

## **IREBY AND ULDALE PARISH COUNCIL**

At the Annual Meeting of Ireby and Uldale Parish Council held at the WI Hall, Ireby on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 commencing at 7.50 p.m. following the Annual Parish Meeting.

Present:

K. Bridges  
J.W. Hall  
J. Logan  
G. Moore  
P. Normington

Also Present:

J. Perry, Cumberland Councillor  
Seven parish members  
J. Rae (Clerk)

### **1/25 ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR COUNCIL YEAR 2025/26**

Nominations were invited for the election of Chair. It was proposed by Cllr J. Logan and seconded by Cllr G. Moore that Cllr K. Bridges be re-elected Chair. No other nominations were received. RESOLVED that Cllr K. Bridges be re-elected Chair for the ensuing year.

### **2/25 TO RECEIVE THE CHAIR'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Cllr K. Bridges signed a declaration of acceptance of office.

### **3/25 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FOR COUNCIL YEAR 2025/26**

A proposal was received from Cllr J. Logan and seconded by Cllr J.W. Hall that Cllr G. Moore be re-appointed Vice Chair. No other nominations were received. RESOLVED that Cllr G. Moore be re-appointed Vice Chair for council year 2025/26.

### **4/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr R. Cockburn. The reason for absence was noted and accepted.

### **5/25 MINUTES – 4 MARCH 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

### **6/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

Cllr K. Bridges declared an interest in item 21 on the agenda – Donation request from Northern Fells Group.

### **7/25 REPORTS**

- (a) The newsletter for the Cockermouth/Keswick area had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr K. Bridges reported that he had attended an online meeting with the Neighbourhood Policing Team for the area.
- (b) Cllr J. Perry reported that the fortnightly waste collections are due to start at the end of May. Residents should check Cumberland Council's website for updates. Cllr J. Perry agreed to raise with Cumberland Council if any residents do not have kerbside recycling collections by the end of September. Cllr Perry also reported that the results of the Housing Needs Survey will be published in July and information and guidance is available on Cumberland Council's website for anyone arranging public events.

Cllr P. Normington raised that the period for responding to consultations is not always long enough to fit around meeting dates. Cllr Perry agree to raise this with Cumberland Council.

### **8/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public the opportunity to raise any matters of interest.

A resident enquired if there were any updates on the bus service and the proposed market.

The Chair responded that the proposed market will be included as part of the Community Led Plan and residents will be asked at the meeting on 10 May if this is something they would like included in the Plan. The Bus Service is included on the agenda at Item 16.

A resident enquired about the various parcels of land included on the Asset Register. It was agreed that the Land Registry titles and plans for the parcels of land registered to the Parish Council would be uploaded onto the website.

The meeting was re-convened.

9/25

#### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING ON 4 MARCH 2025**

Min Ref. 100/24 - Community Led Plan – It was agreed that the Clerk would raise an invoice for £375.00 for the match funding from ACT.

Min Ref. 94/24 – Activities of Fibrus – Fibrus had sent apologies and provided a written update on the position in the Parish.

#### **“HyperfastGB Network Build in Ireby and Uldale.”**

The original scope for the HyperfastGB network in the parish of Ireby and Uldale was 194 premises. These are premises that are deemed as eligible for State Aid by Building Digital UK (BDUK – part of UK Government leading the Project Gigabit programme) and agreed with Fibrus as being the in the project budget for build. I am pleased to confirm that a further 17 premises have now been added under the contract extension that was recently awarded and these will be integrated into the current build. Premises that are not within scope are usually down to the added cost of building the network to them and that cost being above the public subsidy available at this time. Such premises are monitored by BDUK and Connecting Cumbria with a view to inclusion in other projects beyond HyperfastGB current plans.

I am afraid that our network build programme was adversely impacted by the weather during the earlier part of the year and in particular by Storm Eowyn which was not too severe for Cumbria but it really did impact services in Northern Ireland and a lot of our teams were diverted to work on recovery and restoration of services. To mitigate this impact, we have engaged additional contractors to work alongside our prime contractor Viberoptix and we are now catching up.

With regard to Ireby and Uldale in particular, there is a good amount of existing infrastructure previously deployed by Openreach and we have agreement to reuse Poles, Ducts and Chambers to help deliver the HyperfastGB Network. We have surveyed the area in detail and planned the build routes we need to use. With the ducts and chambers though, it is possible that some will be blocked. The combination of rainwater, silt from roads and leaves will drain into chambers and ducts and over time cause blockages preventing additional fibre cable from being drawn through the ducts. We are anticipating a number of blockages and therefore scheduled work to address this.

Between the 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> May we have requested road closures on the B5299 from the junction with Ireby to Uldale and via Aughtertree and from Boltongate to Snowhill. The purpose of these works is to “test, rod & rope” the ducting we will be using. Pushing rods through will help confirm the ducts are clear and will also clear smaller blockages. This then enables us to pull rope through which will be used later to pull the fibre cable through without risking damage to the cable. Where we encounter blockages, we will undertake excavation work as necessary to clear and repair ducts as we have allowed time for that. If all things go well and we encounter less blockages, then we will reopen the roads sooner. It is better this way than having to re-apply for closure, await the additional twelve week’s notice period and then re-attend to clear blocked ducts.

During the roadworks, access to properties will be maintained for residents and businesses. There might be a slight delay whilst we remove equipment and make safe but our teams will do their best to help as we do appreciate it causes an inconvenience but the work is necessary to be able to deliver a full fibre network and the benefits that will bring.

We also have some further roadworks planned between 21 to 25<sup>th</sup> June in the area of Kilnhill to the south of the Parish for the same kind of work.

In terms of next steps, we will need to draw through the fibre cable. This can be done quite quickly once the ducts are cleared and is less impactful in terms of road closures. We can then splice and join the cable before carrying out end to end testing to ensure the capacity and performance of the network.

I cannot give you a definitive date just now for when people in the parish will be able to order services but I would estimate that if all goes to plan, then we should be able to offer services from late Summer or Autumn this year”.

Min Ref. 101/24 - Website – Cllr Normington reported that the website is now complete. A training session was held on 10 March for councillors and the clerk. A re-direction has been set up on the old website. A payment of approximately £5 will be incurred annually to retain the old domain name.

## **10/25 ANNUAL INSURANCE/REVIEW OF ASSETS**

The renewal invitation had been received from Clear Councils at a premium of £590.10. An alternative quotation had been requested in the previous year from Zurich which amounted to over £700. RESOLVED that the policy be renewed with Clear Councils.

A visual check had been undertaken of the assets and they appear to be in good condition.

## **11/25 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- (a) A copy of the financial report had been circulated with the agenda.

Balances 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025

Business Current Account	£ 3,694.73
Business Savings Account	£ <u>7,218.86</u>
	£10,913.59
Unpresented cheque no 200004	£ <u>83.44</u>

BALANCE CFWD 1 APRIL 2025     £10,830.15

- (b) Income Received

Cumberland Council Annual Precept £6,000.00

- (c) Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the following accounts be authorised for payment:

CALC – Annual Subscription	£202.21
Clear Councils – Annual Insurance	£590.10
T. Gear Internal Auditor	£ 85.00
P. Normington – Refund Hire of Globe Hall	£ 48.00
Caldbeck Parish Hall – Room Hire	£ 15.00
M Taylor Printing Services – Flyers	£ 54.00

Donations granted to:

Ireby Festivals – Christmas Tree Lights	£400.00
Northern Fells Group	£250.00

## **12/25 ANNUAL AUDIT FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/25**

- (i) Internal Audit Report - The internal audit had been carried out with no issues raised.
- (ii) Annual Governance Statement – RESOLVED that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement to confirm that arrangements are in place for effective financial management and the accounting statements are prepared in accordance with Accounts and Audit Regulations
- (iii) Accounting Statement 2024/25 – It was agreed that the Accounting Statement represents the financial position of the parish council. RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to sign the annual return.
- (iv) Certificate of Exemption - Members resolved that the Certificate of Exemption should be signed by the Chairman and Clerk certifying that the Parish Council is exempt from a limited assurance review and during the financial year 2024/25 the gross income for the year or gross annual expenditure for the year did not exceed £25,000.
- (v) Period of Exercise of Public Rights – Members noted that the period for the exercise of public rights will commence on 3 June and will end on 12 July. A notice will be displayed on the parish notice boards notifying electors of their rights to inspect the accounts.
- (vi) Publication on website – The requisite documents will be uploaded to the parish council's website

## **13/25 PLANNING**

- (a) Applications received:
- Lake District National Park Authority
- 7/2025/2010 - Land adjacent to The Hideaway, Uldale, CA7 1HB  
Proposal: Proposed residential development of two affordable dwellings for local occupancy
- 7/2024/2226 - Snittlegarth Farm, Ireby, Wigton, CA7 1HE  
Proposal: The proposed development is for five floor mounted solar panels to be installed on the north boundary of a currently farmed field. The development would not alter the change of use for the remainder of the parcel, the area under the panels would have to be maintained differently. This will equate to over 400m<sup>2</sup>, the remainder of the site area will be used for offsetting the plantation of trees for BNG purposes
- (a) Decisions: None
- For information:
- E/2024/0287 - Land at Low Longlands Farm, Uldale  
Breach of Planning Control – Change of Use

## **14/25 HIGHWAYS/HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE**

The following matters were reported:

A pot hole near the crossroads at Uldale had been reported on HIAMS.

Cllr J. Perry agreed to raise the following matters with Cumberland Council Highways.

Drains still blocked at High Ireby

The continuing issues with Snittlegarth Lonning and the Aughertree to Uldale road.

## **15/25 COMMUNITY LED PLAN**

Cllr P. Normington reported that on Saturday, 10th May the two drop-in sessions will be held at the Globe Hall, Ireby. 10 am - 12 noon and 2 pm - 4 pm. Flyers for the event had been distributed in the Parish. The drop-in sessions are an opportunity to share what's happening and for residents to have their say. Representatives from the following organisations will also be present

Ireby and Uldale Parish Councillors

Colleagues from ACTion with Communities in Cumbria

Community Development Officer for our Cumberland Council Community Panel ("Lakes to Sea"), Sue O'Neill

Our Cumberland Councillor, Jill Perry (\* afternoon session only)

Our Village Agent from Northern Fells Group, Gillian Skillicorn

County co-ordinator for AbilityNet Cumbria, Pat Maskell

An invitation will be extended to join an independent steering group for the Community-Led Plan.

## **16/25 BUS SERVICE**

It was reported that a meeting was held with the Highways and Transportation Manager from Cumberland Council who had been quite supportive and advised that there is some funding available but there are no buses or drivers. It was agreed to explore other alternatives to be considered at the next meeting.

## **17/25 TREE MAINTENANCE**

It was agreed to request alternative quotations from two other contractors.

## **18/25 GLOBE HALL TRUSTEE NOMINATION**

Nominations were invited for the role of Trustee of the Globe Hall. Cllr Normington agreed to take on the role.

## **19/25 VE DAY 80 ANNIVERSARY**

Members noted that an event will be held at Ireby School on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day.

## **20/25 USE OF FACEBOOK**

A discussion took place around the use of facebook and whether the Parish Council should be more actively making use of social media. It was noted that the Parish Council's primary method of communicating with the community is via the website. It was resolved that councillors could set up their own 'councillor' profile and request to join the two facebook groups in the Parish.

## **21/25 DONATION REQUESTS**

The following requests for donations were considered:

Ireby Xmas Tree Lights – A request had been received for a grant of £500.97 to purchase replacement lights. A proposal was received that £250.00 should be granted with a suggestion that other fund raising should be explored. A further proposal was received that £400 be granted, this was seconded. A vote was taken 3 in favour and 2 against. It was therefore resolved that £400 would be granted.

Northern Fells Group – The request for a donation towards the running costs of the mini bus was considered. RESOLVED that £250 be granted.

## **22/25 VACANCY**

The Returning Officer at Cumberland Council had been notified of the resignation of Cllr. A Forrest and the vacancy had been advertised. A request for an election had not been received by Cumberland Council. The Parish Council can now fill the vacancy by co-option. RESOLVED that the vacancy be advertised inviting expressions of interest for consideration at the next meeting.

## **23/25 CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence received since the last meeting had been circulated by email:

CALC News January and February

CALC - Town and Parish Council Devolution Briefing April 2nd

Hyperfast GB Newsletter - Spring 2025

Cumberland Council Newsletters

CALC - Building Safe and Strong Communities, Principles of collaboration between Town and Parish Councils, Cumbria Association of Local Councils and Cumberland Council

Cumberland Council Housing Strategy - Formal Stakeholder Consultation

Cumberland Council - Update: Update on waste and recycling changes

CALC - Litter Champions Event

Peter Walter Newsletters

CALC - PSPO and Dog Fouling Event - 1 May 2025

## **24/25 PARISH MATTERS/ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Frequency of Meetings

## **25/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st July, 2025 - WI Hall Ireby – 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.51 pm

Chairman ..... Date .....