

Minutes of a meeting of Witherslack Meathop & Ulpha Parish Council held at Ulpha Farm on Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 7pm.

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

24/59 Public participation: None.

24/60 Declarations of Interest:

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

24/61 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th August 2024, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

24/62 Westmorland & Furness Councillor:

Councillor Bavin mentioned the following matters:

- a. Safety issues on the A590 are to be discussed at a meeting with National Highways on 22nd November.
- b. Re-surfacing is continuing through the village and on Blea Crag Road; night time closures are being advertised.
- c. It was noted that the advertised road closure at Meathop never happened.
- d. Additional speed limits on the A590 have been turned down.
- e. The road between Meathop and Ulpha is scheduled for attention in January/February 2025.
- f. Four vehicles had gone 'over the edge' of the A5074 below The Row, during the recent night time closures of the A591.
- g. There are moves to get parishes to work together on such matters as road repairs, etc.
- h. Residents are asked to contact Councillor Bavin if any grit bins are not filled.
- i. Following the consultation on boundaries, the Council was informed that the present Ward boundaries will remain unchanged.

24/63 Planning: None.

24/64 Witherslack 20mph initiative:

Councillor Coatesworth had circulated an update to all Councillors and this will be appended to these minutes in the file. The Council expressed thanks for all the work that has gone into this and is currently being progressed. It was also resolved to purchase a supply of '20's plenty' fliers.

24/65 Parish Land:

It was resolved to circulate the details of the availability of land, belonging to the Parish Council, in the parish and assess what interest there might be. Councillors Coatesworth, Dodgson and Walford will over see this work.

24/66 Bus stop and general maintenance:

The new bins are being well used and a spare light is available if required. The grass by the shelter has been strimmed and it was agreed to pay £25 per visit to keep this area tidy. .

24/67 Finance:

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

Christine Carter	£20.00	Reimbursement – undergrowth clearance
Philip Coatesworth	£11.99	Reimbursement – security light for bus Shelter
Witherslack Parish Hall		
	£15.00	Hire of hall
Graham Dobson	£56.25	Strimming
Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council		
	£12.71	Share of ZOOM licence for a year
K M Price	£146.93	Quarterly expenses to 30 th September, Including use of home office and travel.

- b. The cash and budget statements were noted.
- c. The Budget Report was considered and it was resolved to make a Precept upon Westmorland & Furness Council in the sum of £11,513 for the financial year 2025-26.
- d. The Clerk reported that PAYE is now being paid by Direct Debit. The amount will still be reported in the regular cash statements.
- e. The nationally agreed Pay Award for 2025-26 was noted and adopted. This equates to around a 3.9% increase in Clerk's salaries. The Clerk at Witherslack Meathop & Ulpha is currently employed for five hours per week on Salary Point 20. It was resolved that this will be raised to Salary Point 22, backdated to 1st April 2024.
- f. Enquiries are continuing regarding the use of internet banking by this Council.

24/68 A590 Road improvements:

This had been covered earlier in the meeting.

24/69 Correspondence:

A letter had been received, via Richard Coates, from David Moore, Land and Consents Office for Electricity North West.

The letter says:

“We would need to find a suitable, agreeable location to site a ground mounted substation in proximity of the school, so initially we are just seeing if either the Parish Council (Layby/area opposite the school field) or the school (a small site within the school grounds) would be amenable to the proposals?”

The Council felt favourable towards the proposal and an initial meeting was suggested between ENW and Councillors Andrew Coates and Mike Walford.

24/70 Agenda items for the next meeting:

Biodiversity - Councillor Geldard.

24/71 Date and place of the next meeting:

Wednesday 29th January 2025 at 7pm at Witherslack Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed:

Dated: