

Minutes of a meeting of Witherslack Meathop & Ulpha Parish Council held at Ulpha Farm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm.

Present were Councillors Christine Carter (Chairman), Andrew Coates, Philip Coatesworth, Jolyon Dodgson, John Geldard and Mike Walford,, one member of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were accepted as from Councillor Rachel Bell. Westmorland & Furness Councillor Steven Bavin arrived at 7.30pm.

#### **24/1 Public participation:**

*Stephanie Fry made the following points:*

- a. She had submitted a request for funding for the installation of a defibrillator at Halecat. It was resolved that the requested grant of £275 is acceptable in principle, subject to it being an agenda item at the next meeting.
- b. The young people of the parish would like to design a mural for the walls of the 'underpass'. The Council is happy to support this suggestion and it will be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- c. Proposed 20mph speed limit. Councillor Coatesworth is in dialogue with Westmorland & Furness Highways and this will be discussed later in the meeting.

#### **24/2 Declarations of Interest:**

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

#### **24/3 Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**24/4 Planning:** None.

#### **24/5 Parish notice boards and benches:**

Work on these has now been completed and paid for.

#### **24/6 Finance:**

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

Witherslack Parish Hall	£10.00	Hire of hall
HMRC	£540.00	PAYE
Treble 3 Design Ltd	£120.00	Website hosting
Treble 3 Design Ltd	£31.20	Website domain
K M Price	£134.42	Backpay (Pay Award)
K M Price	£136.99	Quarterly expenses to 31 <sup>st</sup> December, Including use of home office and travel

- b. The nationally agreed Pay Award for Clerks was approved, backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. The is for £1 per hour across all salary points.
- c. The Budget Report was considered and it was resolved to make a Precept upon Westmorland & Furness Council in the sum of £11513.00 for the financial year 2024-25. This represents an increase of around 4.5%

#### **24/7 D-Day Celebrations – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024:**

The Council is not minded to arrange a specific event but is happy to contribute up to £300 towards costs if another group in the parish is planning to celebrate the event.

#### **24/8 Washing steps/strimming/ village appearance:**

It was reported that, following the strimming work carried out, the area is much improved and it was resolved to repeat this work on a bi-monthly basis, commencing in March. The cost will be £100 on each occasion, so £400 for the cutting season.

Work required at Beck Head will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

#### **24/9 Village bus stops:**

The bus shelters where the X6 service calls are extremely dark in the evening and it was proposed that a solar powered light is installed, on a trial basis, at the west side shelter on the A590. A waste bin will also be provided as it was noted that there is a lot of mess left in all of the shelters; this is largely cleaned up on a voluntary basis by Councillors.

#### **24/10 Village speed limited initiative:**

Councillor Coatesworth reported that this initiative is moving on, and he is due to speak to Helen Karasslan of W&F Highways shortly. Speed data has been ordered and should be in use by the end of February. It was resolved that the Council makes formal application for a 20mph speed limit to be established; parishes have been warned that this is likely to be a slow process.

#### **24/11 Underpass traffic lights:**

Concern had been expressed as to the reliability of the traffic lights at the underpass. It was reported, however, that these were functioning better now but there is a need for motorists to align their vehicles correctly in order to activate the lights.

#### **24/12 Councillor responsibilities:**

This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

### **24/13 Parish Land:**

Councillors Dodgson and Walford agreed to study the list of the parcels of land owned by the Council and suggest a way forward, although it was emphasised that this will be a long-term project. It will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

### **24/14 Westmorland & Furness Councillor:**

Councillor Bavin mentioned the following issues:

- a. The Council Tax Consultation for 2024-25 closes soon. It is likely that the increase will be 4.99% including the additional amount for Adult Social Care.
- b. W&F Council and input from farmers has improved the flooding situation at Meathop.
- c. He will request the replenishing of the grit pile at Millside.
- d. United Utilities is due to close Church Road from 9<sup>th</sup> April.
- e. A meeting of the A590 group took place earlier today. The focus is on national highways to progress the proposed roundabout at Gilpin Bridge. Council Bavin would like to receive details of accidents that has occurred there.
- f. He will report the potholes at Millside Lane.

### **24/15 Date of the next meeting:**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at Ulpha Farm at 7pm.**

Provisional date for the Annual Meeting – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 at Ulpha Farm. As this may be a Parish Election year, the Clerk will confirm the date in due course.

*The meeting closed at 8.35pm*

*Signed:*

*Dated:*