

# Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2015 at 7.30pm in Skelsmergh Community Hall

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

**Councillors:** Hermann Moisl (HM) Phil Rigby (PR)  
 Tim Maggs (TM) Mary Chapman (MC), from item 136  
 Alison Semple (AS)

**Also present:** Martin Boak, Police Community Support Officer  
 Liz Robson and Diane Bevis, residents of the parish  
 District Councillor Chris Holland and County Councillor Stan Collins  
 Karen Little (KL), Clerk.

<b>130/14</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Janet Taylor-Heys (JT-H) and Mary Chapman (late arrival due to Chairing the UK LAP meeting)	
<b>131/14</b>	<b>Declaration of Interests</b> None declared.	
<b>132/14</b>	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> - the minutes of Parish Council meeting held on the 13 January 2015 (pages 28 -32) were confirmed as a true and complete record and signed by the Chair.	
<b>133/14</b>	<b>Open Forum</b> 1. PCSO Boak reported that there had been 170 local incidents since his last report, resulting in 19 crimes being recorded, mostly relating to the Burneside area. Residents are asked to be aware of an increase in doorstep sellers and to continue to report any suspicious vehicles or behaviours. Recent Police operations have involved checks of vans, scrap metal vehicles and vehicles with farm equipment and livestock at the county borders. <b>Actions</b> arising from the ensuing discussion: a. PCSO Boak wasn't aware of an incident resulting in an abandoned burnt-out vehicle on Dry Lane – he will look into this and send the details to the Clerk. <span style="float: right;"><b>MB</b></span> b. The Chair thanked the PCSO for the new local police team posters, it will be helpful to have the contact details on the Parish Council Noticeboards – JC asked if smaller versions were available, as display space was limited. If these are available - MB to send them to the Clerk. <span style="float: right;"><b>MB</b></span> c. MB welcomed the Chair's suggestion to build a link on the Parish Council website to the Community Police team's site – HM to develop. <span style="float: right;"><b>HM</b></span> d. In response to the Chair's suggestion, MB accepted the suggestion to attend future Parish Council meetings on an annual basis at the Annual General Meeting, as this meeting has the most potential for contact with residents – the Clerk to send the details to MB. <span style="float: right;"><b>KL</b></span> e. To publish an article summarising the police report in the Parish newsletter to raise local awareness of the importance in working with the local police team. <span style="float: right;"><b>KL</b></span> The Chair thanked MB for his time in attending the meeting and for his, and the team's, work to reduce crime and maintain a safe local environment.	
	2. Councillor Chris Holland announced that this would be his last meeting - he wanted to say goodbye and to share his disappointment that the A6 footpath project had, despite everyone's major efforts, not resulted in a successful outcome. A combination of tight	

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	<p>time lines, ambiguous building specifications, indefinite building costs and waning support contributed to a 'no-deal' final situation. The Chair thanked Cllr Holland for his sustained efforts to support the project.</p> <p>Councillors gave Chris their very best wishes for his future plans and thanked him for his contributions to the Parish meetings; they very much appreciated his support and help during his period of office. Chris also thanked the Councillors – they had made him feel, and he had very much enjoyed, being part of this community.</p> <p>3. A6 Footpath project – local residents had attended to receive a formal update on the footpath developments; their expectations were that the project was a non-starter due to all the complications. Cllr Collins' opinion is that in recognition of the need for the footpath, the plan could be resubmitted in the future, timed to coincide with the expected bid for better cycle routes out of Kendal. In which case, Cllr Collins would continue his support, advocating the full route (Kiln Croft to the end of the existing footpath) is proposed. It was noted again that Kiln Croft residents viewed a partial route to be a 'road to nowhere', and any future plans need to address a complete connection with no repeat of partial options being considered.</p> <p>Diane Bevis thanked The Chair and all Councillors for their work and commitment to progressing the footpath. Despite the disappointing result, it was appreciated that so much time was given to propose improvements for the residents of Kiln Croft.</p> <p>4. Highways drains – Cllr Collins informed the meeting that there has been a boost to this year's (only) highways capital budget which was ear-marked for drain repair work. He welcomed any information about persistent water problems on local roads (particularly those with the potential to cause safety concerns in sub-zero temperatures) – the money can be used to clear out gulleys and connecting drains, including analytical work with a camera, where/if required.</p> <p>Councillors agreed that the issues previously reported (UK LAP, Staveley web site) remain the local top priorities and comply with this criteria.</p> <p>5. Highway markings – Cllr Collins also indicated that money has been allocated to renew local junction markings.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors agreed that the priority is Lowgroves Road junction with the A6, to be renewed as soon as possible. The extra traffic has worn down the white paint creating a hazard especially at night.</p>	
134/14	<p><b>Formal announcements by the Chair – the forthcoming Parish Council Elections</b></p> <p>The Chair encouraged all current Councillors to consider continuing their commitment to Parish duties for another term of office. The application process and the relevant information and time lines were discussed; the Clerk distributed the SLDC application packs. Councillors were advised to contact the Clerk (or SLDC) for further information or help with the process.</p>	
135/14	<p><b>Street lighting update, Mealbank</b></p> <p>One street light (opposite no 28) continues still does not function.  <b>Action:</b> the Clerk to pursue request for its repair.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that she had received conflicting information on the powers and financial arrangements for maintaining street lights for adopted roads. Cllr Collins suggested that historical SLDC special rights levied for street lighting might operate here. Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council (in view of its very small size) may have engaged and paid a special rate to SLDC</p>	KL

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	to provide the lighting, and this arrangement continues. He advised, if residents have a problem with street lighting to report it to SLDC.	
<b>136/14</b>	<p><b>Review of the Community Plan 2009</b></p> <p>MC informed Councillors that they will receive the proposed draft questionnaire shortly, for their approval or suggested amendments/additions to the contents. The intention is to produce a slightly shorter version of the same questions as per the previous questionnaire, with a few additional questions relating to the web site, use of the precept and whether residents wish to contribute to an email distribution list to receive Parish information. The basic demographic questions will also be repeated to assess what, if any, changes to the Parish make-up have been made over the last five years.</p> <p>The proposed timeline is to have the questionnaire distributed during the summer and the results collated in autumn 2015, assuming the new Parish Council endorse this plan.</p> <p>Cllr Collins suggested using 'survey monkey', which would provide reduced administration demands if completed online, at no cost.</p>	
<b>137/14</b>	<p><b>Parish Pictorial Map</b></p> <p>MC reported this is ongoing work, an update will be reported at the next meeting.</p>	
<b>138/14</b>	<p><b>CALC South Lakeland District Association</b></p> <p>No report available, Councillors will receive the minutes of the meeting (on the 05.03.2105) when they are available.</p>	
<b>139/14</b>	<p><b>Upper Kent Local Area Partnership (UK LAP) meeting, 25.02.2015</b></p> <p>As Chair of the UKLAP, MC feels that the partnership is going well. Points to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion is in progress to consider opening up the Staveley Youth Club to a younger group (under 12s); the older group project seemed to achieve mixed success. The only other UK LAP Parish Council supporting youth activities is the Grayrigg via their Young Farmers group. In response to the Chair's question on our situation, it was concluded that there is no interest in setting up activities for local young people: Brownies was explored and rejected quite recently, and the sports facilities in Kendal adequately meet current interest and needs.</li> <li>• The LAP agreed to fund a ramp to be built at Staveley station to support easier access; the current 41 steps make it difficult for the elderly and children passengers.</li> <li>• All member Parishes expressed some dissatisfaction in working with the CC Highways department. It was agreed that the best communication is via the local steward and the Highways schedule on the Staveley website. Our Parish reported last year's overall substandard service for the annual hedgerow and verge trim by an Appleby Contractor. It was agreed with Nick Raymond that a different (hopefully local) contractor would be used this spring instead. Cllr Collins stated he also experienced confrontations with the Highways Department over the drain improvement work.</li> <li>• Over 70% of premises in Cumbria can have Superfast Broadband (SFBB) connections, more exchanges are due to be connected in March. Concern was expressed that as more are connected to SFBB, the ordinary service diminishes. The LAP remain engaged to support the black holes, such as Skelsmergh.</li> <li>• Other information shared included feedback on the LAP conference on proposed changes to local health service provision and the developments/sale of National Park land (e.g. Longsleddale).</li> </ul> <p>The next meeting is on 17.06.2015 and will include Rights of Way CCC and LDNP; Health: Better Care Together, and feedback on the SLDC Council Plan. MC advised that showing solidarity with other Parishes is making a tangible impact; she encouraged Councillors to</p>	

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	<p>update her with their views in advance of the next meeting, to facilitate their contribution to the LAP discussion/decision making process.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the signal boosting equipment for Vodafone is called a SureSignal, a small box, which plugs into the broadband router and then boosts the mobile signal so that a mobile can be used in an area of low signal. The cost is £100, see web address below.  <a href="http://shop.vodafone.co.uk/shop/mobile-phone/accessories/SKU75375-white">http://shop.vodafone.co.uk/shop/mobile-phone/accessories/SKU75375-white</a> .</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> As the benefits of the box could be substantial for some people, it was agreed to include information about the box on the PC web site; it may be that multiple users in a close proximity can share a box, and reduce the price.</p>	<b>HM</b>
140/14	<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 – interest in having an allotment has dropped; only three people attended the meeting that was arranged and no requests have been received for an alternative meeting date. The three people have taken up the offer from, and as a result have a private arrangement, with a local landowner. The land offered is flat and accessible.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> It was unanimously agreed to refrain from any further consideration of the Parish Council’s duty to provide allotments on the basis that interest has dropped (the original request came from people who have now left the area) and no suitable accessible site is available. This decision will be revisited should a further petition be received.</li> <li>2. Repair work to the Millennium seat at Gurnal Bridge – materials have been sourced. A budget of £100 from the Council funds have been agreed; the work is in hand (minute 76/14a2).</li> <li>3. Repair of dilapidated wooden stile on footpath 570030, Coppice Howe to Gurnal Bridge - now completed within time and budget (Council funded £100). Repairs to 10m of dry stone wall and step over stile (same route) are scheduled for September 2015 – the land owner (Andrew Sutton) has offered to donate materials.</li> </ol> <p>b. Highways and Transport</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update on the A6 Footpath - JC formally announced that the project is now closed. As discussed in the open form section of this meeting, a catalogue of complications defeated the plans and the numerous proposed resolutions.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> it was accepted that there was no option left but to stand down the project unless and until adequate new funds become available in the future.</li> <li>2. Highway sign for Skelsmergh at northern boundary - Councillors received the details of the proposed sign design, total cost (£738), works agreement and correct placement position on the south bound carriage way.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> It was unanimously agreed to proceed with providing and placing the sign as per the details provided. (£750 Council funds have been allocated to support this – minute 93/14b4)</li> </ol> <p>c. Community</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oakbank: replacement of WW 1 memorial seat - materials have been sourced: wood for the seat back will be provided as a donation from a local resident and JC has the plaque. The project cost will be £85 + VAT for blacksmith services to provide/make</li> </ol>	

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	<p>the seat bracket. Council funds of £100 have been approved for the project (minutes 93/14c1 and 109/14c1).</p> <p>2. Skelsmergh Community Hall Management Committee meeting - AS confirmed that the Hall online booking facilities are now operational and that the user groups have been invited to build a page (or hyperlink to their own website) to promote their activities on the Hall web site.</p> <p>d. Communications</p> <p>1. Update on the Parish Council Website, HM reported that the website is now live. He has checked that all the links work and feed to all applications, e.g. election process and progress. Cllr Moisl is very pleased that Skelsmergh is now listed by Wikipedia – this feels like the Parish Council is now well established!</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <p>a. To make a two-way link between the Hall and PC web sites.  b. To inform CCC and SLDC of the PC web site address  c. To link the PC web site to the UK LAP and CALC.  d. To provide details of the election process</p>	<p>HM HM HM KL</p>																					
<p>141/14</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="231 902 1369 1182"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payee</th> <th>Expenses/Services</th> <th>Amount/£</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>B. P. Wythes</td> <td>Repair work/new stile, footpath (570031)</td> <td>100.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dr H. L. Moisl</td> <td>Reimbursement for web site costs - Siteground</td> <td>69.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Karen Little</td> <td>Clerk's salary - January to 31 March (year-end) 2015</td> <td>348.71</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CVS</td> <td>Payroll - Clerk's wages</td> <td>21.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Hall</td> <td>Use of hall for PC meetings May 14 to March 2015</td> <td>162.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;"><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td><b>702.16</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note the current bank reconciliation and the predicted carry over. Adjusting the spreadsheet to exclude the A6 expenditure and including the committed funds, the carry over figure is nearer to £2k.</li> <li>To accept the proposed internal control audit criteria (a repeat of last year's and as per CALC recommended practice) and request Linda Barron to undertake the internal audit, as per last year.</li> </ul> <p>Suggestions to use the carry-over and next year's precept to benefit the community collectively included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for local superfast broadband connection</li> <li>Community Vodaphone Suresignal box</li> <li>Road repairs at Mealbank</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that the process and application form requesting grant money is as per the Parish Council Grant Awarding Policy, dated September 2014 – available on the PC web site. Any suggestions need to be supported by a completed application form from a community group (not individuals, in line with the policy) and will be given due consideration as an agenda item at a Council meeting.</p>	Payee	Expenses/Services	Amount/£	B. P. Wythes	Repair work/new stile, footpath (570031)	100.00	Dr H. L. Moisl	Reimbursement for web site costs - Siteground	69.95	Karen Little	Clerk's salary - January to 31 March (year-end) 2015	348.71	CVS	Payroll - Clerk's wages	21.00	Community Hall	Use of hall for PC meetings May 14 to March 2015	162.50	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>702.16</b>	
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<p>142/14</p>	<p><b>Planning Applications</b></p> <p>a. SL/2015/0125 4 Kiln Croft, Skelsmergh, Kendal, LA9 6NE, to replace three windows and two doors from timber to UPVC.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> As it was noted that the proposal is to repeat the action taken at other dwellings on the site, the Council had no comments to make for this application.</p>																						

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	<p>b. To report local representations re an application by Kendal Rugby Club on land partly within and adjacent to the parish boundary.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> It was agreed that although the planning application is adjacent to and not within the Parish Boundaries, Parish residents would be adversely affected (light/traffic/noise pollution) if this development application was approved as a Rugby club, but then spawned other substantial new buildings as well. To take a stand to protect the essential rural character of this Parish, Councillors agreed that a letter would be sent from the Chair and Vice-Chair, not opposing the building application, but to seek reassurance that a general encroachment (as described above) would be actively prevented.</p>	<b>JC, HM &amp; KL</b>
<b>143/14</b>	<p><b>Correspondence –</b></p> <p>For information only, no action required – tree felling, Paddy Lane, February 2015.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To note that the tree felling activity raised with the Chair by a concerned resident, complied with the relevant regulations. The Chair was informed of this by the Arboricultural Officer at SLDC. The landowner was advised by the Officer to ensure the extent of the cutting did not exceed the exemptions allowed under the Forestry Act 1967, and to operate a safe system of work.</p>	
<b>144/14</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> <li>• Wednesday 4 November 2015</li> <li>• Wednesday 13 January 2016</li> <li>• Wednesday 9 March 2016</li> </ul>	

The meeting finished at 21.45 pm.

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