

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Witherslack Meathop & Ulpha Parish Council held at Witherslack Parish Hall on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.30pm.

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

As this was the first meeting of the 'new' Council, all Councillors present signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Councillors who were absent can sign at the start of the next meeting.

**24/34 Election of Chairman:**

Councillor Christine Carter was elected Chairman for 2024-25. She then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**24/35 Appointment of Vice-Chairman:**

Councillor Andrew Coates was appointed Vice-Chairman for 2024-25.

**24/36 Declarations of Interest:**

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

**24/37 Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

The following addition to the minutes from Councillor Coatesworth was agreed:

**24/25 Village Speed Limit initiative:**

'Further to Councillor Bavin's report, Councillor Coatesworth confirmed that an 11 location speed survey had been completed and that the results, which generally showed quite low current speeds, appeared to be supportive of the Parish Council's (PC) 20 mph initiative. W&FC are due to review the assistance they are prepared to provide for PC's wanting to migrate directly from the national speed limit to the 20 mph level. Detail on that possible new approach should be available in time for the 28<sup>th</sup> May Paris Council meeting'.

**24/38 Westmorland & Furness Councillor:**

*Councillor Bavin reported as follows:*

- a. A590: National Highways are looking at possible safety measures.
- b. Road works at Pool Bank are now complete.
- c. The hole in the road at Millside has been reported.
- d. Gulley clearing continues, especially at Halecat.
- e. Work on the trees at Meathop is in hand.

**24/39 Planning:** None.

**24/40 Woodland leases:**

£250 has been paid for the rental of one of the woodland leases.

**24/41 Bins at the bus stop:**

The new bins are now in place and it is felt that, generally, they are being used. The lights will not be put into place until the early autumn.

**24/42 Witherslack 20mph initiative:**

It was resolved to purchase an Ordnance Survey map to assist in the planning of the proposed 20mph speed initiative. The results of speed tests will be reviewed in a few months' time as decisions by Westmorland & B=Furness Council are awaited. There have been a number of such requests from Parish Council and it is a three-year project.

**24/43 Maintenance work at Beck Head:**

It was resolved not to proceed with any work at this location for the present.

**24/44 Parish Land:**

Councillor Dodgson had circulated all Councillors with a paper on the 'Parish Land' ie the small parcels of land that the Council owns, and has made recommendations for the way ahead. Having ascertained the whereabouts of these parcels of land, the Council needs to consider if they should be managed in any way. Feedback is invited from all Councillors and this will be an agenda item for the next meeting. Councillor Walford agreed to assist Councillor Dodgson in this work.

**24/45 Finance:**

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

Witherslack Community Shop	£500.00	Grant from Precept
Graham Dobson	£87.50	Strimming
Zurich Municipal	£257.60	Annual premium
CALC	£234.23	Annual subscription
K M Price	£170.61	Quarterly expenses to 31st March, including use of home off and travel.

b. The Interim Accounts for 2023-24 were noted.

c. The Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign the Exemption Certificate, the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statement. The Clerk provided each Councillor with copies of these and explained the importance of each one.

**24/46 A590 road improvements:**

There is not much to report at present but it will continue to be an agenda item.

**24/47 Date of the next meeting:**

***Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 7pm at Ulpha Farm.***

*The meeting closed at 8.40pm.*

*Signed:*

*Dated:*