

Minutes of a meeting of Witherslack Meathop & Ulpha Parish Council held at The Dean Barwick Hall, Witherslack, on Wednesday 29th January 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, 12 members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Jolyon Dodgson.

25/1 Public participation:

A number of residents spoke regarding the small parcels of land that were passed back to the Parish Council some years ago by the then South Lakeland District Council.

The Parish Council had listed these and advertised the details of them, resulting in a Resident's Meeting being held and a number of expressions of interest being made.

The Council is not at the present time able to enter into any contracts as legal advice will need to be sought regarding any future sale and the costs involved.

Councillor Coatesworth agreed to speak to Colin Tomlinson to obtain his views and to possibly survey/value the land involved. He will report back to the Council, as any decisions will need to be agreed at a Council meeting.

Some of the members of the public present left their email addresses with the Clerk so they can be updated on progress. The Clerk has a list of the expressions of interest made so far.

The attention of the Council was drawn to the urgency of having a tree inspection and ensuring that all trees owned by the Council are fully listed and covered under the Council's policy.

The Council was assured that the Community Land Trust would be happy to take into their ownership any parcels of land that were not wanted, or possibly the Dean Barwick Trust might be interested.

25/2 Declarations of Interest:

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

25/3 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2024, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

25/4 Westmorland & Furness Councillor:

Councillor Bavin reported as follows:

- a. Local farmers have been instrumental in getting the River Wnster flowing again..
- b. The Rail Accident Investigation Board is managing the issue of the recent rail accident at Grange over Sands.
- c. Talks continue regarding the possibility of having an Elected Mayor in Cumbria.
- d. The road at Millside will be closed ton 3rd February to allow for urgent tree work to be carried out.
- e. In order to allow for the re-scheduled electricity work to be carried out, the road at Ulpha will be closed from 3rd March to 27th April.
- f. Bin collection has been erratic recently, due to the severe weather.

25/5 Planning:

The following application was on the agenda but it was reported that this had recently been refused:

7/2025/5011 Strawberry Syke, Stoney Lane, Witherslack. Single storey extension to form bedroom to ground floor with terrace roof to rear of dwelling & first floor extension to form office to side of dwelling - variation of condition 2 (plans) of planning permission 7/2022/5244 to amend approved plans.

25/6 Meeting with Electrivcty North West:

Councillor Coates had contacted David Moore of Electricity North West as agreed, but there was nothing further to repot at present.

25/7 Witherslack 20mph initiative:

It was agreed to obtain supplies of the free stickers, that advise motorists to moderate their speed, but the introduction of a 20mph speed limit would cost in the region of £16,000. The Chairman said there were varying views on this in the parish and, in any case, it would need to be an agenda item for a future meeting before any decision could be made.

In the meantime, Councillor Coatesworth will liaise with Councillor Bavin to try to move things forward and also ask Westmorland & Furness Council if arrangements can be made for the Police to install temporary speed warning signage, as per the map supplied, but with the addition of some signs in Meathop too (if possible)

25/8 Parish Land:

This issue will be summarised under 'Public participation'

25/9 Bus stop maintenance:

All three bus stops are being cleaned regularly and this arrangement is working well. Councillor Bell will distribute the new timetables for each location.

25/10 General maintenance:

It was agreed to continue with the present arrangements for strimming etc, and this will be a regular agenda item.

25/11 Finance:

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

DM Payroll Services Ltd	£60.00	Payroll administration (half year)
Graham's Garden Services		
	£25.00	Litter picking in bus stops
Treble 3 Print & Design	£120.00	Website annual subscription
Christine Carter	£10.00	Hire of the Barwick Hall
Philip Coatesworth	£25.00	Reimbursement – bin emptying
Philip Coatesworth	£59.84	Reimbursement – vinyl stickers
K M Price	£146.01	Quarterly expenses to 31 st December including use of home office and travel.

b. The cash and budget statements were noted.

c. Councillor Geldard has made enquiries with Barclays and online banking can be set up on the Council's accounts. The Clerk will obtain the necessary forms and progress matters from there.

25/12 Organisation and administration of the Parish Council:

The Clerk emphasised that Parish Councils are subject to a multiplicity of rules and regulations, being the first tier of Local Government. In particular, decisions can only be made at a Council meeting and any item for discussion must be on the agenda.

25/13 A590 road improvements:

There is not a lot to report following the last meeting, but work continues on the possible provision of speed cameras.

25/14 Agenda items for the next meeting:

Steph Fry asked, in the 'public participation' session, if a future agenda item could be 'a proposal regarding the ownership of defibrillators in the parish, asking if the Parish Council would take ownership of them'. She distributed details of these and the matter will be considered at the March meeting.

25/15 Date of the next meetings:

Tuesday 11th March at 7pm at Ulpha Farm

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

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed:

Dated: