

Minutes of a meeting of Witherslack, Meathop & Ulpha Parish Council held at Ulpha Farm on Tuesday 24th January 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 - Westmorland and Furness Council, one member of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price.

23/1 Public participation: None.

23/2 Declarations of Interest:

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

23/3 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2022, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

23/4 Reports:

Councillor Holmes said that there was not much to report; SLDC is winding down pending the Vesting Day of 1st April when the new Westmorland and Furness Council comes into being. He said that the Council Tax increase, originally thought to be 4.99%, is now likely to be around 5 to 6% due to the 'harmonisation' process.

Shadow Council Bavin confirmed that second homes would pay double the Council Tax.

Councillor Bland agreed that it is difficult to do much during this period. He said that the Planning office is now up to date with applications and dealing with matters quickly.

23/5 Planning:

a. *The following decision, notified to the Council by the Planning Authority, was noted:*

7/2022/5555 Nicholls Moss, Witherslack. Restoration and habitat creation works. Granted.

b. *The following applications were considered:*

7/2022/5657 3 Sunnyside Farm, Meathop. Change of use of residential garage to commercial storage/office. Approval recommended.

7/2023/5011 Lane End. Middle Foulshaw. Proposed two storey extension forming garden room and two additional first floor bedrooms. Approval recommended.

23/6 Bus shelter repairs:

The Chairman has arranged for the Millside bus shelter to be re-felted, fascia boards to be replaced and overhanging trees to be cut back.

23/7 Use of parish land parcels for local housing:

Councillor Walford reported on a recent meeting; the Community Land Trust is trying to move things on and it is wondered if the Council would be willing for any of its small parcels of land to be used for local housing.

The Council would be willing to consider this but feels that planning permission may not be forthcoming as the parcels of land are in open countryside. The Community Land Trust requires a map of the land in question and they will then consider it further.

23/8 Woodland leases:

Councillors Dodgson and Walford reported that one of leases (a long strip of land, Pool Bank at Latterbarrow Quarry) has been signed this week and the five-year rental paid. There is also some interest in some of the other sites, including Halecat Quarry

23/9 Parish notice boards and benches:

The Clerk will contact The Sign Man in Kendal again in order to progress this matter.

23/10 Land Registration in Millside:

Councillor Dodgson said he has made no further progress with this matter and has a meeting next week with a legal firm to ask if they would take it on. The Council has no objection this and there would be no commitment for the Council at all.

23/11 Finance:

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

K M Price	£139.61	Quarterly expenses to 31st December, including use of home off and travel.
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b. The cash and budget statements were noted.

c. It was resolved to make a contribution of £80 towards the Clerk's new computer equipment (Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council has underwritten this at a total cost, including installation and training, of £1,000)

23/12 Agenda items for the next meeting:

- a. Winter road maintenance – Councillor Geldard
- b. Coronation events and funding – Councillor Walford

(Comment was made concerning the 'road closure' notices that are never removed after the event; the area seems to be littered with these).

23/13 Date and place of the next meeting:

Thursday 16th March 2023 at 7pm at Ulpha Farm.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed:

Dated: