

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF URSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

held on Thursday 18^h August 2011

at the General Burgoyne Inn, 8.00pm

Present: Cllr. J. Keen (JK) (Chairman), Cllr. B. Abbott (BA), Cllr N. Cowsill (NC), Cllr. G. James (GJ), Cllr. D. Stubbs (DS), Cllr. D. Westfield (DW), Dr. P. Attree (Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr. J. Winder - on holiday; Cllr. J Willis – prior engagement.

RESOLVED: that the apologies be noted and the reasons noted

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. To approve the mutual termination of the lease between the Parish Council and the Tarn Association

The Chairman proposed that the mutual termination of the lease between the Parish Council and the Tarn Association be approved. A named vote was requested by Cllr. B. Abbott.

The voting was as follows:

Those in favour: Cllrs. J. Keen (Chairman), N. Cowsill, G. James, D. Stubbs, D. Westfield.

Those against: Cllr. B. Abbott.

The proposal was therefore carried.

RESOLVED: The Council resolved to approve the mutual termination of the lease between the Parish Council and Urswick Tarn Association.

4. Tarn maintenance: to consider the way forward for the Council

Cllr Westfield suggested that the Council needs to fully understand the maintenance, legal and conservation issues associated with the Tarn and surrounding area before making any decisions. This could be achieved by liaison with the Environment Agency and Cumbria Wildlife Trust. Short term plans (3-6 months) could then be put into place. The Clerk clarified the position regarding committees and working groups. Cllr. Westfield suggested that, in the first instance, a small working group be formed to review the issues involved and report

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back to full Council. Cllr James stated that issues such as boat licences, fishing licences and other aspects contained in the lease and existing management plan would need to be reviewed. It was agreed to set up a Tarn working group consisting of Cllrs. James, Stubbs and Westfield.

Action: Tarn working group to meet and report back to Council – item to be on the agenda for the next meeting on 15th September 2011.

Clerk to check that the Council is fully insured for public liability and employers' liability for the Tarn.

Cllr Westfield proposed that the Council should not limit the number of boat licences for the year Sept 2011-August 2012, with the stipulation that no more than five boats are present on the Tarn at the same time.

Cllr. James moved an amendment – that an unlimited number of boat licences be made available for parishioners, together with five day-licences available for non-residents of the Parish. No more than five boats to be present on the Tarn at any one time.

The amendment was voted on and carried by a majority (with one abstention).

RESOLVED: The Council resolved that an unlimited number of boat licences be made available for parishioners, together with five day-licences available for non-residents of the Parish. No more than five boats to be present on the Tarn at any one time.

As an interim measure, it was agreed that the number of boats on the Tarn be monitored by Cllr Stubbs, assisted by Cllrs James and Westfield.

Cllr. Westfield pointed out that the existing management plan, drawn up to sit alongside the lease with the Tarn Association, is now invalid. This would need to be revised by the Tarn working group.

It was proposed that essential works, such as clearing weeds, grass cutting and path clearance, which are required to ensure access to the Tarn, and the safety and maintenance of the Tarn area, be carried out in advance of the next full Council meeting.

The proposal was voted on and carried by a majority (with one abstention).

RESOLVED: the Council resolved that essential works, such as clearing weeds, grass cutting and path clearance, which are required to ensure access to the Tarn, and the safety and maintenance of the Tarn area, be carried out in advance of the next full Council meeting.

Cllr. Westfield agreed to produce a notice for the parish boards and website to inform the public that the maintenance of the Tarn is now managed by the Parish Council.

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