

Minutes of a meeting of Witherslack Meathop & Ulpha Parish Council held at Ulpha Farm on Monday 5th August 2024 at 7pm.

Present were Councillors Christine Carter (Chairman), Andrew Coates, Philip Coatesworth, Jolyon Dodgson and John Geldard, and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Rachel Bell and Mike Walford.

24/48 Public participation: None.

24/49 Declarations of Interest:

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

24/50 Westmorland and Furness Councillor:

No report, but he had been assisting considerably with Council matters since the last meeting.

24/51 Planning: None.

24/52 Witherslack 20mph initiative:

Councillor Coatesworth had met with Councillor Bavin to discuss speeding issues. It appears that it could be a long process, but it was agreed to get some information together and try to engage the village in discussions, as well as enquiring about the possibility of 'green' speed signs. Councillor Coatesworth will launch the project on the Witherslack Hub and it will be a standing item for future agendas.

24/53 Parish Land:

In respect of the 20 pieces of land that were conveyed to the Council some 20 years ago, and which are the Council's responsibility to manage, Councillor Dodgson proposed:

- a. The spreadsheet circulated to Councillors at the last meeting should, with small modifications, become the 'official list', consisting of a two-part document to include a map which defines the plots. Additional documents in the portfolio, to be held by the Clerk, should include the registered plans, which Councillor Dodgson holds at present. These will be a help to the 'survey team' in identifying boundaries etc.
- b. The following modifications were agreed:
 - i. Plot 19 should be taken off the list – this has been resolved.
 - ii. Plot 4 (Coopers Cottage) – a 'caution' raised against this has now been removed (as per Council minutes in 2015).
- c. Some plots, not required by the Council, including the triangle of land opposite the washing steps, should be removed as they are too small to be of any use to the Council. The 'official list' will then consist of 15 or 16 plots.

- d. A volunteer is to be found to survey the plots and possibly to persuade adjacent landowners to take control of some of the plots, at no charge except any legal costs that might be involved. It was thought that Cumbria Wildlife Trust might be interested in some of them and Councillor Coates will make enquiries.

24/54 Finance:

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

Philip Coatesworth	£27.98	Reimbursement – map (noted)
DM Payroll Services Ltd		
	£60.00	Payroll administration (noted)
Graham Dobson	£56/25	Strimming (noted)
HMRC	£467.60	PAYE
Graham Dobson	£56.25	Strimming
K M Price	£128.82	Quarterly expenses to 30 th June, including use of home off and travel.

- b. The possibility of registering the Council for online banking was discussed. There were mixed feelings over this but Councillor Geldard agreed to make enquiries the next time he is visiting Barclays Bank.
- c. The report from the Internal Auditor was received with thanks. There were no matters to be brought to the Council's attention.
- d. The cash and budget statements were noted.
- e. The Clerk is trying to set up payment of PAYE via Direct Debit as this would save the writing and posting of cheques between meetings.

24/55 A590 road improvements:

There was nothing official to report but Councillor Geldard emphasised the need to drive this scheme forward, in the light of government cutbacks on highways projects.

24/56 Issues at Meathop:

Councillor Bell had reported by email:

- a. Footpath – this can be removed from future agendas as it is not going to be possible.
- b. Notice Board: the key is still there and old posters have been removed. New posters can be emailed and she is looking at obtaining a plastic folder for it as it is getting rusty.
- c. Litter problems – not too bad at present; a number of residents do 'litter picks' down the lanes.
- d. A Green bin collection was missed last week, and previously black bin and recycling collections have been missed. Councillor Bavin is following this up.
- e. Overhanging trees at Meathop – this was to be managed by the land owner.

24/57 Date of the next meeting:

The Clerk will circulate some possible dates in October and then notify everyone once a date is agreed. (*Since the meeting, all Councillors replying have agreed to **Thursday 10th October** as the date for the next meeting*)

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Signed:

Dated: