

**MINUTES OF THE 284th MEETING OF ASKAM AND IRELETH PARISH COUNCIL, HELD ON
20 SEPTEMBER 2016 IN THE TEMPERANCE HALL, IRELETH**

Present: Members of the Parish Council; Cllr Harry Barker, Chairman, Cllr Bill Wilson, Cllr Alan Mason, Sandra Hadwick, Denise Wilson, Mike Cumming and David Knight; also present: Clerk Janice Cumming; Borough Councillor Ann Thurlow; County Councillor Barry Doughty; PCSO Louise Johns and 10 members of the public.

1/09/16: DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Cllr Denise Wilson 6/09/16 planning application B18/2016/0590.

2/09/16: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Steve Smalley and Cllr Bill Wilson

3/09/16: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

3/09/16/1: A resident of Ireleth stated that she was very unhappy about National Grid's proposals to site 50 metre plus pylons along the Duddon Estuary through Ireleth and beyond. She felt these pylons would totally disfigure the landscape and tower over the villages they pass. Pylons are being removed in other areas by National Grid because of their visual impact. The Duddon Estuary is a very beautiful landscape and deserves to be better protected. Through conversations she has had with other resident it is apparent that the majority of people who are aware of the pylons are very much against them, preferring the offshore route down the coast from Moorside. However, there were some residents still unaware of the planned pylons and the issues involved. A local NO PYLONS group has recently been formed in Askam and Ireleth by concerned residents to try and raise awareness within the community of these planned pylons and also of the less intrusive alternatives previously put forward by NG at earlier consultations. Other parish councils in the area have joined forces to make a stand together against these giant pylons as they believe they are unnecessary, as cables can go underground or offshore, as is planned for Morecambe Bay. In October NG is due to announce the date for the final public consultation of their plans for delivering power from Moorside to connect with the national grid. This is the last chance for local people to try and stop these pylons spoiling our environment and as such she feels it is important that residents are made fully aware of this opportunity to make their feelings heard and to impress upon NG that other options must be considered. Her questions to the parish council:

- 1) Will Askam and Ireleth Parish Council be joining the local Parish Council Co-Ordination Action Group against Pylons?
- 2) Can the Parish Council hold a well-publicised open meeting for the community of Askam and Ireleth to ensure residents are fully informed about NG's plans, their impact on our local environment and of the importance of attending the final consultations to make their views known?
- 3) What further actions can we taken together as a community to prevent these giant pylons going ahead?

The Chairman asked if Councillor Mike Cumming could respond to this, as Councillor Cumming has been involved in this issue for the last two and half years. Councillor Cumming has attended the Cumbria Association of Local Council briefings with National Grid on two occasions, as well as the public consultations. He has also brought it to the attention of the Chief Executive of Barrow Borough Council and members of Dalton Town Council and Lindal and Marton Parish Council.

- 1) Councillor Mike Cumming represented Askam and Ireleth Parish Council at the last meeting of the Co-Ordination at Thwaites on 5 September. This group has only recently been set up, prior to this Askam and Ireleth Parish Council have been liaising with National Grid through Cumbria County Council and Graham Pitts who is a founding member of Power without Pylons and Chairman of the Duddon Estuary Partnership, Councillor Cumming being the Vice Chairman of this group. It was the Duddon Estuary Partnership at their meeting in June 2016 who agreed to set up a sub-committee of Parish Councils to lobby National Grid and this is how the Co-Ordination group was formed. At the first meeting of the sub-committee it was agreed to send a letter to NG asking that the group be recognised as a strategic partner. National Grid refused and stated that they would only deal with Parish Councils directly and by district.
- 2) It is stated that some residents are not aware of NGs proposals and were not aware of the consultations. An email from a resident who had attended the local NO PYLON group meeting in

Askam accused the Parish Council of not actively informing residents of these plans. This is rebuked by the parish council who have had two presentations to which residents were invited – one from National Grid in September 2015 and one from Graham Pitts of Power without Pylons in April this year. Both presentations were very poorly attended, even though there were notices around the village, they were publicised in the Evening Mail and on the parish council website. National Grid also held public consultation days with a Newsletters being sent to every household in Askam and Ireleth explaining the project, the route of the pylons with dates and venues for the consultations. The first was on Saturday 1 November 2014 in Askam Community Centre from 10.30am until 3.30pm, 34 people attended. The second on Friday 23 October 2015 in Askam Community Centre from 2.00pm until 8.30pm. 35 people attended. There were also posters around the village, advertisements in the local papers on the local radio stations with a large banner outside the Community Centre and an “A” Board advertising the event. From all these consultations and meetings this parish council has never received one communication from a member of this community, until the last few weeks. Councillor Cumming is pleased that the group has been set up in Askam and Ireleth and that at last residents are getting involved.

- 3) Councillor Cumming told the meeting that National Grid have brought forward the next consultation and they will be held from 28 October 2016 until 6 January 2017 at various locations and these will be advertised. This is your opportunity **to have your say**, there is likely to be another Project Newsletter coming through your door and will follow the same format. **You must express your comments in writing as they will not take into account any verbal discussions. Tell as many people as you can to respond as this could be your last chance.** It was agreed by the parish council that the parish council will be represented by Councillor David Knight and Councillor Mike Cumming at a workshop in Ulverston by National Grid on 17 October 2016 after this meeting we will have a better idea of their proposals and if they have come up with any new proposals for routing the cable from Moorside. The proposal for a tunnel under the Duddon is being explored. The concerns of this possibility is; - **where the tunnel would land this side of the Duddon.** If it is in Askam then it could mean we would still have pylons as well in addition to a large 400kva substation, which may satisfy the villages around the Duddon, but would not please people affected in Askam and Ireleth. An update from the meeting on 17 October will be given at the next parish council meeting which will be held on 18 October and interested parties should attend this meeting. Time will be allotted for an update and questions from the public. For information on this project anyone register for latest news and updates on their website www.northwestcoastconnections.com

The Chairman thanked Councillor Cumming and the representatives from the NO PYLONS group, he said it was important that residents came to the parish council with their views otherwise the parish council do not know what they are thinking or what concerns they have. The parish council is here to represent the people of the parish of Askam and Ireleth and we will always do our very best to represent their views and help when and where we can, but we need input from residents. Members of the public are welcome to attend the parish council meetings or they can contact the parish council through our website www.askamandirelethparishcouncil.org.uk

3/09/16/2: Disabled Access Ramp at Sandy Lane. Councillor Denise Wilson has received a request for the step at Sandy Lane/Headlands be replaced with a ramp for wheelchair access. The Clerk would contact our Contractor Redsyke regarding this. **Action Clerk**

4/09/16: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 JULY 2016

These were agreed as a true and accurate record and duly signed and dated by the Chairman.

Proposed Cllr Mike Cumming

Seconded Cllr Sandra Hadwick

Agreed

5/09/16: PROGRESS REPORT FROM ACTION ITEMS

5/09/16/1: Public Toilet Area: Redsyke is still to complete the work to the wall, looking at October.

5/09/16/2: Cars illegal parked at Steel/Sharp Street Parking Area: These have now been removed by owners. The Chairman thanked PCSO Johns for help in this matter. **Closed**

5/09/16/3: Path at Askam United Ground: Redsyke has completed this work on behalf of the parish council. Received favourable comments from residents. Closed

5/09/16/4: Ragwort at Duddon Road Car Park: This has been dealt with by Redsyke on behalf of the parish council and is being monitored. Mr and Mrs Johnson thanked the parish council.

6/09/16: TO REPORT AND DISCUSS ANY PLANNING ISSUES – CLLR DAVID KNIGHT

B18/2016/0590 – Erection of a first floor extension forming a training room – Duddon Inshore Rescue, Steel Street, Askam. *No objections or comments.*

B20/2016/0613 – Minor amendment following grant of permission B20/2011/0521 (demolition of two storey rear annex and construction of a rear storey flat roof extension to provide additional living accommodation) to allow new window openings to side and rear elevation and replacing patio door system with door and window. Installation previously approved, roof windows removed – 87 Duke Street, Askam. *No objections, comment that it would be good to see this development finished to a good standard.*

B20/2016/0663 – Change of use of land to six camping pods and six hard standings for touring caravans at High Haume Farm, Broughton Road, Dalton. *No objections or comments*

The Clerk was asked to send responses to the Planning.

Action Clerk

7/09/16: REPORT FROM POLICE AND ROAD TRAFFIC MATTERS – PSCO LOUISE JOHNS

Month of July: 1 anti-social behaviour, 0 burglaries, 2 criminal damage, 1 drug, 1 assault.

Month of August: 2 anti-social behaviour, 14 burglaries (this was related to break-ins at the allotments on the Lots), 0 criminal damage, 0 drugs, 1 assault.

8/09/16: REPORT FROM PARISH COUNCIL CO-ORDINATION ACTION GROUP AGAINST PYLONS – CLLR MIKE CUMMING

This had been covered in item 3/09/16/1.

9/09/16: BOROUGH OF BARROW IN FURNESS LOCAL PLAN

An open day had been held today in the Community Centre by Barrow Borough Council. The parish council are looking at all areas which have been designated as prospective development areas within the parish and would like to know the views of residents. The parish council will be responding, but they urge all residents to send in written responses to Barrow Borough Council with any concerns. The parish council actively promoted this event so that people could see what is planned for the village and have their say. A member of the public asked what the parish council felt about the Borough Council policy of allowing developments on green field sites. The parish council said they would be responding to the Borough plan. A member of the public expressed her concerns regarding the land at Saves Lane which is part of the development cordon. She is concerned that this is not an appropriate area to build houses as the land floods and it is very close to the children's play area. She will be responding to the Borough Council together with other residents.

10/09/16: REPORT FROM MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF RJC, LEADER OF BARROW COUNCIL AND NUGEN

A very productive meeting was held with the CEO of NuGen and Corporate Director regarding issues raised as a result of the last consultation held in the Borough. A good understanding was reached between the parties and agreed to meet again in the New Year. A copy of the Askam & Ireleth 5 year plan was sent to NuGen which was very favourably received.

11/09/16: LITTER BINS AT STEEL STREET/SHARP STREET PARK ARE

The Clerk had been approached regarding the litter bins which are in a poor condition and open to the elements. It was agreed that new bins should be purchased as the bins are well used.

Proposed Cllr Sandra Hadwick

Seconded Cllr Alan Mason

Agreed

12/09/16: UPDATE FROM RURAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING (RJC)

Councillor Hadwick and Cumming attended the meeting held at Temperance Hall, Ireleth. They agreed this had been a productive meeting, reflecting the NuGen meeting and other issues raised. In particular CALC not recognising Barrow Borough as being part of the CALC executive was discussed and Cllr Cumming as Chairman of RJC to write a strongly worded letter to the Chairman of CALC.

13/09/16: SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Service of Remembrance will be held on Sunday 13 November. The Clerk was asked to organise the event as in previous years.

Proposed Cllr Denise Wilson

Seconded Cllr Harry Baker

Action Clerk

Agreed

14/09/16: UPDATE FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Barry Doughty gave an update on County Council issues which included the parking and traffic restrictions. He is liaising with the County Council Enforcement Officer regarding parking in Askam and Ireleth. Councillor Doughty is still unhappy with the issue regarding flooding on Moor Road and A595 and is speaking to Highways regarding this. Work to the A595 is planned for next year and Councillor Doughty expressed the concerns he has about the A595 especially in an emergency and he feels the County Council needs to look at emergency planning for this road.

Councillor Ann Thurlow said she was pleased that residents had attended the Borough Local Planning Event. She said that residents with concerns could attend the **Borough Councillor Surgery which takes place on the last Saturday of each month in Askam library from 10 am until 11 am** and speak to their elected representative.

15/09/16: REPORT FROM CLERK (including Finances)

The monthly expenditure and budget sheet was made available to all Councillors. This was reviewed and accepted as a true record.

Proposed Cllr Alan Mason

Seconded Cllr Denise Wilson

Agreed

The Clerk reported that the annual audit of accounts had been returned as correct from the External Auditor BDO. A notice of conclusion will be posted on the website on the notice board at the Community Centre. Contact from Askam Indoor Bowling Club regarding funding from Parish Council. The Bowling Club have received full funding from Cumbria County Council for the new bowling mats. This means they do not need the grant from the Parish Council. It was agreed that the club should return the cheque to the parish council.

16/09/16: CORRESPONDENCE – to check the appendix of items; all of which will be available at the meeting for inspection.

16/09/16/1: Community Emergency Planning for small communities. It was agreed that the parish council should ask advice on this matter from Duddon Inshore Rescue. The information was given to Councillor Denise Wilson who would discuss with DIR.

Action Cllr Denise Wilson

16/09/16/2: Correspondence received from residents on the Lots regarding the shrub area at Stafford Street which they felt was obstructing visibility for pedestrians and traffic using New Road. With the agreement of the parish council this area has been cut back by our Landscape Contractor Redsyke.

Closed

17/09/16: SANCTIONS FOR PAYMENT

BDO LLP for annual audit £240.00, copying paper £5.00, Dog Waste Bags £12.35, Hire of Room and refreshments for RJC meeting £12.28.

Proposed Cllr Alan Mason

Seconded Cllr Sandra Hadwick

Agreed

18/09/16: DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 18 October 2016 at 7.15 pm in the Rankin Hall, Duke Street, Askam

Signed by Councillor Harry Barker, Chairman

Dated 18 October 2016