

## Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council

### Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting

Wednesday 10 November 2021, 7.30pm at Skelsmergh Community Hall

To comply with CV-19 risk management, recommended safety practice and social distancing were maintained.

**Present:**

**Parish Councillors:**

John Chapman (JC) – Chair  
Freyja Burrill (FB)  
Angela Brand-Barker (AB-B)  
Tim Maggs (TM)

**County Councillor:**

Stan Collins (SC)

**SL District Councillors:**

Pat Bell (PB) and Hazel Hodgson (HH)

**Clerk:**

Karen Little (KL)

**Parish Residents:**

Two residents of the parish were present: Jayne and Joseph Rigby

Minute Number	Business Item	Lead Person
31/21	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b> The Chair opening the meeting by welcoming all present. Apologies were received, but not accepted, from Cllr Hermann Moisl (HM). The meeting was quorate.	
32/21	<b>Declaration of Interests</b> There were no interests declared in any agenda item.	
33/21	<b>Open Forum:</b> a. <b>Parish Survey - rights of way</b> , undertaken by Joseph Rigby (JR), Spring 2021. Cllr Chapman thanked Joseph and his Mum for attending, and invited Joseph to describe how he completed the survey of the 47 public rights of way (footpaths and bridleways) that lie within the parish boundaries. JR explained that recording the entire local network of public rights of way took six months to complete, starting in November 2020 when he was 14 years old. The project was committed to as the 'volunteering' part of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) award. His brief was to report any items for repair or refurbishment to the County Countryside Access team to enable the public to access rights of way safely, and minimise trespass and disturbance to livestock. The final report provides a comprehensive database of the condition of stiles, gates, signposting and waymarking for all routes, backed-up with an archive of 81 photographs. JR's friend, Simon Fell (also doing his Silver DofE Award), worked on the practical task of clearing several sections which were becoming choked with encroaching vegetation. Overall, JR enjoyed the project - his map-reading skills were much improved at the end, and he was pleased to receive the silver award in recognition of the long-term value and benefit his work will provide to the community.  Councillors had seen the survey report at the last meeting (JR was unable to attend). All agreed that this was really helpful reference information, particularly with the extensive	

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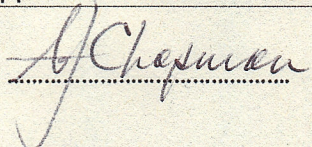
Date:

19<sup>th</sup> January 2022

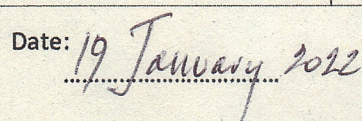


	<p>photoshots. They all congratulated and thanked Joseph for his phenomenal work. Councillors were keen that Joseph's youthful commitment and initiative should be publicly acknowledged, and his significant role in preserving the integrity of the public rights of way recognised.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> JC to write-up an article for publishing in the Community newsletter.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> KL to include an agenda item at the next meeting for the PC to consider a monetary award for JR's work (<i>Discussed later in the business section of the meeting.</i>)</p> <p><b>b. Update from SLDC/CCC Councillors:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Councillor Collins informed that Cumbria County Council (CCC) have developed a new much improved online Highways Hotline reporting system. Users will find the additional features much more useful and intuitive. Residents will be able to open up personal accounts for tracking progress with repairs. Cllr Collins also advised on specific Highway matters, reported under items 38/21b1 &amp;2.</li> <li>2. Councillor Bell confirmed that activities continue to progress the two new unitary authorities to replace CCC in 2023; the judicial review process also remains 'live'. 'Shadow' Westmorland and Furness (Eden, South Lakeland and Barrow) and Cumberland (Copeland, Allerdale and Carlisle) Authorities will be in place by 01.04.2022. The CCC Chief Executive is stepping down, effective 01.12.2021.</li> <li>3. Councillor Hodgson encouraged local people to 'have their say' - there is a final opportunity to comment on the latest draft priority cycling and walking networks <a href="https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/cyclingandwalking/default.asp">https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/cyclingandwalking/default.asp</a>.</li> </ol> <p>JC: The Parish Council is very grateful for HH's ongoing interest and vocal support for initiatives that benefit parish residents.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Concern was raised that planning consent for big-impact projects were subject to significant delays, e.g. the motor dealership (Meadowbank Business Park), and ongoing flood risk management planning is not evident. It was noted that due to resignations, the SLDC planning team is now experiencing capacity issues.</li> <li>5. Cllr Bell referred queries re septic tanks to the SLDC Public Protection Team, <a href="https://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/your-environment/sewage-and-drainage/">https://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/your-environment/sewage-and-drainage/</a>.</li> </ol> <p><i>Cllr Collins and the two parish residents left the meeting at the end of this item.</i></p>	JC KL
34/21	<p><b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b>, <i>circulated in advance</i></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> The minutes of the Parish meeting on 22.09.2021 were confirmed as a true and complete record. The Chair was authorised to sign them as such at the meeting.</p>	
35/21	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> JC/KL to source plastic 'ownership' tags to attach to the PC notice boards/other property, as appropriate.</p> <p>Other than this item, all other actions arising have either been completed, or are agenda items for this meeting.</p>	KL/JC
36/21	<p><b>Formal Announcements by the Chair</b></p> <p><b>a. Resignation of Danny Seddon-Roberts, Skelsmergh ward</b></p> <p>JC has initially responded to acknowledge DS-R's resignation and to thank him for his input and support to date.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> KL to formally thank DS-R on behalf of the PC for his term in office.</p> <p><b>b. Co-option of new Councillors - Scalthwaiterigg ward and process for new vacancy</b></p> <p>SLDC have issued the by-election notice - to be displayed on the PC website and all notice boards. If no interest is received within fourteen days, the PC can seek and co-opt people to both vacant posts (Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg wards) at the next PC meeting.</p>	
37/21	<p><b>Grant applications</b></p> <p>No grant applications were received.</p>	

Signed:



Date:





38/21

**Community Action Plan -**

**a. Environment:**

1. Litter pick - Sunday 24.10.2021

JC: 15 volunteers attended; 20-25 bags were collected - not all were full.

2. Stile at Oakbank (*deferred from last meeting*)

JC: No progress - CCC will provide a replacement gate, the PC needs to fund/organise the manual work to install.

3. Woodlands maintenance

A date has been set for felling more ash trees with Scott Elbourne - 09.12.2021. JC updated on the licenced beekeepers: Sarah Dean has removed her hives from the woodland and allowed her licence to lapse. David Walmsley retains his licence for three hives but has left them dormant recently.

**b. Highways and Transport: updates on:**

1. Highway issues on Gurnal Bridge Lane

TM: Garth Row residents are concerned about the long-term stability of the roadside stream edge. There is no substantial stabilising soil layer, and the hessian matting is likely to be eroded in the near future by the encroaching brambles.

**Action:** SC will make a site visit with Highways to agree best resolution.

2. Drainage issues in parish - Scandal Level, *attached*

SC: I have apologised to the resident who raised this issue - this work was inadvertently signed off as 'complete' on the system. Following a site visit with a Highway Officer, it was agreed that the priority is to clear the blockage and ensure public safety remains paramount, especially in the event of a hard frost. The source of the blockage was a trapped log - this was on private land, that had been carried downstream with the high water levels. Grilles are not an effective preventative option as they get clogged-up with leaves. Highways will contact the landowner to discuss their responsibilities to better manage the situation in the future.

**c. Communication**

1. Update on B4MS - arrangements for stand-by generator maintenance and switch-over process during power cut

**RESOLVED:** Councillors have received reassurance that the arrangements in place e.g. in the event of a power-cut, etc are practically the best possible and robust options. This matter is now concluded.

2. Welcome pack for new residents

KL provided envelopes and examples of photocopied monochrome versions of the published parish walks. The pack is also to include copies of recent editions of the Community Newsletter.

**RESOLVED:** Further discussion is needed to finalise the packs - agenda item for the next meeting.

3. Website plans

Councillors discussed the desired features for a new website; a linked social media site was thought to be useful.

**Action:** KL to provide options for new providers and costs at the next meeting.

**d. Community**

1. Coronavirus - impact on Parish

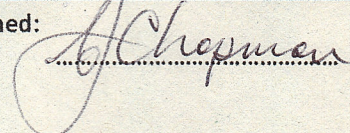
To date, Councillors consider that the impact of CV-19 on the parish has been fairly 'light' - confirmed cases numbers have not been significant. However, now coupled with the usual risk of a winter 'flu' outbreak and the perceived slower emergency response time by the ambulance service (due to the increase in demand), Councillors remain vigilant and alert to support as/when they can.

SC

KL

KL

Signed:



Date:

19<sup>th</sup> January 2022



thought that residents' lack of interest in the proposed Halloween event was due to ongoing CV-19 health concerns and a reluctance to 'mingle' for non-essential reasons.

39/21

**Finance:**

a. **To consider payments to be made as per Clerk's report, circulated in advance**

**RESOLVED:** To make the following payments:

Payee	Expenses/Services	Amount (£)
Karen Little	Clerk's salary 01.10.2021 to 30.11.2021 (no Tax)	441.31
Cumbria Payroll Services	November payroll	14.40
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>455.71</b>
To note: Income received	None	-

b. **To receive and note the bank reconciliation and predicted 2021-2022 year end position, Circulated in advance.**

**RESOLVED:** It was noted that with the current financial commitments, the year-end position is expected to be a surplus of ~£1k. This is if the work/costs apply for two new notice boards (Oak Bank & Garth Row) and another two are repaired (Dodding Green and Mealbank). And if the ring-fenced transparency funds are used to provide a new website and new printer and scanner as/when required.

c. **To consider setting precept for 2022-2023, attached**

In setting the precept for the next financial year, Councillors need to be aware that with the above plans - expenditure will exceed in-year income; also, that no projects from residents have been received/supported this year.

d. **New bank signatories**

**Action:** KL to request a Barclays change mandate form is sent to Cllr B-B. Delays incurred from Barclay's poor telephone service - it's not possible to request this via a branch.

KL

40/21

**Minutes of the Skelsmergh Hall Management Committee, 21.10.2021, circulated in advance**

**RESOLVED:** To appoint Cllr Brand-Barker as Mr Seddon-Roberts' replacement as the PC representative on this Committee.

**Action:** KL to inform the Skelsmergh Hall Management Committee members of this change.

KL

41/21

**Planning Applications,**

No new planning applications have been received.

42/21

**Correspondence:**

The Clerk had circulated the brownfield land register and a request from SLDC (Development Team) for information on any other local brownfield sites suitable for redevelopment for housing, or mixed uses including housing (they must be 0.25 hectares in size or able to accommodate 5 homes). Councillors were unaware of any such potential local sites.

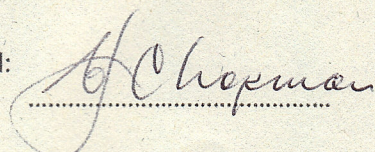
43/21

**Dates for Next Meetings, venue: Skelsmergh Community Hall, commencing 7.30pm:**

- Wednesday 19 January 2022
- Wednesday 9 March 2022

The Chair formally closed the meeting at 21.30, after thanking everyone for their time and contributions to the meeting.

Signed:



Date:

