

Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18 May 2015 at 7.30pm in Skelsmergh Community Hall

Present: Councillor John Chapman (JC) – Chair, Skelsmergh Ward

Parish Councillors: Hermann Moisl (HM), Skelsmergh Ward
 Mary Chapman (MC), Skelsmergh Ward
 Tim Maggs (TM), Skelsmergh Ward

Also present: Geoffrey Halden and Rob Tarbuck, local residents
 County Councillor Stan Collins

Clerk: Karen Little (KL)

10/15	Apologies for Absence Councillor Phil Rigby (PR), Skelsmergh Ward; and Martin Boak.										
11/15	Declaration of Interests None declared.										
12/15	Minutes of the Previous Meeting RESOLVED - the minutes of Parish Council meeting held on the 10 March 2015 (pages 28 -32) were confirmed as a true and complete record and signed by the Chair.										
13/15	Open Forum A Kendal Police community engagement report was available; no crimes have been reported since the last meeting. No new matters were raised to those discussed at previous Parish Council meetings.										
14/15	Formal announcements by the Chair The Chair welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Councillors as an official single Parish Council composed of two wards. The individual Parish Councils were legally joined on 01.04.2015; for expediency purposes, previous meetings had been conducted as joint undertakings by the two Councils. The Chair also welcomed the returning Councillors for their ongoing support and commitment to improving the local environment and quality of life. The lack of representation from Scalthwaiterigg ward is a concern though. Actions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HM to discuss the role with neighbours. 2. KL to consult SLDDC for recruitment guidance. 	HM KL									
15/15	Council Finances RESOLVED: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To make the following payments: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">Payee</th> <th style="width: 40%;">Expenses/Services</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Amount/£</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC)</td> <td>Membership 2015 – 2016 (<i>note: this is subject to an incremental rise for the next 3 years to reflect a corrected electoral number</i>)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">93.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Karen Little</td> <td>Clerk’s salary 01.04.2015 to 31.05.2015</td> <td style="text-align: right;">281.75</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> 	Payee	Expenses/Services	Amount/£	Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC)	Membership 2015 – 2016 (<i>note: this is subject to an incremental rise for the next 3 years to reflect a corrected electoral number</i>)	93.00	Karen Little	Clerk’s salary 01.04.2015 to 31.05.2015	281.75	
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Karen Little	Clerk's expenses	54.51
G. Boyd	Work to repair Oakbank seat	96.00
John Chapman	Plaque for Oakbank seat	20.00
CVS	Payroll - Clerk's wages	21.00
South Lakeland District Council (SLDC)	Street lighting (repayment of money receive in error)	279.68
	TOTAL	£845.94

- b. To note the 2014-2015 year end bank reconciliation statement and the carry over figure of £5,050.43.
- c. To note that the internal audit (criteria agreed by Councillors - minute number 141/14, second bullet point) by Mrs Lynda Barron found the accounts and practice are in good order and that no concerns were raised.
- d. To approve the figures circulated to Councillors in the accounting statements for 2014-15 as an accurate reflection of the Council's financial position for the year ended 31 March 2015.
- e. In recognition of her ongoing contribution (on a voluntary basis) to professionally audit the Council accounts (and in response to her interest in the equipment) to authorise the donation of the defunct wind strength predictor to Mrs Barron. Councillors noted this equipment had been previously removed from the Council asset list due the fact it is non-functional and of no value to the Council.
- f. To formally accept the precept for the 'new' (single) Parish Council for 2015-16 to be the same amount as the total precepts for the two single Parish Councils: £3,462.24 per annum.
- g. To continue to offer financial support to Skelsmergh Community Hall, and to seek agreement from the Hall Committee that Parish Council meetings be offered a discounted lettings rate
- h. At the next Council meeting, to discuss and identify two worthwhile community priorities for the carryover money. This could include proposed projects which may be identified at the Skelsmergh Community Hall Management Committee Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- i. To include all five Councillors as signatories for both the Parish Council's current account (Barclays) and investment account (National Savings and Investment).

The Clerk was thanked for ensuring the year end accounts were satisfactorily completed.

Discussion Points:

- A question was raised whether council money could be spent on non-Council owned land to provide a benefit to the community, even if individuals (e.g. the landowner) will personally benefit from Council money. Technically the answer is the Parish Council has the power to do anything that will benefit the community (or part of it), subject to a spending limit and for Councillors to declare any prejudicial interests and abstain from the discussion/decision on the grant application, if applicable.
- A suggestion was made to invest the uncommitted carryover money to improve the fibre optic connectivity for residents, particularly in areas of poor signal strength. It was thought that this suggestion would be very beneficial to some residents, but also, potentially complicated in terms of the tax criteria for small businesses.
- It is expected that the responses to the Parish questionnaire will highlight areas of potential investment to meet actual local need (e.g. technology or other) and a quantitative indication of potential benefits.

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	<p>Action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Mrs Barron; and to liaise about the transfer of the wind strength indicator. 4. The Clerk to facilitate the process to authorise the change of signatures. 5. TM to explore whether the superfast broadband connections or fibre optics options would be an appropriate project for the Council to invest in/pursue for residents. 	<p>KL</p> <p>KL</p> <p>TM</p>
16/15	<p>Review of the Community Plan 2009</p> <p>Copies of the proposed questions were circulated for feedback. MC wanted to ensure that the questions would generate responses that would direct the Parish Council to effectively plan action to meet local needs and provide tangible benefits to residents. The proposed questionnaire had been produced by the working group, which consisted of three Councillors and Tony Cousins, with significant input from Julia Wilson, Development Manager, Action with Communities in Cumbria (ACT).</p> <p>Action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. At the next Parish Council meeting, to discuss providing a free edition/free delivery of the Parish Newsletter to residents. 7. To contact Sarah Williams, SLDC, to enquire about the prepaid reply service (just pay for those posted back). Or ask for grant money from Councillor Collins, if the prepaid service is no longer available. 8. To investigate whether electronic circulation and completion of the questionnaire would be feasible and effective. 	<p>MC</p> <p>MC</p> <p>MC</p>
17/15	<p>Parish Pictorial Map</p> <p>On hold while the Community Plan is being progressed.</p>	
18/15	<p>Progress with the Community Action Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Environment and Community Woodlands <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual review of the Environment Group - MC reported a good turnout of up to nine members for the four meetings in year. Work addressed was as listed in the annual report. The bi-annual litter clearing events continue; both events were supported by a good turn-out of local people and by SLDC, who provided the equipment. The annual parish walk (on Sunday 14 June, an exploration of Benson Knott) and the bird survey were also acknowledged as popular activities, well supported by residents. b. Highways and Transport <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Highway sign for Skelsmergh at northern boundary - no progress has been made by the Highways team. Councillor Collins is keen that local highway problems with drainage or signage is included in discussions soon to commence on the County Council's programme for next year's road repair work. Also, to notify him of any damage to drains cause by the utility companies - to request their assistance in repairing the problems. A discussion identified that most of the problems previously identified continue, except for Goody Nook at Garth Row – this is now remedied. <p>Action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. The Parish priority highway repairs schedule to be updated and sent to Councillor Collins and Peter Hoskins. (Highways Network Manager). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. Community <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oakbank: the replacement of WW 1 memorial seat has now been completed and to budget. 	<p>JC & KL</p>

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	<p>2. Skelsmergh Community Hall Management Committee meeting – a report was received from Alison Semple: the Hall continues to be well used by locals and non-locals for many different purposes. Maintenance is ongoing and a grant has been secured to fund interior decorating and treatment to the decking to ensure a non-slip surface. Future plans include fitting solar panels to the far end - to power the hall, and generate income. The web site has astounded them with the number of ‘views’. Councillors noted the annual Sports day is Saturday June 13th.</p> <p>3. Cenacolo Forum, 21.04.201. MC and HM attended the meeting, which celebrated the 10th anniversary of the centre in Dodding Green. They reported that there was a new Chair of the Trustees, and ten permanent residents are on site (although numbers can swell to eighteen), with a maximum stay at each house of twelve months (after this they rotate to another house around Europe). Future planning applications are likely to be made - no concerns have been received by the Parish members. SLDC continue to monitor the records and previous planning applications. Councillors were asked to note that the governance arrangements for the site sit with the local Bishop (the Diocese of Lancaster, not the organisation HQ); and that the residents are model citizens who have transformed the building, keep it well maintained and are very welcoming to anyone when showing people around.</p> <p>Councillor Collins and Geoffrey Halden left the meeting at this point.</p> <p>d. Communications</p> <p>1. Update on the Parish Council Website, HM reported that the web structure has been consolidated, the content is stable, all is running smoothly and the site is updated when new material is received.</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>10. To include a visitor count to know of the hits to the website.</p>	HM
19/15	<p>Grant Applications</p> <p>RESOLVED: To note the request to submit a grant application to the next Parish Council meeting from the Parish Environment Group to cover the expenses incurred in hiring the Skelsmergh Community Hall venue for their meetings and to support annual activities (e.g. refreshments after the litter clearing activities).</p>	
20/15	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>1. SL/2015/0125 4 Kiln Croft, Skelsmergh, Kendal, LA9 6NE, to replace three windows and two doors from timber to UPVC. Permitted, with 2 conditions.</p> <p>2. Response from local representations re an application by Kendal Rugby Club on land partly within and adjacent to the parish boundary (Attachment 7). Permitted, with 29 conditions. Councillors noted the response given by SLDC to their concerns of potential development ‘creep’ into this Parish.</p> <p>3. SL/2015/0263 Skelsmergh Hall, Skelsmergh, Kendal, LA9 6NU, installation of external flue through roof to stable for pellet boiler, replace window with an enlarged doorway, erection of stone boundary wall and replacement door to the tower. No decision as yet. The Parish Council has no objections.</p> <p>4. SL/2015/0275: Patton Hall, proposed caravan site (Attachment 8), Granted with 7 conditions. An objection sent by the Chairman and vice-chairman in their private capacity, reiterating previous concerns was noted.</p> <p>5. SL/2015/0392: Oakbank Cottages, 1 Skelsmergh Kendal Cumbria LA8 9AQ, raising of garage roof by approx. 600mm and formation of single storey flat</p>	

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	roofed link extension. No decision as yet. No formal objection was raised; JC and MC declared personal interests and abstained from commenting.	
21/15	<p>Correspondence – A request was made to seek the refusal of future special licences for Grayrigg Young Farmer events after a Mealbank resident experienced inappropriate behaviour and lack of regard for safety at the end of the recent event.</p> <p>RESOLVED: TM would informally discuss the situation with a personal friend and member of the Grayrigg Young Farmers group, and to feedback the outcome informally to the complainant.</p>	TM
22/15	<p>Dates for future meetings RESOLVED – To note the dates are as follows (venue: Skelsmergh Community Hall, commencing 7.30pm):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 15 July 2015 • Monday 14 September 2015 • Wednesday 4 November 2015 • Wednesday 13 January 2016 • Wednesday 9 March 2016 	
	The Chair closed the meeting at 21.45 pm and thanked Councillors and members of the public for their time and contributions to the meeting.	

DRAFT

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