

Minutes of a meeting of Witherslack Meathop & Ulpha Parish Council held at Ulpha Farm on Thursday 2nd December 2021 at 7pm.

Present were Councillors Christine Carter (Chairman), Rachel Bell, Andrew Coates, Jolyon Dodgson, John Geldard and Mike Walford, District Councillor John Holmes and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were noted from County Councillor Jim Bland.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Coates for the use of the room; it had not been possible to hold the meeting as planned, as the Parish Hall was without electricity.

**21/62 Public participation:** None.

**21/63 Declarations of Interest:**

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

**21/64 Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2021, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**21/65 District Councillor's Report:**

*Councillor Holmes gave a verbal report which covered the follow issues:*

- a. SLDC is pre-occupied at present with Local Government Reorganisation; the new Authority will be called 'Westmorland and Furness'.
- b. A shadow Council will be elected in 2022, and the full Council in 2023.
- c. There is a new website, for keeping up to date with developments. The Clerk will email details to Councillors.
- d. The Greening Campaign is being extended. This Council, and that at Cartmel Fell, are members of it.
- e. Free parking in Kendal SLDC car parks is extended to 19th December.
- f. SLDC is supportive of green groups in the community.
- g. A number of contract or agency staff are being employed at SLDC at present, which is due to staff leaving their posts and it is more expensive for the Council.
- h. David Wilson is no longer willing to enter into a contract, as in former years, to ensure the minor roads in the parish are gritted. Councillor Holmes is pursuing the matter with CCC Highways.

**21/66 Bus shelter repairs:**

Councillor Bell reported that the Meathop bus shelter now has a new roof, has been painted on the inside and Stagecoach has reinstated this as an official stop.

The shelter on the west bound carriageway, at the Witherslack junction, requires renovation and an estimate of around £2000 has been received from John Metcalfe who will confirm this in writing soon. It was agreed to proceed, within this budget. There will be safety issues (from National Highways) in relation to installing the new shelter and Councillor Bell is liaising with Stagecoach to enquire how the Council should proceed when the new one is ready for erecting.

The shelter in the east bound carriageway at Millside is not in too bad a condition - an estimate is to be obtained for its repair.

#### **21/67 Parish notice boards and benches:**

The notice board on the wall of the Parish Hall requires renovation and the key is hardly working. Councillor Walford will follow up previous enquiries in order to obtain a quotation for this board and the one at Meathop.

#### **21/68 Greening Campaign:**

Councillor Bell said that Phase 2 of the campaign is now underway and concentrates on house improvements. It is understood that the subscription from each Council at this stage is £50 and, if this is the case, the Council resolved to pay this.

#### **21/69 Woodland leases:**

Councillors Carter and Walford will liaise on this matter, and check the renewal dates on the three leases which are on parish land. One lease is running out and the lessee wishes to renew. Two further leases are live and Councillor Walford holds the lease for Slate Hill quarry, where he has recently cleared the road.

#### **21/70 Car Charge Community Electric Point:**

An email had been received from Steph Fry, regarding the possibility of installing a Car Charge Community Electric Point. The Council supports this venture but feel an approach should be made to the Parish Hall committee first, in order to obtain their views. The Clerk will contact the writer and ask if she wishes the Council to make a formal approach.

#### **21/71 Financial business:**

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

Anne Carter	£250.00	Website annual honorarium
K M Price	£126.07	Quarterly expenses to 30th September, including the use of home office and travel.

b. The cash and budgets statements were noted.

- c. After considering the Budget Report produced by the Clerk, it was resolved to make a Precept upon South Lakeland District Council for 2022-23 in the sum of £11,013.00 (there is therefore no change in the parish element of the Council Tax again).

**21/72 B4RN:**

Councillor Geldard paid tribute to the many volunteers who are rolling out this service in the community. A meeting is held each week and most of the properties in the parish are now connected, and the service could be up and running by the end of this year.

**21/73 A590 road improvements:**

A meeting was held last week, attended by Jonathan Reade, whose team are still working on this matter. There could be sufficient funding for cosmetic treatment but not for the amount of work that is necessary, which would include roundabouts at Gilpin Bridge and at Levens, the cost of these alone could amount to £35 to £40M.

**21/74 Date of the next meeting:**

***Thursday 17th February 2022 at 7pm at Witherslack Parish Hall.***

*The meeting closed at 8.45pm.*

*Signed:*

*Dated:*