

Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11 January 2017
7.30pm at Skelsmergh Community Hall

Present:

Parish Councillors: John Chapman (JC) – Chair

Mary Chapman (MC)

Hermann Moisl (HM)

Claire MacLaine (CM)

Tim Maggs (TM)

Clerk: Karen Little (KL)

Parish Residents: Danny Seddon-Roberts, Lauren Seddon-Roberts and Liz Robinson

Minute Number	Business Item	Lead Person
68/16	<p>Welcome and Apologies Apologies were received from County Councillor Stan Collins (SC). Absent: Councillors Phil Yates (PY) and Phil Rigby (PR). The meeting was quorate.</p>	
69/16	<p>Declaration of Interests None declared.</p>	
70/16	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting RESOLVED - the minutes of the Parish meeting on 15 November 2016 were confirmed as a true and complete record, and signed as such by the Chair.</p>	
71/16	<p>Open Forum Mr and Mrs Seddon-Roberts, residents at Broadthorn Cottage, attended to provide details on their planning application (SL\2016\0992 – change of use from agricultural to equine use with vehicular access and car parking). The Parish Council has objected to the plans, advising SLDC to consider including a condition to limit the land to use by the Cottage owners only and questioned the plans for the two onsite shelters, which are not in the application details. The Chair explained the Parish Council’s process to meet the 21-day response timeframe; the response submitted is now non-negotiable. Mr Seddon-Roberts clarified that the application is intended to provide accommodation for their family pets (two Shetland ponies and some pygmy goats) and to improve parking - for their visitors, and to reduce inconvenience for their neighbours. Their plans do not include business activities and extra traffic on the lane is not an expected outcome. They welcome advice from SLDC Planning and CCC Highway Officers to enable their plans to comply with planning/highway regulations. The Chair commended the Seddon-Roberts’ open and frank approach in discussing the details with Councillors. The Council’s concern is that without conditions, if granted, the application would confirm a right in perpetuity for anyone to use the land unconditionally for equine-related business purposes, if future ownership of the land was separated from the Cottage. Mr Seddon-Roberts confirmed that in discussion with SLDC, the two existing shelters (used by the family ponies and goats) will be moved (they are on skids) to a less prominent site in the field. Their current position was due to a misunderstanding that the Seddon-Roberts are keen to resolve; they are committed to retaining the natural beauty of the landscape. They thanked Councillors for their time to hear about their planning application. No other matters were raised in the open forum.</p>	
72/16	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes 57/16b: Garth Row, site visit from Highways The response from the Highways Department to the Clerk’s repeated communications</p>	

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	<p>was minimal; there has been no site visit to date. A complaint by a resident, following damage to his visitor's car, resulted in temporary repairs to the road. Residents are experiencing ongoing inconvenience and risk in using the road – damage would be more extensive if the road was open to through traffic. A permanent solution to the problem (thought to originate from a drain problem) is needed, this would be best timed while the road is closed.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Chair will send a formal letter of complaint to CCC's CEO and Highways Director, to inform of the unacceptable response received to the Parish Council's request, and to seek road improvement work to commence at the site asap.</p> <p>59/16a: Repairs to the Kiln Croft Parish Council Notice Board Following discussion with the Chair, Mr Hawes has produced a detailed repair work schedule and design, at a slighter lower cost than previously reported (£450, cf £480). RESOLVED: Councillors authorised the work to be commissioned, with a desired completion date of the end of February 2017; to be funded by Parish Council money.</p> <p>61/16: BT Telephone Kiosk (A6, adjacent to the Selside boundary) Following the SLDC consultation, confirmation has been received that the telephone box will remain functional until the local mobile phone signal improves. Councillors discussed the potential use of the kiosk once it becomes redundant. Use as a site for another defibrillator was suggested (if the electric power supply continues) – this may be unnecessary if Selside install one at their Hall. RESOLVED: For Councillors to consider the best future use of the kiosk once the telephone is removed.</p> <p>62/16a3: Continuous spraying of herbicide Councillor M. Chapman confirmed that CCC have sent a letter to the local farmer (produced in discussion with their legal team), advising that indiscriminate blanket spraying of the highway verges contravenes the CCC Environmental Verge Cutting Policy. Mr Huck and Mr Little (CCC officers) were very helpful and sympathetic to the Parish Council representations. The Environment Group will undertake a flora and fauna audit of parish grass verges - Spring 2017.</p> <p>62/16b2: HGV sign at Scandale From Victoria Upton: apologies for the delay, the signs should be in place at the end of January.</p> <p>62/16c1: Skelsmergh Hall Following the decision made at the last meeting - the Parish Council will support the Community Hall Management Committee to develop their personnel infrastructure - there has been a lull in activities and communications to progress this. Councillors repeated that the priority is to canvass whether residents' support the Hall to remain as a communal asset, and to confirm the extent/form of the support offered (if this is the case). RESOLVED: The Chair will meet and update members of the Community Hall Management Committee with the minutes of the November Parish Council meeting, and ask the Committee to confirm their plans for a joint social event to discuss the future of the Hall. The Parish Council will use the event to display pictures of the work and achievements of the Council to date, e.g. repaired fences, road improvements, bicycle rack (at the Hall), litter picking events, etc.</p>	JC
73/16	<p>Formal Announcements by the Chair:</p> <p>a. Councillors' allowances, <i>information from the SLDC Parish Remuneration Panel was provided with the agenda.</i> RESOLVED: The recommended allowances, travel reimbursement and subsistence expenses applicable from 1 April 2017 for the Chair and Councillor members was noted.</p>	

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	<p>b. Clerk's appraisal. Competed that morning, the evolving role was discussed. No change is needed, Mrs Little is happily employed by the Parish Council. Signed paperwork is available.</p>																									
74/16	<p>Review of Parish Council Business, all documents were provided with the agenda.</p> <p>a. Standing Orders RESOLVED: Approved with no changes.</p> <p>b. Financial Regulations RESOLVED: Approved with no changes.</p> <p>c. Risk Register RESOLVED: Approved with no changes.</p>																									
75/16	<p>Finance, all the supporting documents for these items were provided with the agenda:</p> <p>a. Payments to be made as per Clerk's report: RESOLVED: To make the following payments:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payee</th> <th>Expenses/Services</th> <th>Amount (£)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Karen Little</td> <td>Clerk's salary 01.10.2016 to 30.11.2016</td> <td>293.85</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CVS</td> <td>Payroll - Clerk's wages</td> <td>21.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Came and Company</td> <td>Insurance: Public Liability £10,000,000 & Employers Liability £10,000,000</td> <td>165.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Karen Little</td> <td>Clerk's expenses: June 2016 to January 2017</td> <td>82.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Primary Care Supplies</td> <td>Mediana A15 Outdoor Community Defibrillator</td> <td>*1,558.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ian Robinson</td> <td>Electrical work to fit the defibrillator</td> <td>*180.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">TOTAL</td> <td>£2301.01</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*VAT is reclaimable</p> <p>b. Current bank reconciliation and predicted budget 2016-2017 year-end position Councillors noted the bank reconciliation and the predicted carry forward of approx. £1.5k, which includes reclaimed VAT, and allows for funds to manage the Woodland, the joint event with the Skelsmergh Hall Committee and the notice board repairs. Best use of this uncommitted money to improve local resources/facilities within this financial year was discussed – and further considered under item 76/16c.</p> <p>c. Council Precept 2017-18 RESOLVED: Councillors authorised the Chairman to sign the formal request for the same precept as last year (agreed at the last meeting, Minute 64/16c), to be submitted to SLDC before the end of January 2017. It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amount received each year is affected by election costs (following an election year), lighting costs and variations to the grant SLDC receives for local allocation. • A year-on-year inflation factor is not required due to the consistently maintained credit position. New funding applications from residents and Councillors to support beneficial community projects are welcomed on an ongoing basis. 	Payee	Expenses/Services	Amount (£)	Karen Little	Clerk's salary 01.10.2016 to 30.11.2016	293.85	CVS	Payroll - Clerk's wages	21.00	Came and Company	Insurance: Public Liability £10,000,000 & Employers Liability £10,000,000	165.00	Karen Little	Clerk's expenses: June 2016 to January 2017	82.36	Primary Care Supplies	Mediana A15 Outdoor Community Defibrillator	*1,558.80	Ian Robinson	Electrical work to fit the defibrillator	*180.00	TOTAL		£2301.01	
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76/16	<p>Community Action Plan 2016, provided with the agenda. Councillors considered the progress made with the Action Plan:</p> <p>a. Environment and Community Woodlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter on road verges: the Environment Group continues to organise these events – they are meeting next week (rescheduled due the rearrangements for this meeting). A risk assessment is required to comply with insurance criteria and safety guidance that volunteers need to be at a distance of 1.5m from fast moving traffic (this could require the A6 to be closed in one direction). It was noted that the future Council litter picking events may be limited to the lighter traffic lanes. 																									

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- Dog fouling: materials are available as required.
- Public footpath maintenance: the County Access Team has completed the survey, work is ongoing.
- Parish Woodland maintenance: a Working Party will be convened in February.
- Obstructed rights of way: the situation at Dry Lane has reached an impasse.

b. Highways and Transport:

- Road surfaces, drainage and bridge maintenance: Sprint Bridge is now open to traffic; Burnside Bridge remains limited to single direction traffic and cars/light commercial vehicles only. The issues at Garth Row is the focus for Highway maintenance activity.
- Dangerous paths for cyclists/pedestrians: road safety concerns return with the opening of Sprint Bridge, despite the HGV ban.
- Danger points on roads: another (near) incident (A6, Kiln Croft) was reported in December 2016; the Chair has lobbied for central road markings at the Highways/ police 'CRASH' meetings - expected to be provided in the next financial year.
- 20mph Dodding Holme: **Action:** To add this to the action list (site visit with Highways)
- Safer walking to school: It was noted that the A6 Kiln Croft grass verge is not being trimmed. **Action:** Agenda item at the next Parish Council meeting.
- Lack of public transport on the A6: No progress due to the lack of interest from public transport providers.

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c. Community and communications:

- Poor mobile phone and broadband service: The Chair has received a letter from Mr Norman Winter (Selside) inviting interest in joint working to extend northwards the B4RN (Broadband for the Rural North) superfast broadband service from the Skelsmergh boundary, that has been secured by New Hutton Council/Community. The cost of this is unknown. This could be of interest to both commercial and private members of the community.
RESOLVED: Councillor Moisl will investigate the proposed project details, timescales and approx. costs to share with residents to confirm whether there is public interest to support a commitment to the project. The proposed joint event with the Skelsmergh Hall Committee would be a good opportunity to discuss this. **Action:** Cllr J Chapman to reply to Mr Winter, referring him to Cllr Moisl.
- Improve Communications: A Parish Communications Group may be required if there is strong support in engaging with the B4RN project. An updated database and better communication infrastructure may be established after the joint Hall event.
- Defibrillator: A Mediana A15 model will be sent when the cheque (as agreed above, 75/16a) has been received. Information on the product was sent with the agenda. Councillors noted that the Parish Council Standing Orders were followed in seeking the best value model and quotes in procuring this item. A training event (Heart Start) for local people on using a defibrillator (and other techniques) is fully booked.
- Mealbank amenity problems:
 - A memo from a SLDC Planning Officer seems to have successfully resolved the nuisance evening industrial activities.
 - The hoarding at the entrance to the trading estate continues. It is thought that SLDC has identified the landowner (or heirs) and is communicating with them to make the wall safe, and to remove trees to reduce the burden on the wall. The Parish Council has no powers over this process.
- Residents in need of support: **Action:** the Good Neighbours scheme to be an agenda item at the next Parish Council meeting.
- Provision of social activities: **Action:** to seek further information on popular community social activities for 2017 at the proposed joint Skelsmergh Community Hall event (as discussed under 72/16).

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77/16	<p>Feedback on the Local Area Partnership (LAP) flooding event, 25.11.2016. A fact sheet published from the LAP Flooding Conference was provided with the agenda. Councillor Mary Chapman reported that this had been a good conference, a lot of information was provided on the work completed/in progress by the Environment Agency, United Utilities, Gas/electricity providers, CCC and Highways England. Advice and resources are available for communities and individuals to plan flooding defences to avoid future flood damage. It was noted that: 557 bridges were damaged across the county by Storm Desmond; work on 327 bridges is set to be completed next year, and a budget of £45million is expected to repair 170 roads. The Gurnal land slippage is NOT included in the repair work list on the CCC website. Action: Cllr J. Chapman to include this in the discussions with Highways at the Garth Row site visit.</p>	JC
78/16	<p>CALC South Lakeland District Association, meeting on 24.11.2014, an overview summary was provide with the agenda. Councillor MacLaine highlighted two matters of interest to the parish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CCC Highways Department restructure has provided functional roles (not area responsibilities) - Andy Brown is now the Highways Network and Asset Manager covering the whole County. Faults and issues are best reported via the Better Highways email and hotline numbers – progress can be tracked. Funding for future improvements are likely to be reduced - to be from Local Members budgets, currently £6k per member. • Area working (replaces area planning): due to reduced budgets and resources, parishes are advised to focus on one priority local project (only) and to bid for funds/engage the Community Development and Community Support teams as early as possible. Examples of current projects that benefit from Area working were given. <p>RESOLVED: Councillors will consider relevant projects to progress with the Area Working Team as an agenda item at the next meeting.</p>	KL
79/16	<p>Planning Applications</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. SL/2016/0904, Land at High Thorn House Selside KENDAL LA8 9JX Retention of building and conversion fishing lodge holiday accommodation and site W.C. (Retrospective). PC no comment – Whitwell and Selside, retrospective. b. SL/2016/0992, Land opposite Broadthorn Cottage, Patton, Kendal, LA8 9DR Change of use from agricultural to equine use with creation of vehicular access and car parking area in connection with Broadthorn Cottage. PC objected. c. SL/2016/1150, Holme House Farm, Skelsmergh, Kendal, LA8 9AQ. Demolition of existing buildings and erection of five dwellings. Councillors had a detailed discussion of the plans and the likely impact on the local environment; it was noted that are no details on whether these will be affordable houses. <p>RESOLVED: Councillors decided to submit 'no comment' for this application.</p>	
80/16	<p>Correspondence Highlighted by the Clerk The LAPS Newsletter, December 2016 was provided with the agenda.</p>	
81/16	<p>Dates for Next Meetings (venue: Skelsmergh Community Hall, commencing 7.30pm):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 15 March 2017 • Wednesday 31 May 2017 – AGM (7pm), followed by ordinary meeting at 7.30pm • Wednesday 19 July 2017 • Wednesday 6 September 2017 • Wednesday 8 November 2017 • Wednesday 17 January 2018 • Wednesday 14 March 2018 	
	<p>The Chair thanked Councillors for their contributions and closed the meeting at 21.38.</p>	

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