

Minutes of a meeting of Witherslack Parish Council held at Witherslack Parish Hall on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.30pm.

Present were Councillors Christine Carter (Chairman), Bruce Duffin, Stuart Pickup, Mike Walford and Brian Wilson, County Councillor Jim Bland, eight member of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor John Holmes and PCSO Jayne Park.

#### **18/15 Declarations of Interest:**

Councillor Walford declared an interest should any matters relating to Slate Hill Quarry be discussed.

#### **18/16 Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **18/17 Casual Vacancy:**

Councillor Janet Mason had resigned from the Council and, as yet, there had been no expressions of interest for co-option.

#### **18/18 Public participation:**

- a. The Council was urged to continue its opposition to the planning application for Church Road as there is no affordable housing provision and the access is inadequate. It has not been possible for members of the public to see the speed survey that was originally carried out and the Council agreed to ask why this was the case.
- b. Concern was expressed at the need of housing for locals.
- c. Flooding continues outside the Old Barn and, although digging has taken place the drainage is obviously not satisfactory.

#### **18/19 Police Report:**

PCSO Jayne Park had emailed her report. There had been two crimes reported in the parish since the last meeting, one being the theft of an ATM machine from Greystones filling station and the other was an arrest for drink driving on the old A590.

#### **18/20 County and District Councillors:**

- a. **District Councillor.** Councillor Holmes has emailed his report and this was circulated to Councillors. It will also be appended to these minutes in the file. Items mentioned included the payments made under the Flood Resilience Scheme, which is now closed, and the SLDC grants under its 'Locally Important Projects fund. Overall the increase in Council Tax is likely to be around 5% this year.

- b. Councillor Bland responded to comments that there had been no gritting in recent weeks in the village and said that this unfortunately was the case in many parishes after the recent spell of severe weather.

#### **18/21 Councillor matters:**

It was agreed to obtain quotations to enable the display of a 1902 picture at the Parish Hall and this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

#### **18/22 Planning:**

- a. *The following decision, notified to the Council by the Planning Authority, were noted:*

7/2017/5374 The Old Gas Works, Meathop. Erection of building for seven business units. Granted.

- b. *The following application was considered and approval recommended:*

7/2018/5085 East Gate, Beck Head, Witherslack. To demolish an existing open fronted concrete store under a corrugated roof and erect an oak framed garage/car port along with log store under a slate roof.

- c. *The following comments, submitted to the Planning Authority since the last meeting, were noted:*

7/2018/5044 Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve, Witherslack. Construct three bird watching structures from timber to improve visitor experience. Approval recommended.

7/2017/5313 Land to the north of Church Road, Witherslack. Residential Development with all matters reserved except for access. A site visit was requested, as there had been no significant changes since the original application.

#### **18/23 Strategic Long-Term Plan for the Parish:**

Page three of the document produced by Councillor Wilson as a Strategic Long-Term Plan for the parish was considered and Councillors will forward further comments to him as he cannot be present at the next meeting.

#### **18/24 Parish Land at Yewbarrow Quarry:**

Councillor Duffin said that arrangements for the lease of this land are almost complete and it will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Councillor Walford would like to make an offer to lease the land at Slate Hill Quarry as no one else has been forthcoming and will offer £50 annually for a period of five years. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

### **18/25 General Data Protection Regulation:**

Councillor Carter had attended the training course organised by CALC last week and reported on this. Much of what is required for Parish Councils to put in place is uncertain as yet, especially as to whether the Clerk can be the Data Protection Officer or not. CALC expects to pass on details soon as the Regulation becomes law on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

### **18/26 Finance:**

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

HMRC	TBA	PAYE
ICO	£35.00	Subscription
Treble 3	£144.00	Website

b. The cash and budget statements were noted.

c. The signed contract has been received from the new handyman and he will commence work on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

d. Additional work had been proposed by the handyman but it was agreed to defer this for the present time due to likely costs.

### **18/27 Correspondence:**

- a. Former Councillor Janet Mason thanked the Council on behalf of the Parish Hall committee for the money given to enable them to buy a new fridge.
- b. Lucy Rogers brought to the attention of the Council the problem of vehicles speeding through the village. The Clerk will report this again to PCSO Jayne Park.

### **18/28 Date of the next meeting:**

***Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 at 7pm at Witherslack Parish Hall (This will be the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting).***

*The meeting closed at 9.20pm*

*Signed:*

*Dated:*