

Minutes of a meeting of Witherslack Meathop & Ulpha Parish Council held by ZOOM on Wednesday 16th September 2020 at 8pm.

Present were Councillors Christine Carter (Chairman), Andy Coates, Katie Douglas, John Geldard and Mike Walford, District Councillor John Holmes and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Rachel Bell and received from County Councillor Jim Bland.

20/28 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Coates made a Declaration of Interest, as a Governor of Dean Barwick School, should any matters pertaining to this be discussed.

20/29 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2020, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

20/30 Casual Vacancy:

There had been no expressions of interest in the Casual Vacancy in the Witherslack Ward of the parish.

20/31 Finance:

- a. *The following payments made since the last meeting, were approved retrospectively:*

D M Payroll Services Ltd	£40.50	Payroll administration (half year)
K M Price	£96.89	Quarterly expenses to 30th June including use of home office and travel

- b. *It was resolved to pay the following account:*

Witherslack Community Shop	£500.00	Annual grant via Precept
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- c. The cash and budget statements were noted.
- d. The Annual Pay Award for the Clerk, as recommended by NALC/SLCC (a 2.75% increase has been agreed nationally, was noted and approved - backdated to 1st April 2020).

20/32 Clerk's matters:

The Clerk referred to minute 20/22i, regarding a proposed additional payment to the Clerk for extra work during the early stages of the pandemic. He said he did not require any payment and was happy with his present conditions and expenses. Chairman said the matter would be raised again, should the workload increase significantly, and in the meantime thanked him for his work during this difficult period.

20/33 County and District Councillors:

Councillor Holmes had circulated a full report which will be attached to these minutes in the file.

20/34 Parish defibrillator:

Councillor Douglas said that the first defibrillator is to be installed tomorrow and an electrician will connect the power, free of charge. A number of volunteers have come forward to keep a regular check on the equipment. Councillor Holmes suggested registering with North West Ambulance.

20/35 Planning:

- a. *The following decisions, notified to the Council by the Planning Authority, were noted:*

7/2020/5325 Ulpha Farm, Meathop. Change of use of building to provide alternative educational provision including accommodation of two portakabins within the existing building for a period of 3 years not in accordance with condition 1 of planning approval ref 7/2017/5123 to allow the use to continue for a further 3 year period. Granted.

7/2020/5139 The Old Vicarage, Witherslack. Single storey extension to rear of house and new detached garage. Granted.

- b. Additional information had been received in respect of planning application 7/2017/5313 (Land to the north of Church Road, Witherslack. Residential development with all matters reserved except for access). This arrived too late to be an agenda item for this meeting. The Clerk agreed to pass on resident's concerns to LDNPA including flooding issues, together with road safety and visibility concerns.

20/36 Accessibility Regulations:

The Clerk explained that the options were either to commission a new website (two possible providers were mentioned) or to claim that it would be a 'disproportionate burden' for a small parish to make the present website fully compliant with the new regulations. The latter course was agreed, for the present time at least, and the Clerk agreed to circulate a draft statement for approval by Councillors before being uploaded to the present website.

20/37 Speed limits in the village:

Councillor Douglas said that an update had been received from Victoria Upton of CCC Highways, but she explained that, because of the pandemic, it had been impossible to arrange a face to face meeting with the various stakeholders in order to progress this matter. As the restrictions on numbers attending such a meeting are even more limited at present, and such a meeting by ZOOM or similar would be difficult, this will be an agenda item for the next meeting. The Clerk will supply contact details for Paula Scott, who may be able to help with a temporary 20mph speed limit, which is being done in several local towns just now.

20/38 Meathop bus shelter:

Councillor Bell had reported receipt of correspondence from Stagecoach Cumbria and North Lancashire, and they suggested the Parish Council should contact CCC as they would be responsible for putting the flags up, which would enable buses to start formally stopping at this bus shelter again. The Clerk agreed to make contact with the CCC officer responsible for transport as an initial step forward.

20/39 Parish notice boards:

A new board was made to replace the one by the old shop, but no invoice has been received yet. All the remaining boards require attention, especially the one at Millside. Councillor Walford agreed to ask for the outstanding invoice and if work/replacement of the other boards could be carried out.

20/40 B4RN:

Councillor Geldard reported that the B4rn project is making good progress and work should commence with two to three weeks. Funding has been obtained for a connection to the school (up to March 2021) and there is much work yet to do. The available investments in the project can be quite lucrative but anyone interested should take financial advice for themselves. B4RN will be of great benefit to the community. The Clerk will forward a grant application form to Councillor Geldard, for the project, and this will be considered at the next meeting.

20/41 A590 road improvements:

Councillor Holmes had circulated his draft notes of the meeting of the joint Parish Councils and Highways England meeting held on 8th September. He mentioned some of the escalating costs of the various components of the work.

20/42 Date of the next meeting:

Monday 9th November 2020 by ZOOM (provisionally at 7pm).

20/43 Agenda items for the next meeting:

Benches in the parish - repair/replacement
Speed limits in the village

Meathop bus shelter.

(any other items may be sent to the Clerk not less than 14 days before the next meeting)

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed:

Dated: