

Witherslack Meathop and Ulpha Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 29th June 2016 at Witherslack Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors C Carter (Chairman), B Duffin, J Mason, S Pickup and M Walford, County Councillor J Bland, District Councillor J Holmes, eight members of the public and Locum Clerk K M Price. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Wilson and PCSO Jayne Park.

56/16 Casual Vacancy:

A Casual Vacancy was declared due to the resignation of Councillor Jane Leeson. The Clerk explained the procedure to be followed and notices will now be placed on the notice boards and sent to SLDC. If, after 14 days, 10 electors of the Witherslack Ward of the parish do not request an Election, the Council will be free to co-opt to fill the vacancy.

57/16 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor M Walford declared an interest should any matters pertaining to the parish quarries be discussed.

58/16 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2016, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

59/16 Public participation:

(The business of the Council was adjourned to allow members of the public to speak)

- a. Penny Hitchin addressed the Council on flooding issues at Meathop, producing maps and explaining where the problems are. Meathop Road and the lower part of the Grange golf course have been flooded today. Network Rail has accepted there is an issue with their gates and have commissioned a hydrology study of the whole valley. Grange Town Council are also involved in discussions. Councillors Bland and Holmes are meeting with the Environment Agency next week and will raise the matter then.
- b. An email from Katie Welch was read, urging the residents to work together to ensure that there is a vibrant and sustainable community in Witherslack.
- c. Various members of the public spoke on behalf of the group set up to consider the provision of a recreational area for use by residents of all ages within the village at Pinfold Quarry. Over 70 signatures have been collected from residents in favour of such a facility. Councillor Holmes has spoken to Ben Long at LDNPA and is awaiting details of what will be allowed at this site. He has also approached the officer at SLDC who deals with play areas. It could be that any such project would be eligible for funding through the Locally Important Projects Fund (LIPs).

The proposal from the residents is 'that Pinfold Quarry be utilised as a recreational area'.

(The business of the Council was then resumed)

60/16 Reports:

- a. **Police.** PCSO Jayne Park had reported by email that there had been no logs relating to Witherslack since the last meeting.
- b. **District Councillor.** Councillor Holmes circulated his report which will be attached to these minutes.

61/16 Councillor matters: None.

62/16 Planning:

- a. *The following applications were considered:*

7/2016/5256 Land adjacent to Strickland Hill, Witherslack. Erection of an agricultural worker's dwelling. (Outline application 7/2015/5451). Approval recommended.

7/2016/5267 Winnow Barn, Meathop. Open glazed roof verandah. Approval recommended (this has now been granted).

7/2016/5300 5 Town End Farm, Witherslack. Replacement conservatory. Approval recommended.

7/2016/5309 Birks Farm, Cottage, Witherslack. Extension to dwelling and change of use of agricultural land to domestic parking area. Approval recommended.

7/2016/5360 The Old Gas Works, Meathop. Confirmation of compliance with conditions nos. 1 and 2 of planning approval ref. 7/2013/5492 relating to contamination and Construction Method Statement. Approval recommended.

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

7/2016/5195 Landour, Witherslack. Proposed alterations to consist of raising the roof by approx 1.5m to increase headroom of the first floor and re-planning of internal rooms. Granted.

7/2016/5264 and 5265 Witherslack Hall Farm, Church Road. Proposed use of section of Grade II Listed Barn as bunk house accommodation in association with Witherslack Hall Equestrian Centre. Associated internal alterations. Granted.

- c. Two further applications had arrived today. These will be circulated to Councillors and the Clerk will respond on behalf of the Council:

7/2016/5399 Land adjacent to A590, near Brens Butty Van, Greystone West, Witherslack. Removal and replacement of 3 existing antennas with 3 proposed antennas, removal and replacement of existing monopole with proposed 12.5m high pole on new root foundation, removal and replacement of 1 existing equipment cabinet with 1 proposed equipment cabinet; plus minor ancillary works

7/2016/5383 Yew Tree Cottage, Meathop. Demolition and replacement of an existing dilapidated garage.

63/16 Pinfold Quarry:

Councillor Duffin reported that the fencing has now been completed, the gate is there, but the area needs to be made secure from horses. It was also emphasised that the Council is not against any suggestion that this area be used as an amenity for the village and a site plan will be sent to the Clerk, in order that advice may be sought from SLDC with Councillor Holmes' assistance, as to the cost of any change of use. The Council also wished to encourage a sense of community spirit within the village. However, professional advice regarding flooding issues would have to be sought first.

64/16 Play Area:

In respect of a question from a resident, the Council again clarified its position with regard to the leasing of Bownass Beck as a play area, by a vote of four votes to one vote, that this is not a suitable area for leasing, whether as a play area or for any other use for the reasons previously discussed and published.

It was also agreed that advice would be sought about the continuing flooding of this area of the village.

65/16 Land Trust:

Councillors Mason and Walford had attended the recent meeting of the Community Land Trust, when over 30 people had been present. Suitable sites for affordable housing need to be identified and this process is continuing.

66/16 Cattle grids:

Councillors Duffin and Pickup reported on their recent meeting with CCC and Highways England regarding the state of the cattle grids in the parish and who will be responsible for their future maintenance. Councillor Holmes had chaired the meeting. The Highways England representative and the CCC representative agreed to reconsider the suggestion that if Highways England brought the cattle grids up to the required standard, CCC would undertake to maintain them for the future. Councillor Bland agreed to discuss the matter with Peter Hosking and Nick Raymond at CCC.

67/16 Parish Handyman:

The contract for the Parish Handyman will be updated and will be an agenda item for the next meeting. Councillor Duffin agreed to try and arrange for some of the required work to be carried out in the meantime.

68/16 Finance:

The Clerk presented the provisional accounts for 2015-16 and these were approved. The Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign Parts 1 and 2 of the Annual Return.

69/16 Correspondence:

- a. LGBCE Consultation of SLDC Ward Boundaries. The Council objects to the proposed new Ward boundaries and also the introduction of three-member Wards across the district.
- b. An email had been received from Hilary Ratcliffe, with an historical enquiry regarding a house in Witherslack in the 1940's. This will be circulated to Councillors in case anyone can assist.

70/16 Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 7th September 2016 at 7.30pm at Witherslack Parish Hall.

Agenda items so far:

Parish Land - possible letting of three remaining quarry sites (details will be placed in the Parish Magazine)

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed:

Dated: