

Minutes of a meeting of Witherslack Meathop & Ulpha Parish Council held by ZOOM on Monday 11th January 2021 at 7pm.

Present were Councillors Christine Carter (Chairman), Andrew Coates, Rachel Bell, John Geldard and Mike Walford, County Councillor Jim Bland, District Councillors John Holmes and Kevin Holmes and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. 'Leave of absence' was granted to Councillor Katie Douglas.

21/1 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Geldard declared an interest in any matters relating to B4RN.

21/2 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2020, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

21/3 Finance:

- a. The cash and budget statements were noted and any payments listed were retrospectively agreed.
- b. An application for funding from Steve Ratcliffe, on behalf of the B4RN project was considered and it was resolved to contribute £500 as requested. Councillor Bland also offered a contribution of £1,000 from his County Councillor's fund.
- c. The Budget Report was considered and it was resolved that this Council makes a Precept upon South Lakeland District Council for the financial year 2021-22 in the sum of £11,013.00 (this is the same amount as last year).

21/4 Clerk's Report:

The Clerk is experiencing computer problems, and investigation shows that this is probably due to the age of the equipment. This was paid for jointly by all the Councils he was Clerk of at the time (seven years ago) but, as Burneside Parish Council underwrote the project, the auditors have deemed that they 'technically' own it. A further report will be given at the next meeting but it was agreed in principle that this Council will contribute proportionately when the equipment is replaced.

21/5 County and District Councillors:

- a. Councillor Bland said it has been a quiet period since Christmas, although there had been some re-surfacing work carried out at Levens.
- b. Councillor John Holmes circulated his report prior to the meeting and this will be appended to these minutes in the file. Matters covered included the ongoing debate to combat Climate Change and increase Biodiversity, Local Authority re-organisation, Council Tax on empty properties and the cost of COVID-19. He said Council Tax is likely to increase by 5% for 2021-22.

21/6 Parish defibrillator:

There is nothing further to report - the defibrillator is up and running.

21/7 Greening Campaign meeting:

There is nothing firm to report at present although Councillor Bell and the Clerk have both been in touch with the organiser. A further meeting is to be arranged but a date has not been notified yet.

21/8 Planning:

a. The following applications were considered and approval was recommended:

7/2020/5851 Low Fell End Farm, Millside, Witherslack. Demolition of barn, erection of portal barn cattle housing and provision of roof over existing silage clamp for catchment sensitive area.

7/2020/5824 Garth Beck, Millside, Witherslack. Alterations and improvements including a ground floor extension to the side elevation Utility room with a continuation of the mono-pitch roof. Extension into the roof space and lifting of the ridge level to accommodate new pitched roof dormers. Insertion of french doors and a Juliette balcony on the first floor to the East elevation. Insertion of four Velux roof windows to the new roof pitches. Changes to the external finishes throughout.

7/2020/5811 Old Vicarage, Witherslack. Single storey extension.

b. The following decisions, notified to the Council by the Planning Authority, were noted:

7/2020/5604 Ulpha Farm, Meathop. New School - alternative educational provision. Granted.

7/2020/5659 Raven Hill, Witherslack. Proposed installation of a sewage treatment plant to replace the existing septic tank. Granted.

21/9 Speed limits in the village:

This is on hold at present as site meetings cannot be arranged due to the pandemic.

21/10 Meathop bus shelter:

The Clerk had contacted Mark Hodgkiss at CCC to ask for the 'flags' to be reinstated at this shelter to enable buses to officially stop there again. He has now received notification that the request has been referred to Linda Hardy, the Council's Bus Infrastructure Officer and a reply is awaited.

21/11 Parish notice boards and benches in the parish:

The Clerk agreed to ask Martin Clough, who kindly repaired the notice board in the centre of the village, if he will take on the repair of the boards at the Village Hall and at Millside; also to repair the bench at Millside.

21/12 B4RN:

Councillor Geldard reported that the project is progressing well, after two years of hard work. The 'take-up' from residents is very good and requests are being received for connection to outlying properties. Ulpha has not yet been reached but it is hoped to reach Witherslack school by March.

21/13 A590 road improvements:

The next meeting is on 23rd February, so there is nothing to report at present.

21/14 Agenda items for the next meeting:

- a. Woodland leases - to discuss renewal dates etc. The documents will be checked before then.
- b. Parish Land - Councillor Walford

21/15 Date of the next meeting:

This will be the Annual Meeting of the Council and the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 10th May 2021 by ZOOM at 7pm.

(This does not preclude the calling of an additional meeting(s) in the meantime, should this become necessary.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed:

Dated: