

# Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 January 2015 at 7.30pm in Skelsmergh Community Hall

**Present:** Councillor John Chapman (JC) - Chair

**Councillors:** Mary Chapman (MC)                      Hermann Moisl (HM)  
 Tim Maggs (TM)                                      Janet Taylor-Heys (JT-H) (arrived item 120/14)  
 Alison Semple (AS)                                Phil Rigby

**Also present:** Mike Seed, Diana Bevis, Bob Tarbuck (residents of the parish) and Karen Little (KL) - Clerk.

<b>114/14</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> None	
<b>115/14</b>	<b>Declaration of Interests</b> None declared.	
<b>116/14</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> - the minutes of Parish Council meeting held on the 4 November 2014 (pages 22 -27) were confirmed as a true and complete record and signed by the Chair.</p> <p><b>Matters arising:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laverock Bridge: The Highways Department have assessed the damage and scheduled urgent repairs to the bridge once the water level has reduced to allow access to the river bed to retrieve the fallen masonry.</li> </ul>	
<b>117/14</b>	<p><b>Open Forum</b></p> <p>The residents in attendance at the meeting had come to hear of the Kiln Croft-A6 footpath developments, item125/14b1 on the agenda.</p>	
<b>118/14</b>	<p>Formal announcements by the Chair</p> <p>The Chair informed members that the Clerk’s annual appraisal had been successfully completed on 09.01.2015.</p>	
<b>119/14</b>	<p>Street lighting, Mealbank</p> <p>A resident had reported that two street lamps (at the Old Post Office and opposite no 28) were not in good working order and the resultant poor lighting constituted a safety hazard, particularly for elderly residents. An engineer from SLDC did a site visit and repaired one light (at the Old Post Office); the other one had no electricity connected and the engineer was to check the reason for this with the electricity supplier. Councillors discussed whether the Parish Council had statutory or discretionary obligations to provide and repair street lighting for this unmade road.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Clerk to seek clarity for Councillors at the next meeting.</p>	<b>KL</b>
<b>120/14</b>	<p>Parish Council Elections, 7 May 2015</p> <p>The Clerk informed Councillors that SLD will be providing information and a briefing event on the election process in March 2015; a key date to note is that nomination papers have to be delivered to the returning officer by 4.00pm on <b>Thursday 9 April 2015</b>. Councillors were advised that if the number of persons nominated for election is equal to or less than the number of seats on the council, then a poll will not be held and those nominated will be</p>	

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	<p>declared elected. If seats are left unfilled after an election, the council will proceed to co-opt Councillors outside of the election process.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors noted this information and agreed to schedule the May Parish Council meeting after the election date.</p>	
<b>121/14</b>	<p>CALC South Lakeland District Association meeting on 27.11.2014</p> <p>MC attended the meeting and reported that two matters were focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highways: Nick Raymond (CCC Highways Team Manager - South) provided assurance that the Team's aim is to deliver a highway system that is free of defects. On paper the situation looks positive - the government has provided an additional £1.6 million from for potholes in South Lakeland. Questions and comments from Parish Councils highlighted that work was not being done though, or responses were not received to the issues they raised. It was acknowledged that budget cuts and staff losses were impacting on the quality of services. However, Nick is very willing to work with Parish Councils to make improvements; he welcomes receiving suggestions on how this could be achieved.</li> <li>• Health: Jane Mathieson (CCC Consultant, Public Health) talked about communities working together to enable people to live longer, healthier and happier lives. Parishes discussed how they contribute to the health of their local area and CCC asked if they can help with any new opportunities. Specific to this Parish, advice was given that any issues with dog fouling could be discussed with SLDC.</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> - for Councillors to note this information.</p>	
<b>122/14</b>	<p>South Lakeland Local Area Partnership (LAPs) Health event held on 13.11.2014</p> <p>From MC - this was a well organised and impressive event organised by all the LAPs and gave an overview of the available health services, with representatives present from the different service providers. It was evident that problems exist in delivering health services, with all aspects feeling the pressure from reduced funding and increased demand. Recruiting to vacant posts is a common difficulty.</p> <p>Major work is needed to co-ordinate local, integrated and proactive approaches to people's health needs outside hospital care. Councils were asked to note that, and to contribute to, the changes that are required to develop new ways of working to meet local and individual needs.</p> <p>The Chair asked the people present at the meeting how the problems facing the NHS have impacted on the quality of the health services experienced by residents. Responses received were mainly positive experiences of a 'gold standard' service which achieved good outcomes, fast response time and referrals direct to specialist centres. Some concern was raised at the perceived proportion of older patients that are referred by WGH to Lancaster for emergency care.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> The LAP representative to feed this information into the ongoing debate.</p> <p>The discussion highlighted the problems caused by weak/no mobile phone reception in cases of emergency or for business purposes. TM informed the meeting that a solution is available to purchase; details had been published in the local newsletter.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> To ask the Newsletter Editor to repeat the publication of this information and to circulate to Councillors.</p>	<p><b>MC</b></p> <p><b>KL</b></p>
<b>123/14</b>	<p>Review of the Community Plan 2009</p> <p>MC provided a progress update on the work of the Steering Group to produce a new Community Plan. The group (membership: MC, JC, HM and Tony Cousins) has been advised by</p>	

	<p>Julia Wilson (Action with Communities in Cumbria (ACT)) on the process and tips in undertaking the survey. ACT has offered to contribute £375 towards the cost of printing and distributing the survey.</p> <p>At the next meeting, the group will finalise the survey questions to establish parishioners' views on what needs to be done in the next five years to improve local facilities and improve the quality of life for residents. The topics covered are expected to be similar to the last survey, as well as asking for feedback on the Parish Council's role and work. Councillors will be involved/informed of the proposed questionnaire contents through email exchanges. The Steering Group intend that the consultation will be completed in time to have a new Community Plan published by December 2015.</p> <p>RESOLVED - to support the development of the survey as above and with an allocation of £125 from Parish Council funds. (Total project budget £500 with ACT's contribution.)</p>	
124/14	<p>Parish Pictorial Map - Update</p> <p>All the preparatory work has been completed - the licence number has been received from Ordnance Survey, total costs are within budget (final figure is expected to be ~£750), MC advised that they are just waiting for confirmation from Skelsmergh Community Hall Committee on where it is to be placed.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> MC &amp; Committee Hall to discuss.</p>	MC
125/14	<p><b>Progress with the Community Action Plan</b></p> <p>a. Environment and Community Woodlands</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Allotments, a meeting has been arranged at Julie Waddington's house - outcomes to be reported at the next Parish Council meeting.</li> <li>2. Repair work to the Millennium seat at Gurnal Bridge - work has resumed (JC's hand has recovered from surgery) to source the materials as cheaply as possible.</li> <li>3. Repair of dilapidated wooden stile on footpath 570030, Coppice Howe to Gurnal Bridge - now have landowners consent to go ahead, but contractor has wrenched his shoulder. Another contractor will be sought, if necessary, by the end of the month. A wooden step over stile has been provided by CCC. Council funds of £100 have been allocated for the work.</li> </ol> <p>Repair of the stone stile on the same route - negotiations are in hand with a dry stone wall repairer, but the wall is very shaky; external materials may need to be sourced. Neither landowner acknowledges responsibility.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Renewal of Beekeepers licence on a 5-years basis. Historically this has been granted on a £1/year payment; bee keeping school through the summer provides a community function. This has been a very good year for honey, twelve jars have been made (sale price is £6.50/jar). JC proposed that the licence should be renewed on the same basis, and money raised from the sale of honey to go to the council funds.</li> </ol> <p>RESOLVED - To renew the beekeeper's licence for 5 years at £1/year on the same terms.</p> <p>b. Highways and Transport</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update on the A6 Footpath - JC provided a briefing paper. SLDC had confirmed their willingness to allow their grant to be used for Phase 1 alone and Cllr Holland had asked that the Council do everything possible to achieve that result. A proposal was therefore made to accept the grant money (£21k) offered to build Phase 1 (Kiln</li> </ol>	<p>MC</p> <p>JC/KL</p>

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	<p>Croft to Helme Lane) with a commitment for Parish Council money (£3136.00) to fund an additional 25% contingency amount for unforeseen extras. The proposal is subject to confirmation that the actual costs of the project remain close to the original figure and requirements from SLDC.. As the results of the tendering process will not be available until the end of the month, it is not definite that the footpath development is affordable; if the tender figure exceeds the estimate the project cannot continue. The intention of the proposal was to make good use of money that was made available for the benefit of Kiln Croft residents, and for the Kiln Croft Management Committee to pursue negotiations for phase 2 (Helm Lane to the existing path below the Church) at a later date.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> it was agreed to accept the proposal, subject to the confirmation and other requirements stated above.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Kiln Croft residents for their contributions to the discussion and Councillors for a unanimous outcome.</p> <p>2. Highway sign for Skelsmergh at northern boundary - there is no progress to report; no answer has been received in response to contacts made, communications will continue.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>c. Community</p> <p>1. Oakbank: replacement of WW 1 memorial seat - materials are being sourced.</p> <p>2. Skelsmergh Community Hall Management Committee meeting - AS reported that business continues as usual. The Hall online booking is being progressed; KL was advised to ring Sam Scarr to book dates for future Parish Council meetings.</p> <p>d. Communications</p> <p>1. Update on the Parish Council Website, from HM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The website is under construction on a personal web space (not available to the public). The web address is available from HM and comments welcomed. Further work is planned to improve the aesthetics and address the content gaps.</li> <li>The Parish Council will need to buy its own web space to put it on.</li> <li>The Parish Council minutes and other information for public attention can go onto the web (instead of the notice boards), with a poster in the notice boards advising of this.</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> A go-live date was agreed for 31.01.2015. To be launched with an article in the Church newsletter.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Hermann for his good work in developing the web site for the Parish Council.</p>	<p>KL/H M</p> <p>MC</p>						
<p>126/1 4</p>	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make the following payments:</li> </ul> <table border="1" data-bbox="215 1982 1348 2049"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payee</th> <th>Expenses/Services</th> <th>Amount £</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Came &amp; Co</td> <td>Insurance, 14.02.2015 - 13.02.2016</td> <td>159.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Payee	Expenses/Services	Amount £	Came & Co	Insurance, 14.02.2015 - 13.02.2016	159.00	
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	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£520.94</b>												
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note the current bank reconciliation, the healthy budget prediction for year-end or the adjustment made to provide for the 25% contingency costs for the A6 project, if required.</li> </ul>													
<b>127/14</b>	<p><b>Planning Applications</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SL/2014/0991, proposed new self-contained dwelling within the garden of Laneside Farm, Skelsmergh, LA9 6NX. <b>Application has been withdrawn.</b></li> <li>SL/2014/1051 OS Field 6728, South of Ladyford Farmstead Gilthwaiterigg Lane Kendal Cumbria LA96NT. Change of use of an all-weather feeding station track to a trotting track for horses and change of use of agricultural land and buildings to include the keeping of horses (Retrospective). <b>Permitted, subject to 6 conditions including neighbourly considerations.</b></li> <li>SL/2014/1085, Helme Bank House Skelsmergh KENDAL LA9 6NU. Demolition of garage and erection of chimney and two storey extension with balcony. <b>Permitted, subject to 3 conditions.</b></li> <li>SL/2014/1127, land to the east of Garth Row, Kendal. Removal of condition 2 (personal permission) attached to planning permission 5/03/0155. <b>Permitted, subject to 2 conditions.</b></li> <li>SL/2015/1128, land to the east of Garth Row, Kendal. Removal of Condition 2 (personal permission) attached to appeal decision for polytunnel B (5/03/0155) and (SL/2005/0413). <b>Permitted, subject to 2 conditions.</b></li> <li>SL/2014/1130, land at Garth Row, Kendal. Application for Lawful Development Certificate for use of land and barn as mixed use of agriculture and equestrian use. <b>Lawful.</b></li> <li>SL/2014/0894, Patton Hall re-siting agricultural building and stationing 12 caravans, Patton Hall, Patton, Kendal. <b>Refused.</b></li> </ol>													
<b>128/14</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the schedule of correspondence, notices and publications as sent out by the Clerk (detailed in Attachment 7 of the agenda, covering the period 20.10.2014 to 03.12.2014) be noted and that any identified actions be carried out, as appropriate.</p> <p>In view of the volume of the correspondence (32 items) the Clerk was requested to filter the emails received to forward only the absolute minimum onto Councillors.</p>	<b>KL</b>												
<b>129/14</b>	<p><b>Dates for future meetings</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b> To note the dates are as follows (venue: Skelsmergh Community Hall, commencing 7.30pm, unless stated otherwise):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday 18 May 2015 Annual General Meeting at 7pm, followed by the Parish Council Ordinary meeting.</li> <li>Wednesday 15 July 2015</li> <li>Mon 14 September 2015</li> </ul>													

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wednesday 4 November 2015</li><li>• Wednesday 13 January 2016</li><li>• Wednesday 9 March 2016</li></ul>	
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The meeting finished at 21.45 pm.