

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Witherslack Meathop & Ulpha Parish, held at Witherslack Parish Hall on Thursday 4th May 2023 at 7pm.

There was an attendance of nine, including most of the Parish Councillors, Westmorland and Furness Councillor Steve Bavin and Parish Clerk Kevin Price.

The Chairman, Councillor Christine Carter, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes:

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th May 2022, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report:

The Chairman read her report and this will be appended to these minutes in the file.

Public participation:

- a. Rev Michael Woodcock gave a report on the work of St Paul's Church, Witherslack, during the past year. This will be appended to the minutes in the file. The recent passing of the Churchwarden, Tony Walshaw, was noted. He will be sadly missed in both the community and the Church.
- b. A letter (below) had been received by the Council and it was agreed to respond with a letter of support. Councillor Geldard explained the issues involved and answered questions for those present:

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Blackwood Farm,
Braithwaite
Cumbria.
CA125SY.
28/4/23

Dear Sir/Madam.Parish Councillors.

I am working with a team who is representing Lyth and Winster catchment farmers. On their behalf we are applying in May for a Landscape Recovery Environmental Land Management scheme. These are the new agricultural schemes replacing the ones which existed under the EU. We started planning in November 2021 and began engaging in August 2022.We have had high level DEFRA ministers in the valley in Dec and April. Farmers from the catchment have contributed to engineers reports looking at the water management and drainage systems.We have over 40 farmers involved and 1,300 hectares already which far exceeds the minimum requirement to apply.

If accepted , the scheme will optimize production,improve biodiversity through habitat creation,improve water quality,reduce flood impacts,develop a net carbon sustainable agricultural economy and deliver societal benefit to rural communities. We are looking for acknowledgement from local parish councils to enable us to try to deliver the targets. Any support would be appreciated and as we develop , numerous opportunities will evolve. This is led by local farmers for local communities. 22 schemes were accepted in 2022 and we are bidding to Government to be 1 of 25 this year.

Paul Barnes.