

Minutes of a meeting of Witherslack Meathop & Ulpha Parish Council held at Ulpha Farm on Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 7pm.

Present were Councillors Christine Carter (Chairman), Rachel Bell, Andrew Coates, Philip Coatesworth, John Geldard and Mike Walford, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Steve Bavin, two members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Jolyon Dodgson.

25/16 Public participation:

Steph Fry had formulated a Proposal to transfer the ownership of defibrillators in the parish to the Parish Council, which had been circulated to all Councillors.

She had received a quotation for the supply of electricity for £3,500 which was too expensive and she is now looking for alternative sites.

The Council resolved to accept the Proposal; things will continue as at present and Steph will keep the Council informed of developments.

25/17 Declarations of Interest:

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

25/18 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th January 2025, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

25/19 Westmorland & Furness Councillor:

Councillor Bavin reported as follows:

- a. The road closure for Electricity North West will now be from 27th March to 23rd May.
- b. The flooding at Blea Crag Road is being followed up.
- c. Emergency repair of potholes has been taking place on the Lyth Valley Road.
- d. Signs have been replaced at the Grange junction.
- e. A 30 mph speed limit might be more easily achieved than a 20 mph one.
- f. Various consultations are taking place at present. The consultation for a 'Mayor' for Cumbria closes on 13th April. The one for 'trees and hedgerows' has just ended, The Parish Council Elections consultation is still running.
- g. Issues at Bowness Beck have been highlighted again.

25/20 Planning: None

25/21 Proposal from Steph Fry:

This had already been dealt with under 'public participation' (above)

25/22 Meeting with Electricity North West:

Councillors Coates and Coatesworth had met with David Moore on site and photographs had been taken and submitted. A response is now awaited and Councillor Coates will follow this up.

25/23 Witherslack 20mph initiative:

There are differences of opinion in the parish regarding the proposed 20 mph speed limit, especially in view of the likely cost (£18,000) for it to be implemented. The Police advisory signs are due to be installed soon. The situation will be monitored before a firm decision is made.

25/24 Parish Land:

- a. There had been 19 sources of enquiry, some via emails, others by meetings. Colin Tominson is assessing, at no cost to the Council, potential for disposal on a plot by plot basis and will report back.
- b. It was resolved to accept a quotation from Treescapes Consultancy Ltd in the sum of £440 plus VAT and travel expenses for a tree survey and report on the Washing Steps plots. The Clerk will arrange for the work to be put in hand.
- c. Plots 9, 10 (Washing Steps), 14 and 15 will not be sold.

25/25 Bus stop maintenance:

All is going well and Councillor Coatesworth supplied details of the contacts for this and other initiatives he has been involved in.

25/26 Maintenance:

The strimming is in hand and no problems were reported with maintenance issues.

25/27 Finance:

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

Christine Carter	£100.00	Reimbursement – removing fallen tree
Graham Dobson	£25.00	Cleaning bus shelter
HMRC	£499.60	PAYE

- b. The Clerk is continuing to process an application for online banking for the Council.

25/28 Parish Emergency/Resilience Plan:

This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

25/29 A590 road improvements:

There had been no recent meetings so there was nothing to report.

25/30 Councillor Philip Coatesworth:

Councillor Philip Coatesworth is leaving the Council following this meeting. The Chairman thanked him for his good work over recent years, especially with his involvement in various initiatives, some of which have now come to fruition. The Clerk will declare a Casual Vacancy to Westmorland & Furness Council.

25/31 Date of the next meeting:

***Thursday 15th May 2025 at 7pm at Ulpha Farm
(This will be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Council Meeting.)***

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed:

Dated: