



Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council

Minutes of the Virtual Ordinary Parish Council Meeting (via Zoom)

Wednesday 13 January 2021 at 7.30pm

Logged-in:

Parish Councillors:

John Chapman (JC) – Chair
Tim Maggs (TM)
Angela Brand-Barker (AB-B)
Danny Seddon-Roberts (DS-R)
Hermann Moisl (HM)

County Council Councillor:

Stan Collins (SC)

South Lakeland District Councillors:

Hazel Hodgson (HH)
Pat Bell (PB)

Clerk:

Karen Little (KL)

Parish Residents:

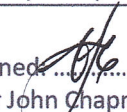
No local residents attended

Minute Number	Business Item	Lead Person
55/20	<u>Welcome and apologies</u> The Chair opening the meeting promptly at 19.30. Apologies from Parish Cllr Freyja Burrill were accepted.	
56/20	<u>Declaration of interests</u> No interests in any agenda item were declared.	
57/20	<u>Minutes of the previous meeting, circulated</u> RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 04.11.2020 were confirmed as a true and complete record; the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.	
58/20	<u>Open forum</u> No parishioners were in attendance for the meeting and no correspondence had been received in advance for this item.	
59/20	<u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u> a. District Association meeting The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 4 March 2021 (the November meeting was cancelled due to CV-19). Papers will be circulated in due course. b. SLDC - the Bay Unitary proposal: https://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/your-council/council-business/the-bay-unitary-proposal/ No response has been sent on behalf of the PC; all Councillors/residents had the opportunity to respond on an individual basis. It was noted that SLDC has submitted the proposal to the Secretary of State - they await a formal outcome.	
60/20	<u>Formal Announcements by the Chair</u> a. Clerk's appraisal The formal process was satisfactorily completed in January; all good. b. Co-opted Councillor vacancy (Scalthwaiterigg ward) No firm expressions of interest have been received; AB-B has someone in mind to pursue.	

Signed: 
Cllr John Chapman, PC Chair


Date:  10th March 2021

	Action: All councillors to continue to discuss the vacant Councillor post with neighbours/eligible people who would be interested in taking on the role.	All Cllrs																														
61/20	<p>Standing CV-19 Related Agenda items, info provided</p> <p>a. To consider the arrangements for the next meeting (face to face or virtual) RESOLVED: As we are now in lockdown 3, face to face meetings are not an option until the government lifts the current restrictions.</p> <p>b. To consider whether an Annual meeting is required before 07.05.2021 SC: To date, it has not been confirmed if/when the county elections will take place this year - they could be delayed until September at the earliest. RESOLVED: Currently, there is no need for an annual meeting before the beginning of May 2021. An annual meeting will be called to synchronise with appointments to the agreed new local constitution; the arrangement details (face to face or virtual) for the meeting will align with the prevailing national advice.</p>																															
62/20	<p>Grant applications No grant applications have been received. Action : KL to contact the St John's Church new team leader to confirm whether the PC annual grant award is still required.</p>	KL																														
63/20	<p>Finance:</p> <p>a. To consider payments to be made as per Clerk's report, circulated RESOLVED: To authorise the payments as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payee</th> <th>Expenses/Services</th> <th>Amount (£)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Karen Little</td> <td>Clerk's salary 01.12.2020 to 31.01.2021 (4hrs/week)</td> <td>429.52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cumbria Payroll Services</td> <td>Payroll - Clerk's wages (includes VAT)</td> <td>14.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Karen Little</td> <td>Expenses 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2021</td> <td>111.88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>PAYE, Clerk's salary January 2020</td> <td>23.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Came & Company</td> <td>PC insurance, 14.02.2021 to 13.02.2022 RESOLVED: To renew the policy as a 3 year term agreement.</td> <td>351.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Total payments</td> <td>930.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Income received - sale of firewood from the parish woodland</td> <td>20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Float, held by the Clerk</td> <td>90.88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Future Commitment due 15.05.2021</td> <td>Replacement electrode pads for the Mediana A15 Outdoor Community Package defibrillator</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>b. To note the bank reconciliation and predicted 2020-2021 year-end position, circulated If it had been possible to follow-through on the commitments agreed at the beginning of the year, there would be an ~£1.5k year-end surplus. However, with the CV-19 restrictions in place, spend has been curtailed enhancing the PC's cash-rich position. Cllrs noted the opportunity to support new grant applications of benefit to the Parish (and compliant with CV-safety practices) at the March meeting. If not allocated, the surplus will be carried forward to next year to support community projects.</p> <p>c. Draft budget build for 2021-2022 circulated A budget build for 2021-2022 was presented, using a repeat of the 2019-2020 precept amount, the cash float and a carry-forward projection of ~£2.94k (derived from the estimated, as highlighted in the paper, full year income and expenditure) as the basis. Assuming similar basic running costs to this year (with uplifts where confirmed), and a commitment to invest in all reoccurring projects, as well as those that were not able to proceed during 2020 due to CV-19, the PC will have an approx. surplus of £2.8k for in-year spend.</p>	Payee	Expenses/Services	Amount (£)	Karen Little	Clerk's salary 01.12.2020 to 31.01.2021 (4hrs/week)	429.52	Cumbria Payroll Services	Payroll - Clerk's wages (includes VAT)	14.40	Karen Little	Expenses 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2021	111.88	HMRC	PAYE, Clerk's salary January 2020	23.20	Came & Company	PC insurance, 14.02.2021 to 13.02.2022 RESOLVED: To renew the policy as a 3 year term agreement.	351.00		Total payments	930.00		Income received - sale of firewood from the parish woodland	20.00		Float, held by the Clerk	90.88	Future Commitment due 15.05.2021	Replacement electrode pads for the Mediana A15 Outdoor Community Package defibrillator		
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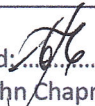
Date: 10.3.21

	<p>d. Set the precept for 2021-2022</p> <p>JC: Explained that an inflationary lift had been agreed for the 2020-2021 precept to increase the PC's spending power above the long-standing static income level. However, activities and spending had been significantly constrained due to the pandemic. In setting the precept for 2021-2022, Cllrs need to be mindful of the current cash-rich position the PC unexpectedly finds itself in now, and what future projects can be realistically achieved at an acceptable cost to residents. The most talked about project involves major expense (Kiln Croft A6 cycle route/footpath) that exceeds an acceptable precept range - Investigation into new, alternative funding options will be required to progress this.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To set the 2021-2022 precept as a repeat of the 2020-2021 income. The Clerk was authorised to confirm this resolution to SLDC using the PC Chair's and Vice-Chair's electronic signatures.</p>	
64/20	<p><u>Website development</u> - Accessibility, format, training and funding</p> <p>KL: Numerous emails have been received from commercial web designers, with offers to improve the appearance and accessibility of the PC website. There is ring-fenced money to invest in website development and improvement, if Councillors view this as a priority to progress.</p> <p>HM: The emails are 'cold-calling' by web programmers trawling for new business. They may offer initial discounts, but a contract will tie the PC into a long-term financial commitment. Ultimately this would result in the PC losing 'webmaster control' and require ongoing direction/instruction from the Clerk on what information to publish when. The PC website is not a commercial platform that needs to be more impressive than competitors' sites (there are no competitors). Commercial web services are only an option if supported by a long-term sustainable allocated budget. They would have no propriety interest in PC business or add value other than to provide basic IT skills.</p> <p>JC: The PC is indebted to you for your expertise provided at no-cost to the PC. Going forward, to future proof the statutory requirement for transparency, Councillors are advised to consider possible options to manage the PC website.</p> <p>SC: CALC may be able to advise on a standard 'model' PC website - appearance and functionality and how to build/make ongoing additions.</p> <p>TM: A small, non-marketing website should be easy (not involve excessive costs) to maintain and keep updated with new information and as/when legislation changes.</p> <p>RESOLVED: It was agreed that HM, DS-R & KL will meet-up (when the CV-19 restrictions have been lifted - a virtual meeting will not be as effective) to agree a proposal for the future management of the PC website, to present to the PC asap after that meeting.</p> <p>Action: KL to contact CALC to request details for a model PC website.</p> <p>Action : HM, DS-R & KL to discuss future plans for the PC website design and maintenance, to propose at the next PC meeting following their discussion.</p>	KL HM DS-R
65/20	<p><u>Review of the Community Action Plan</u></p> <p>a. Update on process</p> <p>DS-R: Activities to progress the development of a new plan are mainly on hold due to CV-19.</p> <p>b. Cycle path</p> <p>HH has provided contact details for Andrew Marshall (AM) - Infrastructure Planning Team. He is leading a Kendal local cycling and walking infrastructure review.</p> <p>Action : JC to contact AM, to ensure the PC is included in future plans for sustainable transport - report to next PC meeting.</p> <p>c. Proposal for replacement trees project</p> <p>JC: Since raising the suggestion to plant replacement trees for diseased ash trees in the parish, he is now aware that more work is needed to address the related practical issues. An update will be available once key bodies have been consulted.</p> <p>d. Community event</p>	JC

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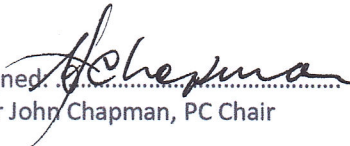
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	<p>KL: PC funding has been allocated to support a substantial community event as a get-together to unite the community after the trauma and isolation experienced during the CV-19 pandemic. Additionally, it would be a good opportunity to discuss/progress the new Community plan (depending on its state of readiness) and to seek interest in the vacant Councillor role, should it still be vacant then.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To approve this plan and note this as a future activity/funding commitment.</p>	
66/20	<p>Progress with the Community Action Plan</p> <p>a. Environment and Community Woodlands:</p> <p>1. Update on work in parish woodlands Work to date has produced a quantity of hedging stakes and bean poles for sale, with a potential outlet identified. Further work is planned to remove more diseased ash trees (will involve use of a chain-saw) when the weather is appropriate, and to plant replacement alternative trees to fill the gaps. Volunteers will be invited to join the work-party on the basis that social distance and safety measures will be observed. Sarah Deane (granted a bee-keepers licence in April 2019) has now moved her bee hives off the site. The number of hives remaining is now reduced to three, belonging to David Walmsley. The impact on future income from woodland honey was noted.</p> <p>SC: I may know of a possible local (non-parish resident) beekeeper who may be interested in seeking a new site for his bees.</p> <p>JC: We would be happy to discuss new bee-keeping licences with non-parish residents. Action: SC to pass-on JC's contact details to a potential new beekeeper.</p> <p>2. Update on Oakbank noise pollution, <i>information from resident circulated.</i></p> <p>JC: Oakbank residents are optimistic that Croppers are taking the noise complaints seriously, and are taking action to reduce the noise of their vacuum pumps. Residents will be reviewing the situation in early February 2021 - the factory was closed for two weeks in December/January. Report to the PC in March.</p> <p>TM: Garth Row residents also experience the nuisance noise - it must be a funnelling effect due to the land layout that our residents are more affected than Burneside dwellings.</p> <p>3. Update on glacial boulders return to Stephenson Trust land</p> <p>JC: I spoke directly with Mr Ladds, Benson Hall and he explained that with the recent weather conditions, the ground was either too frozen or too soft/wet for the boulders to be restored to their original site. His plans are to return them on a dry summer day. RESOLVED: This item is on hold until the summer; update report in September 2020.</p> <p>b. Highways and Transport:</p> <p>1. New licence for land at Gurnal Bridge No progress - we await to hear back from the land owner/agents. Two new gates are now in position, making vehicular access less easy, reducing the risk of fly-tipping.</p> <p>2. Highways issues on Gurnal Bridge Lane</p> <p>SC: Highways are planning to do a full resurface on 09.02.2021, after all the ground defects/reported concerns have been made good.</p> <p>Q. Is the plan to resurface the road at the far side of Gurnal Bridge?</p> <p>SC: I'm not sure of the details, tomorrow I will ask the foreman to contact TM to discuss the resurface/repair plans in detail.</p> <p>TM: To update on the concerns previously reported, the bad sewage smell at the 'Whirly' is probably due to a private septic tank that the property owners need to resolve.</p> <p>3. Mealbank bridge repairs: Laverock and Mealbank Industrial estate</p> <p>HM/ AB-B: There has been no change since September 2020 or update from the Estate owners; industrial traffic over 10 tons continues to access the estate via the village road.</p> <p>4. Mealbank/Patton Road land slide No update to report.</p> <p>5. Flooding - Scandale Lane & Dodding Presbytery to Laverock Bridge</p>	SC

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	<p>No update to report.</p> <p>c. Communication</p> <p>1. Update on B4MS</p> <p>TM: Garth Row is all connected; an alternative route (from Longsleddale) resolved the wayleave issues for three properties on the other side of the A6. The B4MS project will be fully complete in the next two to three months - at which point B4MS will no longer exist, all operational/company details revert to B4RN. This is a remarkable and rapid achievement for the Parish - instigated by Dan Robinson (DR). Without the launch from Dan, householders wouldn't have the excellent broadband service that has been most beneficial for working and shopping during the pandemic lockdown. It was noted that a formalised process/rota to switch-over to the generator (the PC contributed to the cost) during a power cut is required.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To include a tribute to DR in the planned social gathering event to show the PC's appreciation for DR's role in enabling Mint & Sprint households to benefit from timely superfast broadband.</p> <p>Action: JC & KL on behalf of the PC to propose discussion to develop a working rota/process for ongoing routine generator maintenance and switch-over as required, e.g. during a power cut.</p> <p><i>Cllr Colins left the meeting now.</i></p> <p>d. Community</p> <p>1. Coronavirus - impact on Parish</p> <p>No change to that reported last time. Councillors have volunteered to help with the roll-out of the CV-19 vaccine in Kendal - it was thought that they had not been called on to date due to the community's overwhelming response to help.</p>	JC & KL
67/20	<p><u>Planning Applications:</u></p> <p>a. SL/2021/0005, Dale View, Patton, KENDAL - plans to erect a detached garage. PC - no objections.</p>	
68/20	<p><u>Correspondence highlighted by the Clerk</u></p> <p>No correspondence was received other than what has been reported earlier in the meeting.</p>	
69/20	<p><u>Dates for next meetings</u> (virtual until confirmed otherwise), commencing 7.30pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 10 March 2021, joining details for Zoom will be sent out nearer the date. <p>The Chair formally ended the meeting after thanking everyone for attending at 20.58. 'Keep safe, take care'.</p>	

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Cllr John Chapman, PC Chair