

Minutes of a meeting of Witherslack Meathop & Ulpha Parish Council held at Ulpha Farm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7pm.

Present were Councillors Christine Carter (Chairman), Rachel Bell, Andrew Coates, Jolyon Dodgson, John Geldard and Mike Walford, County Councillor Jim Bland, District Councillor John Holmes, Shadow Councillor Steve Bavin, one member of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price.

**23/14 Public participation:** None.

**23/15 Declarations of Interest:**

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

**23/16 Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**23/17 Councillor Vacancies:**

Philip Coatesworth was unanimously co-opted to the Council and was welcomed by the Chairman. He then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**23/18 Reports:**

Both Councillor Bland and Councillor Holmes said there was little to report as both Councils are winding down prior to the new Authority, Westmorland and Furness coming into being on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to both Councillor Bland and Councillor Holmes, for their regular attendance, interest and support of this Parish Council. It was noted that Councillor Bland has now completed 30 years as a Councillor. It was resolved to note in the minutes the Council's gratitude for work done by County and District Councillors over many years.

**23/20 Planning:**

*The following applications were considered and it was resolved to recommend approval of both:*

7/2023/5055 & 5056 Meathop Hall, Meathop. Proposed single story rear extension.

7/2023/5147 4 Methop Court, Meathop. Replacement windows, doors and garage door to front, rear and side elevations.

**23/21 Bus shelter repairs:**

The Chairman reported that the shelter at Millside has now been re-felted, new fascia boards fitted and the undergrowth cleared. This completes all the planned work on the shelters.

**23/22 Woodland leases:**

Councillor Walford said that the leases have been advertised but there have been no new tenants as yet. A major consideration is the cost of insurance.

**23/23 Parish notice boards and benches:**

The Chairman reported that there had been a site visit and a quotation had been received from The Sign Man for £895 for a replacement board at Meathop.. It was resolved to accept this and also to accept a quotation for a new board at Witherslack if this is a similar figure. It was noted that the original board at Meathop has disappeared.

**23/24 Land Registration in Millside:**

Councillor Dodgson said he has now put this matter into the hands of his solicitor, at no cost to the Parish Council.

**23/25 Winter road maintenance:**

Councillor Geldard raised the question of winter maintenance on the lanes in the parish, especially since the Village Maintenance group had disbanded last year. It is not yet known what arrangements can be made locally after the new Authority comes into being and a list of approved contractors will need to be obtained if the Parish Council is intending to arrange gritting of these roads. It is felt to be important that preparations are in place ready for next winter.

Councillor Bavin agreed to pass on details of approved contractors, to the Clerk and Councillor Geldard.

**23/26 Coronation events and funding:**

A grant application form has been received and it was resolved to make a grant of £300 towards events planned for the Coronation of King Charles III. On the Friday (5<sup>th</sup> May) there is to be a dance, the day of the Coronation itself (Saturday) is free and on the Sunday (7<sup>th</sup>) there will be a repeat of the events held last year for the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen, including a service in the Church.

**23/27 Finance – it was resolved to pay the following accounts:**

HMRC	£215.80	PAYE
J Blamire	£205.70	Bus shelter repairs
Treble 3 Print & Design	£120.00	Website hosting

Coronation events grant £300.00

**23/28 Agenda items for the next meeting:**

Grants to community groups:

It was agreed to indicate, in the May 'Two Valleys' magazine, that the Parish Council will consider making grants to appropriate community groups and organisations in the parish. Initially the Clerk should be contacted for an application form.

*(Any other items for the next agenda may be sent to the Clerk no later than 20<sup>th</sup> April.*

**23/29 Date of the next meeting:**

***Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7pm at Witherslack Parish Hall  
(This will be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting)***

*The meeting closed at 8.05pm.*

*Signed:*

*Dated:*