

# Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4 November 2014 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 107/14)  
 Alison Semple (AS) Phil Rigby (arrived item 107/14)

**Also present:** District Councillor Chris Holland, Sue Whiteside, a member of the public and Karen Little (KL), Clerk.

<b>98/14</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> that the following apologies be noted: County Councillor Stan Collins	
<b>99/14</b>	<b>Declaration of Interests</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> that it be noted that AS declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 109d/14.	
<b>100/14</b>	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of Parish Council meeting held on the 9 September 2014 (pages 18-21) be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.	
<b>101/14</b>	<b>Open Forum</b> <b>Issues raised:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The A6 grass verge at Kiln Croft - this has been trimmed; Councillors wish to thank the local resident for doing this and making the route easier for walkers.</li> <li>• Damage to Laverock Bridge - no responses have been received from either Stan Collins or Nick Raymond (Cumbria Highways) to the Chair’s communications sent in October 2014. It was noted that the Bridge is now a major safety concern. As repairs have not been undertaken, significant erosion has resulted and the level of the parapet is so low there is a real danger people could fall into the river.                      Action: the Clerk will inform the County Council Highways Department that Laverock Bridge is now a major safety concern.</li> <li>• Web site - Cllr Holland acknowledged the challenge involved in developing a website, he was aware of similar discussions by other local Parish Councils, and looked forward to seeing the upgraded version in due course.</li> </ul>	<b>KL</b>
<b>102/14</b>	<b>Formal announcements by the Chair</b> The Chair, on behalf of the Parish Council, wished to thank Diana Bevis, Dorothy Richardson and Brenda Kell (who are retiring from running the monthly coffee mornings) for their generous contribution to community life over the last several years. Councillors acknowledged the splendid job they have done. <b>Action:</b> Clerk to send individual ‘thank you’ letters to the ladies.	<b>KL</b>
<b>103/14</b>	<b>New Bus Route</b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> For Councillors to note that the County Council advise that their Rural Wheels service provides door-to-door, personal transport for people aged 16 and over, who do not have, or are unable to access, scheduled transport. Transport is charged at the subsidised rate of 36p per mile. More details on the application process and criteria for use are available from the Council’s Rural Wheels web site: <a href="http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/public-transport-road-safety/transport/commtrans/ruralwheels.asp">http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/public-transport-road-safety/transport/commtrans/ruralwheels.asp</a> .	

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	<p><b>Action:</b> Clerk to inform the parishioner who requested information on requesting a new bus route; leaflets on Rural Wheels to be placed in the Parish noticeboards, subject to space being available.</p>	KL Cllrs
104/14	<p><b>Overhanging Trees</b>  <b>RESOLVED:</b> To note that the trees overhanging the A6 at the layby further down from Skelsmergh Church towards Kendal have been cut back. JC and PR were thanked for their efficient resolution to this problem; a reoccurrence is not expected for several years.</p>	
105/14	<p><b>Review of Community Plan 2009</b>  <b>RESOLVED - To note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More local residents are required by the Steering Group. The article published in the October edition of the local newsletter didn't generate a swell of interest and membership currently stands at MC, HM, Tony Cousins and Geraldine Mitchell. Further offers may result from ongoing campaigning to explain that the Community Plan offers an opportunity to make a real difference to the quality of life for residents on housing, transport, education, employment, community spirit, environment and planning matters.</li> <li>• At the next Steering Group meeting, Julia Wilson (Action for Cumbria) will advise on available grants, tips on the application process and local news relating to progressing Community Plans.</li> <li>• It is hoped that a questionnaire will be produced by December 2014 and circulated to residents to complete in January 2015.</li> </ul>	
106/14	<p><b>Parish Pictorial Map</b>  <b>RESOLVED - To note</b> that progress is being made to produce a Parish pictorial map, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copyrights and costs of Ordnance Survey maps being established</li> <li>• Selecting which of the numerous available photographs of the locality to include</li> <li>• Placement options are either as a free standing or wall-mounted outside – to be discussed/decided with the Skelsmergh Hall Committee</li> <li>• Design to complement Tony Cousins' historical indoor map</li> <li>• H&amp;H Reeds Printers (Penrith) are very willing to help with the design; quotes will be discussed once the details are established</li> </ul> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HM to provide information on google maps (as a no cost alternative to Ordnance Survey maps), and technical expertise to use these, as required.</li> <li>2. MC to give the Skelsmergh Hall Secretary the dimensions of the proposed poster to support discussions/decisions on a suitable placement position.</li> </ol>	HM MC
107/14	<p><b>CALC South Lakeland District Association:</b>  JC gave an overview summary of this meeting he attended on 18.09.2014. There were only a few items of interest to this Council.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> For Councillors to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a collective acknowledgement that the response time from the Council Highways Team is of concern. Due to the Council's priority for cost savings, the service is seriously understaffed and much reduced. Drains/potholes, etc. can remain on the repair schedule for a significant length of time. An update report on Highway matters is scheduled for the next meeting.</li> <li>• Two presentations from Morecambe Bay: a new cycle route and their clean waterways and beaches initiative to address water pollution may have a future impact on local residents in due course.</li> </ul>	
108/14	<p><b>Upper Kent Local Area Partnership (UK LAP):</b>  MC gave an overview summary of the meeting she chaired on 22.10.2014.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> For Councillors to note:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main focus of the meeting was a training session on communications, in particular use of newsletters, social media and web sites. Speakers provided tips and tools for good communication to enable a more positive profile for Parish Councils.</li> <li>• The Skelsmergh, Selside and Longsleddale Church and Community Newsletter was much praised.</li> <li>• The use of twitter, and reaching people under 40 are specific development areas for most Councils</li> <li>• Advice received to manage a successful web site: keep it simple, use a contrast for colour and text, know your users and where they click, be up to date and security conscious. A contact email address is good to have.</li> <li>• Regular items like Broadband and highways was also on the agenda; nothing of note to report.</li> <li>• The next meeting is scheduled for 11.02.2015, at Skelsmergh Community Hall, agenda items to include: Highways: Public Rights of Way, Upkeep and maintenance (CCC and LDNP), Community Speedwatch Scheme.</li> <li>• MC recommended that all councillors to look at the Staveley and Kentmere web sites for ideas for our site.</li> </ul>	
109/14	<p><b>Community Action Plan</b></p> <p><b>a. Environment and Community Woodlands</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Allotments, report received from the Environment Group, dated 24.09.2014 - <b>RESOLVED</b> to note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Interest in having an allotment is confirmed as 3 people at Mealbank; 2 at Kiln Croft.</li> <li>○ MC is awaiting confirmation of interest from the Environment group (Julie Waddington).</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> To hold a meeting before the end of November for everyone who is interested in having an allotment, to identify appropriate/preferred site(s) and expected costs, e.g. for fencing, etc. Proposals can then be discussed with the landowner(s).</p> </li> <li>2. Repair work to the Millennium seat at Gurnal Bridge - <b>RESOLVED:</b> As JC's hand is functioning again, he will make contact with the workmen to commence work as asap.</li> <li>3. Negotiations for a permissive footpath at Dry Lane - <b>RESOLVED:</b> to note that creating a permissive footpath for Dry Lane (despite its name, the footpath is prone to flooding making access difficult for walkers) is not possible. Despite a lot of input and discussion by individual Parish Councillors with sympathetic landowners to explore various options, there are no practicable working solutions. The County Council have simply provided a sign to inform that the route is subject to flooding and may be impassable in adverse weather conditions.</li> <li>4. Repair of dilapidated wooden stile on footpath 570030, Coppice Howe to Gurnal Bridge - <b>RESOLVED: 1)</b> Permission to be requested from the land owners for a Parish Council contractor to erect a new stile from materials provided by County Council Country Access Team. <b>2)</b> To agree funding (£100) to support the repair costs in the interests of the community.</li> </ol> <p><b>b. Highways and Transport</b></p>	<p><b>JT-H &amp; AS</b></p> <p><b>JC</b></p> <p><b>KL</b></p>

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update on the A6 Footpath - <b>RESOLVED:</b> to note Cllr Holland's offer of a £500 (non-recurring) grant towards future maintenance of the verge, if required, in the absence of a permanent footpath for the route. <b>Action:</b> AS to advise how this money could help with the grass verge maintenance costs, whether the money is required.</li> <li>2. Update on the Speed detection device at Mealbank - <b>RESOLVED:</b> to include a section in the Community Plan questionnaire to seek information on residents' preferred options for speed restriction methods. JT-H reported that although ten people were massively keen on the idea of using the detection device to reduce speed, collating the data would cause significant problems.</li> <li>3. Highway sign for Skelsmergh at northern boundary - <b>RESOLVED:</b> to note this has been ordered from County may be subject to delay due to staffing problems.</li> </ol> <p><b>c. Community</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oakbank: replacement of WW 1 memorial seat - <b>RESOLVED:</b> to note that this is now in the hands of a metal worker; when this work has been completed, a plaque will be attached. The Parish Council agreed to fund (£100) for the war memorial plaque.</li> <li>2. To receive a report from the last Skelsmergh Community Hall Management Committee meeting - <b>RESOLVED</b> to note that the Committee meet on a regular basis to discuss housekeeping, maintenance and commercial matters. The Committee is hopeful that volunteers will come forward to support a communal event to continue, if not a coffee morning, then something different. Discussions are in progress with Age Concern. Another Christmas event is planned, similar to last years.</li> </ol> <p><b>d. Communications</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update on Website, report provided relating to a meeting on 21.10.2014 and responses submitted to the matters raised. Councillors considered two options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To continue with the original decision, to have a joint web site with the Community Hall, which will have full hall booking facilities and include all community groups and Hall users, e.g. Church, Parish Council, Mothers &amp; Toddlers, etc. To commission further development work to improve the appearance. To have a tripartite governance arrangements (Committee).</li> <li>○ Alternatively, to opt for the stand-alone Parish Council web site developed by HM, with hyperlinks to a separate Hall web site and Church/other sites as appropriate; HM to act as the web master. Users will see this as one unitary site.</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To progress the second option - the stand-alone web site, as this was thought to be more intuitive, more user friendly and easier to navigate. This would leave the other website as a Community Hall and users' site, to continue to have the Hall booking facilities.</li> <li>○ HM is to continue building and populating his website with Parish Council information, agree user rights and hyperlinking to partner web sites - the Community hall being the first priority.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<b>AS</b>
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	<p>AS stated the reasons for her sadness with this outcome. Sue Whiteside (as a representative of the Hall Committee) was thanked for her contribution to this agenda item (a special concession to the usual procedures was granted in respect of the implications of the decision to the Hall).</p> <p><b>Action:</b> The outcomes of the next Hall Committee meeting (scheduled for the following week) on the next steps for hyperlinking the websites will be fed back to HM and Councillors.</p>	AS															
110/14	<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"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payee</th> <th>Expenses/Services</th> <th>Amount £</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>CVS</td> <td>Payroll - Clerk's wages</td> <td>16.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Karen Little</td> <td>Clerk's salary – September to Nov 2014</td> <td>242.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Society of Local Council Clerks</td> <td>CiLCA Registration</td> <td>250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;"><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td>508.10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note the current bank reconciliation, the healthy budget prediction for year end, and amounts allocated to support proposed projects, e.g. the Parish pictorial map and allotments.</li> </ul>	Payee	Expenses/Services	Amount £	CVS	Payroll - Clerk's wages	16.00	Karen Little	Clerk's salary – September to Nov 2014	242.10	Society of Local Council Clerks	CiLCA Registration	250.00	<b>TOTAL</b>		508.10	
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111/14	<p><b>Planning Applications</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SL/2014/0742, Strawberry Cottage, Skelsmergh, Kendal, LA8 9JU. Change of use of holiday accommodation/dependent family accommodation to dwelling house. <b>RESOLVED:</b> To note decision by SLDC: <i>Grant with Conditions.</i></li> <li>SL/2014/0991, proposed new self-contained dwelling within the garden of Laneside Farm, Skelsmergh, LA9 6NX. Consultation period ends: 06 November 2014 <b>RESOLVED:</b> To support the proposal on the basis that it is in line with the Parish Council Community Plan 2009.</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>RESOLVED:</b> To object to the proposal based on considerations of neighbourliness.</li> </ol>																
112/14	<p><b>Public Diversion Order, Footpath 570016 (Dalesway/Skelsmergh):</b></p> <p>Councillors were informed that correspondence had been received from a parishioner (October 2014) objecting to the confirmation of the diversion and expressing dismay that the council had not itself objected when the order was first proposed.</p> <p>It was explained that the former clerk had notified Parish Councillors of the diversion order when it was first published. It had been proposed in the interest of farm management. There was no record of any councillor having an objection nor was the matter reported to any subsequent council meeting. The County Council proceeded to confirm and implement the Order by closing the path through the farmyard and a stile had been erected to permit access to the new route which crosses adjoining fields by a track. The parishioner's objection is with the Legal &amp; Democratic Services at Cumbria County Council. The Chairman commented that he had walked the route and found it to be satisfactory.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors to note the position.</p>																
113/14	<p><b>Correspondence:</b></p>																

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	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the schedule of correspondence, notices and publications as sent out by the Clerk (detailed in Attachment 8 of the agenda, covering the period 03.09.204 to 20.10.2014) be noted and that any identified actions be carried out, as appropriate.</p>	
114/14	<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):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015</li> <li>• Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015</li> </ul> <p>Due to existing regular commitments JT-H will arrive after the meetings have commenced.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. JT-H to inform the Clerk if there are any agenda items she wishes to be deferred until her arrival.</li> </ol>	<b>JT-H</b>

The meeting finished at 22.15 pm.

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