

Minutes of a meeting of Witherslack Meathop & Ulpha Parish Council held at Ulpha Farm on Monday 9th October 2023 at 7pm.

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

23/55 Public participation: None.

23/56 Declarations of Interest:

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

23/57 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th July 2023, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

23/58 Westmorland & Furness Councillor:

Councillor Bavin mentioned the following:

- a. Signage on the A590 has caused problems.
- b. Gilpin Bridge – awaiting dates for work to begin.
- c. A5074 Lyth Valley road is closed at present as a through route.
- d. Flooding on the Grange road at Meathop – Officers are to visit and assess this.
- e. Grit bins – are they being used. A map of locations is available.
- f. The current bin strike in Eden will not affect South Lakelad.
- g. Further buses are expected on the Kendal to Barrow route, due to additional funding being received.
- h. Grants are available from the Household Support Fund and also (16 to 19 year olds) from the Transport Grant.

23/59 Planning:

There were no planning matters.

23/60 Parish notice boards and benches:

With the provision of new notices boards, the matter was complete.

23/61 Land Registration at Millside:

Councillor Dodgson reported that this matter is now complete and thanked the Council for its help. A letter confirming this has been received from the solicitor involved and will be retained in the file.

23/62 Finance:

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

HMRC	£431.60	PAYE
Anne Carter	£300.00	Website - honorarium (annual payment)
K M Price	£134.15	Expenses to 30 th September, including use of home office and travel.

b. The cash and budget statements were noted.

c. There was nothing to report on requests for further funding from local bodies and organisations. It was believed that the Community Shop may value additional help and the Chairman agreed to make contact.

23/63 'Meathop and Ulpha Town Book':

A man from Plymouth had been in touch with the Chairman and brought to her to 'Meathop and Ulpha ~Town Book', which is very old and has been donated to the Council. Councillors are invited to examine it, following which it can be deposited in Cumbria Archives in Kendal.

23/64 Expectation of the Parish Council by the village:

Councillor Coatesworth had carried out some research, including studying the Parish Plans of 2004 and 2016. Whilst there were issues to address, it was generally felt that if the Council can help make the village a happy and healthy place, residents are likely to be comfortable with this.

Initiatives will be followed up and it was felt desirable that there should be more publicity on the website, although it was explained that pains has been taken to obtain material by constantly asking, but to no avail.

Councillors, and others, are invited to send material to the webmaster.

23/65 Strimming and general village appearance:

Two contractors have been approached for estimates. It was resolved to pay £200 for a single cut of the area around the Washing Steps plus the seat area to the north, but not the Beck Head area. This will be a 'winter tidy-up' and hopefully there will be two strims next year.

23/66 Village shop:

This had already been dealt with under 'Finance'

23/67 Speeding vehicles through the village:

It was resolved that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting; in the meantime Councillors will endeavour to assess what the feeling of the residents is about the possible introduction of a 20mph speed limit. Councillor Coatesworth agreed to lead on this and liaise with the Clerk where necessary.

23/68 Overhanging trees:

Councillor Bavin asked Councillors to inform him how many trees are causing problems and he will try to get them dealt with.

23/69 Winter road maintenance:

This had been considered earlier in the meeting, during the discussion on grit bins. Further bins can be purchased at reasonable cost if required.

23/70 Parish Land:

Councillor Dodgson suggested that this should be deferred until the next meeting as it is a vast subject. This was agreed. The Council apparently owns numerous small parcels of land, but there is no complete list, nor details of how these came to be in the Council's ownership. A lot of research may be needed.

Councillor Walford wishes to lease Halecat Quarry, together with Mr Paul Atkins, at a rental of £300 for the five-year period. This was agreed by Council. The lease on Slate Hill has now expired and is not being renewed.

23/71 Date and place of the next meeting:

***Thursday 18th January 2024 at 7pm at Ulpha Farm
(This will be the Precept Meeting)***

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed:

Dated: