorarium
Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council		
	£9.25	Share of ZOOM licence for one year.
K M Price	£121.60	Quarterly expenses to 30 th June, including use of home office and travel.

- b. The report from the Internal Auditor on the Council's Accounts for 2023-24 was noted with thanks. There were no matters to be brought to the Council's attention.

- c. The cash and budget statements were noted.

24/30 Defibrillator training:

It was agreed that the one-day 'emergency training' course would be the most suitable for Councillor training. Councillor Soady will ask what the cost of this would be and details will be circulated to all Councillors. A decision will then be made before the next meeting to go ahead, assuming the cost is reasonable.

24/31 Daffodil bulb planting:

1,000 'native' daffodil bulbs would cost £285. Suitable areas for the planting of these were identified. It was also agreed to order half a ton of the 'usual' bulbs for the remainder of the area. Councillor Swindlehurst will order these and arrange a 'planting day' around October. (If details are known by 12th September, the event can be advertised in the 'Two Valleys News'.

24/32 Open Forum:

- a. An email had been received from a resident of Natland parish, who has been in dispute with Westmorland & Furness Council over their use of a s14 of the Highways Act 1984, which he claims is unlawful and cannot apply to equestrians. He suggests a bridle gate which could be used by cyclists and pedestrians would enable them to cross the Underbarrow and Brigsteer bridges which are now closed.
- b. The Clerk has been in touch with the Underbarrow Institute concerning the Trustees listed on the Charity Commission website. Ben Cunliffe, Sylvia Gibson and Mark Simpson are listed but they are no longer Councillors. It is suggested that they should be removed as Trustees unless they have expressed a clear indication that they wish to continue. The remaining Trustees are all Councillors, Richard Carruthers, Charlotte Cartwright and Peter Swindlehurst. The Clerk explained the risks that can be associated with Trusteeship and suggested that, if they wish to be Trustees they should make this clear to the Institute committee, otherwise their names should be removed. It appears that, historically, Councillors have been automatically regarded as being Trustees, without specifically consenting to being appointed. This is an important issue as it could have serious personal financial implications should any problems develop or if any Public Liability issues were to arise.

24/33 Dates for the next meetings:

Thursday 3rd October 2024 ay 7pm

Monday 9th December 2024 at 7pm
(Preceded by a meeting of the Trustees of the Poor's Allotment Charity.)

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed:

Dated: