



Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting

Wednesday 9 March 2022, 7pm at Skelsmergh Community Hall

Social distancing was maintained in compliance with CV-19 guidance

Present:

Parish Councillors:

John Chapman (JC) – Chair
Freyja Burrill (FB)
Angela Brand-Barker (AB-B)
Tim Maggs (TM)
Mick Crozier (MC), *appointed item 62/21a*

Clerk:

Karen Little (KL)

Parish Residents:

Three residents of the parish were present

Invited guest:

Rev'd Tricia Rogers (TR)

59/21 Welcome and apologies:

The Chair opened the meeting and warmly welcomed all present. Introductions were made. Rev'd Rogers was thanked for attending. Apologies were received from County Councillor Stan Colins and South Lakeland District Councillors Pat Bell and Hazel Hodgson. The meeting was quorate and formally commenced at 19.40 after a demonstration of the Community Hall's newly installed audio-visual equipment.

60/21 Declarations of Interest:

There was no change in personal interests and no prejudicial interests were declared in any agenda item.

61/21 Open Forum:

- a. Rev'd Rogers was welcomed as the Priest in Charge of the Kendal Beacon Team and as an ex-officio Member/Chair of the Community Hall Trust.
- TR: Very pleased to be able to meet all the Councillors - the Parish Council fulfils a vital role as the voice of the local community. Thank you for inviting me to attend and thank you to Councillors for all that you do.
- b. Mr Ian Kell (IK, Secretary Skelsmergh Hall Management Committee) and Mr Daniel Taylor (DT, <https://theirontree.co.uk/>) attended to present the grant application for support with the cost of new decorative Community Hall car park gates to commemorate the Queen's platinum jubilee. The original wooden posts have now deteriorated so badly that the gates are no longer functional. The plan is to design bespoke steel gates, mounted on steel posts for longevity. DT has been asked to produce these, as his father was a member of the team that built the original Hall wall and car park. The family of Mr John Wilson (Stock Mills Garage) would like a bequest from his estate to be used towards the commemorative gates, and funding from the Hall accounts will make up any deficit. The cost of the total replacement work is estimated to be ~£1.5k. The PC is asked to consider a minimum donation of £300 - it would be appropriate and fair to use precept money as the Hall is used widely by parish residents for many different reasons throughout the year. A

community celebration event will be held when the gates are ready to be officially unveiled.

- c. Mr Ian Bamford (IB, Churchwarden, St John the Baptist Church) applied for the additional costs (£300) incurred this year to remove unsafe tree debris as a result of recent storm damage in the churchyard and for the annual maintenance cost of £120 to be repeated. TR reminded the PC that St John's graveyard is a community asset - all parish residents have a right to be buried there while plots continue to be available. IB was asked if the fallen tree was to be replaced? This has not been decided. JC informed that, as the Tree Manager, he could advise on what would be a suitable replacement, if the Church wanted to pursue this option.

JC: Thanked everyone for providing extra clarity and details - Councillors will discuss the monetary awards under the corresponding agenda items.

IK and DT left the meeting now.

62/21 Parish Council Membership

a. Appointment of new Councillor (Skelsmergh ward)

JC: Thanked Mr Crozier for his interest in the vacant Councillor position and for his work as a volunteer in the parish woodlands. Mr Crozier lives in Skelsmergh (1 Wilson House Barn).

RESOLVED: Councillors voted unanimously to co-opt Mr Crozier onto the Parish Council with immediate effect, as the Councillor for Skelsmergh ward. Mr Crozier accepted the position and signed the declaration of acceptance of office at this point of the meeting.

Action: KL to send MC's signed declaration of business interests to SLDC, for publication on the SLDC website and linked to the PC website.

b. Parish Council vacancies

It was noted that two Councillor vacancies continue - for Skelsmergh ward and for Scalthwaiterigg ward. Councillors will continue actions to seek interest in these vacant posts.

63/21 Minutes of the Previous Meeting, *circulated in advance*

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish meeting on 19.01.2022 were confirmed as a true and complete record. The Chair was authorised to sign them as such at the meeting.

64/21 Matter Arising from the minutes

- a. **Correspondence** - concern for residents during power outages due to storm damage, *draft letter provided*

JC: Cllr Collins is discussing Councillors' concerns and possible actions in response with the Planning and Sustainability Team, Cumbria County Council. There were no cases of actual hardship in the parish from this year's storms, although we are now aware that water supplies to homes can also be jeopardised without electricity to work the related pump systems. Requests for action by the utility companies will be strengthened by the PC letter. The draft letter was approved for sending on to CCC - increased numbers of people are at risk of not being able to call for urgent services (including an ambulance for medical attention) when the power lines are down.

Action: KL to send the agreed draft letter to the Planning & Sustainability Group, CCC with copies to SLDC and Cllr Collins.

- b. **Councillor training requests**

RESOLVED: Councillors training requests have been booked and budgeted for; invoices to be paid at the next PC meeting. MC was given the PC copy of the Good Councillor's guide, 2018.

- c. **Book token - J. Rigby**

KL confirmed that a book token (£20) has been delivered to Joseph Rigby, minute 52/21a.

- d. **Tags for notice boards**

RESOLVED: To approve the quote from The Signman (£95) to make three weather-proofed ownership signs for PC two notice boards and the Coldharbour Quarry site.

65/21 Formal Announcements by the Chair

There were no formal announcements.

66/21 Grant Applications

- a. **Skelsmergh Community Hall Platinum Jubilee Project, attached x2**
RESOLVED: After some discussion, it was agreed to award £750 towards new bespoke steel gates for the Hall car park, to commemorate the Queen's platinum jubilee.
- b. **Upkeep of the graveyards - St John the Baptist Church, Skelsmergh, attached**
RESOLVED: To award another annual support of £120 towards the graveyard upkeep and maintenance costs, with a one-off payment of £300 to cover the in-year additional cost to remove a storm damaged tree that posed a health and safety risk to visitors.

67/21 Finance:

- a. **To consider payments to be made as per Clerk's report, attached**

RESOLVED: To make the following payments:

Payee	Expenses/Services	Amount (£)
Karen Little	Clerk's salary 01.02.2022 to 31.03.2022 RESOLVED: To agree the 1.75% pay rise agreed by the GMB and UNISON, applicable from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022 at the next meeting.	441.31
Cumbria Payroll Services	March 2022 payroll (includes VAT)	14.40
Karen Little	Expenses, 01.04.2021 - 31.03.2022	111.88
Neil Hawes, <i>minute 69/21cii</i>	Supply and fitting of hardwood noticeboard, Oakbank	750.00
A2A Advertising Ltd	Annual web hosting (2022-2023) & new webpage design	546.00
Cumbria County Council	Replacement of Skelsmergh sign and post	398.82
Grant award - Skelsmergh Hall Management Committee	Platinum commemoration - new bespoke steel gates	750.00
Grant award - Skelsmergh Parochial Church Council	St John the Baptist Churchyard upkeep and maintenance Cost to remove storm damaged tree - H&S risk	120.00 300.00
The Signman	Header signs for notice boards (Kiln Croft and Oakbank) and Coldharbour Quarry gate	95.00
	TOTAL	3,527.41
Income received since last meeting: to note		
Three separate purchases	Sale of woodland products	195.00
Northwest Electricity	Wayleave payment	41.50
	TOTAL	236.50

- b. **March 2022 bank reconciliation and predicted 2021-2022 year end position, attached**
RESOLVED: It was noted that with the agreed grants and payments as above, the year-end position is expected to be a carry forward surplus of £1k.
Action: KL to ask Mrs Lynda Barron to undertake the internal audit for the financial year 2021-22.
- c. **Bank signatories**
 Barclays bank has asked for page six of the mandate change form to be authorised/signed again by Councillors Chapman and Brand-Barker.

68/21 Website Update: <http://www.skelscalpc.org.uk/>

Progress is being made populating the new web pages and archiving out of date material to comply with the national transparency code for smaller authorities. Cllr Burrill provided a new picture of the Hall - now uploaded. More pictures can be added at any time - new ones would be welcomed. Correspondence from Mr Tony Cousins (local historian) was noted. The new email address for the Clerk is clerk@skelscalpc.org.uk. The option for a secure Councillors' area on the website was noted (cost £150+).

RESOLVED: Councillors welcomed any local historical information or articles (including photographs) Mr Cousins would like to include on the PC website. If he was to develop a local

historic web site, Councillors would support having operational hyperlinks between the two sites.
Action: MC to look into another (Dropbox) option for a secure Councillors' remote document folder.

69/21 **Community Action Plan** - update reports were received on:

a. Environment:

i. *Woodlands - sale of wood products*

Noted the income generated (£195) from the sale of wood products from the recent maintenance and volunteers' work on site-covered the cost of the chainsaw contractor.

Action: JC to publish an article in the Community news and PC web site to thank volunteers.

b. Highways and Transport:

i. *Licence - Gurnal Bridge Lane land: report on meeting with landlord's agent.*

JC: A meeting was held with Carter Jonas (land agents) and Councillors/volunteers at Gurnal Bridge. The plan is to plant trees on the approx. 2.5-3 acres of land adjacent to the riverbank and land currently managed by the PC, with the possibility of extending the PC licence to include both plots. A lot of details need to be addressed before this can become an operational decision. A priority for the landowners is to fence the eroding part of the riverbank, whilst also maintaining public access to the river. The Stevenson Trust is keen that this land and river access remain a resource for the local community. The PC will need to consider whether there is sufficient future capacity and expertise to take on this additional responsibility. It maybe that the Trust may not want to renew the PC licence in its current form - there may be other options that would meet their objective for both plots. No time scale has been discussed for further discussion.

RESOLVED: The Gurnal Bridge land issue is on hold until the PC IS contacted again by Carter Jonas.

c. Communication

i. *Welcome pack for new residents*

RESOLVED: It was agreed that the welcome pack is to include (*all paperwork was emailed out prior to the meeting*):

- A current list of Parish councillors, contact details & meetings dates
- The five Parish walks guides - JC and KL have spare copies
- A copy of the latest Skelsmergh, Selside & Longsleddale Church & Community News - JC advised where spare copies of these are located.
- Contacts form
- An updated version of the Community Plan will be uploaded to the PC website, with the web address included in the letter. The updated version will continue actions/objectives (as per the original plan, developed in 2015) that are ongoing; any completed actions will be removed. No new actions will be added as a public consultation hasn't been possible due to CV-19 limitations.

ii. *Noticeboard maintenance - to approve contractor's increased costs over quotation, attached*

This was discussed and approved under item 67/21a. Councillors considered that the invoiced cost (£750 cf. quote of £580) for the Oakbank noticeboard should be honoured due to the increase in material costs (>40%) since the quotation was given. Mr Hawes confirmed the snagging problems with the board will be resolved asap, as discussed with Cllr Chapman.

d. Community

i. *Parish Council plans - Queen's platinum jubilee celebrations*

JC: Gave an overview of several local parish council's plans; also included the Beacon Team's plans.

RESOLVED: With the many local planned events, Councillors thought it best to join an existing planned event, e.g. Skelsmergh Community Hall, especially if the commemorative gates were ready to install during the June bank holiday weekend and the community event was held then.

ii. *Coronavirus - impact on Parish*

Noted - nothing further to report; no requests for actions/support have been received.

70/21 **Minutes of the Community Hall meetings: 21.10.2021 & 27.01.2022, attached x2**

The minutes were noted, also for the meeting on 24.02.2022. Councillors are encouraged to

attend the Community Hall AGM on Thursday 26.05.2022 at 7.00pm - the Hall Committee members are seeking more community involvement.

71/21 **CALC - South Lakeland District Association**

a. **Report of meeting 27.02.2022, attached**

JC: The meeting mainly covered the election of representatives.

b. **Thursday 24 March 2022**

RESOLVED: JC to attend.

72/21 **Planning Applications:**

a. **SL/2021/1026, 4-9 Oakbank Cottages, Skelsmergh, KENDAL** - Replace septic tank with sewage treatment plant, and pumped outlet to river Sprint. *PC - no objections. SLDC - approved.*

b. **SL/2022/0016 Thorneyslack House, Garth Row, KENDA** - Installation of a sewage treatment plant to replace the existing septic tank. *PC - no objections. SLDC - approved.*

c. **SL/2021/1207, 2 Old Mealbank School, Mealbank, KENDAL** - Installation of an additional conservation roof light to front roof slope & enlarged replacement conservation roof light to rear roof slope. *PC - no objections. SLDC - approved.*

d. **SL/2021/0552, Holme House Farm, Skelsmergh KENDAL, LA8 9AQ** - [APPEAL/0933/W/21/3288884](#). Removal or variation of a condition 5 (gross internal floorspace of each of the five dwellings) attached of outline planning permission SL/2019/1032. (Demolition of existing buildings and erection of five dwellings and shared use buildings). *No decision 26.04.2022.*

e. **SL/2022/0079, Mount Quharrie & Low Rigg Barn, Garth Row, KENDAL** - Installation of sewage treatment plant to replace the existing septic tank. *PC - no objections. Withdrawn 06.04.2022.*

f. **SL/2019/0743, Land North of Meadowbank Business Park, Shap Road, KENDAL** - AMENDED SCHEME WITH REVISED ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS for motor dealership. *PC requested intrusiveness should be reduced as much as possible. No decision 26.04.2022.*

g. **Initial plans for a Costa Coffee drive-through - Morrisons car park, Queen Katherines Avenue**
Cllr Hazel Hodgson has communicated our concerns re increased related discarded litter.

h. **SL/2021/0626 From land to the south of the A685, Appleby Road, Kendal** to land immediately north of the A684 off Kinn Road, Kendal, KENDAL. Proposed works for and use of replacement section of aqueduct, including earthworks and ancillary infrastructure including: new valve house buildings within fenced compounds with permanent vehicular access provision; installation of tunnel shafts; open cut connection areas at either end of the replacement section within temporary construction compounds, to include site accesses, storage areas, plant and machinery, and drainage infrastructure. *No decision 26.04.2022.*

73/21 **Correspondence:**

KL: Nothing for further discussion, relevant information/of interest is routinely emailed out.

TM: As the last standing local B4RN volunteer, he informed of the upcoming B4RN awards.

RESOLVED: Councillors considered it best for B4RN to nominate individuals for the awards.

74/21 **Dates for Next Meetings**, commencing 7pm at Skelsmergh Community Hall:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| • 25 May 2022, also the Annual Parish Council and Parish meetings | • 16 November 2022 |
| • 20 July 2022 | • 25 January 2023 |
| • 21 September 2022 | • 20 March 2023 |

JC: Thanked everyone for coming and for their contributions. Formally closed the meeting at 21.21.