

Minutes of a meeting of Witherslack Meathop & Ulpha Parish Council held at Witherslack Parish Hall on Thursday 23rd September 2021 at 7pm.

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

21/46 Public participation: None.

21/47 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Coates declared an interest, as a governor of Dean Barwick Primary School, should any relevant matters be discussed.

21/48 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2021, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

21/49 Reports:

Councillor Bland said that a meeting of the 'A590' group will be held shortly. He reported on the proposed Unitary Authority, which will take office fully in 2023. There will be a 'shadow' Council elected in 2022 to run alongside the present County and District Councils.

Councillor Holmes has circulated his report which will be appended to these minutes in the file. Points mentioned included the new Unitary Authority and pending Judicial Review, the pausing of the proposed new government planning regulations and the re-issue of the Public Space Protection Orders.

21/50 Planning:

The following applications were considered and approval recommended:

7/2021/5648 Raven Hill, Witherslack. Single storey side extension to create artist studio and bedrooms.

7/2021/5667 Orchard Cottage, Witherslack. First floor extension over existing garage.

21/51 Bus shelter repairs:

An email from Councillor Rachel Bell had been circulated to all Councillors and this brought everyone up to date. The thanks of the Council was recorded to Councillor Bell for all the work she has done to move this project on.

Repairs to the shelter on the A590 would not be cost effective and this needs to be replaced. The cost of hardwood would be prohibitive. Councillor Dodgson is to look at a shelter erected at Councillor Geldard's and if suitable the Council will approach John Metcalfe for a price.

21/52 Parish notice boards and benches:

The Chairman is liaising with Council Walford on this matter so it was deferred until the next meeting.

21/53 Parking in Witherslack:

Concerns have been expressed that vehicles are often parked on both side of the road in the centre of the village and at the junction of the Church road. On a recent occasion this had blocked the milk tanker's route. The problem is at its worst at school opening and closing times and in the early evening.

The Clerk will contact PCSO Jayne Park for advice; it was felt that an amicable discussion among residents would be the best way forward.

21/54 Neighbourhood Watch:

The Clerk will ask PCSO Jayne Park about the possible reinstatement of this scheme but he understood that Community Messaging was now recommended, rather than Neighbourhood Watch.

21/55 Greening Campaign:

This was deferred until a future meeting.

21/56 Woodland leases:

This was deferred until the next meeting.

21/57 Parish Lengthsman:

Details of work that a Parish Lengthsman could undertake and a model contract of employment had been received via CALC. After discussion, it was felt that this is not an appropriate way forward; the likely cost to a small parish and the difficulty in finding a suitable person being the main reasons. Councillor Bland said that a joint scheme, whereby several parishes share a full-time lengthsman had been mooted some time ago, but there had not been sufficient interest in it.

21/58 Finance:

The cash and budget statements were noted and all payments made were approved.

21/59 B4RN:

Councillor Geldard says that regular meetings of the B4RN group are being held and the project is progressing well.

21/60 A590 road improvements:

The next meeting of the group is to be held next week. There have been three accidents on the road in recent weeks and there are very serious concerns that the road should be upgraded sooner rather than later.

21/61 Date of the next meeting:

***Thursday 2nd December 2021 at 7pm at Witherslack Parish Hall
(This will be the Precept Meeting)***

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed:

Dated: