



Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council

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

Wednesday 10 March 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)

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
70/20	Welcome and apologies The Chair opening the meeting promptly at 19.30. Apologies from Parish Cllr Freyja Burrill were accepted. County Councillor Stan Collins (SC) sent his apologies.	
71/20	Declaration of interests No interests in any agenda item were declared.	
72/20	Minutes of the previous meeting , <i>circulated in advance of the meeting</i> RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 13.01.2021 were confirmed as a true and complete record; the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.	
73/20	Open forum a. Parish residents No parishioners were in attendance for the meeting and no correspondence for this item had been received in advance. b. Update from SLDC: PB: Most of SLDC staff are still working from home. SLDC is one of the few authorities in the country that is offering a Council Tax Reduction Scheme for residents facing financial difficulties; the Council tax is to rise by £5 for Band D properties. The collection of 'green waste' bins re-started this month. A government grant to support businesses through the CV-19 lockdown is being distributed by SLDC. HH: SLDC continues to develop/implement climate conservation and sustainable growth policies. Personally involved in supporting the Kilncroft footpath to be included in the local walking and cycleway infrastructure plan (<i>item 79/20b</i>).	
74/20	Matters Arising from the Minutes a. Confirmation of the submitted precept, info provided RESOLVED: Information noted. b. Update on the Bay Unitary proposal A CALC remote event is proposed (18.03.2021) for the Leaders of the four principal	



Signed
Cllr John Chapman, PC Chair

Date: 26th May 2021

	<p>authorities to explain their proposals for the Cumbria local government reorganisation, to support the government's current consultation on the process - due to end on 19.04.2021. The proposed Bay Unitary authority responsibilities will embrace all local authority functions.</p> <p>c. Information on a model PC website, info provided KL: Reported that CALC had referred to the <u>Web Content Accessibility Guidance</u>; there isn't a model design template that Parish Councils have to follow. Quotes from designers of Parish Council websites as recommended by CALC have been obtained. Councillors noted that there were local website designers that could also be contacted - service details and contract costs can vary widely. Action: HM, DS-R and KL to consider the quotes when they meet to discuss next steps - face to face will be best, hopefully this will be before the next PC meeting in May. Links to the designer website(s) under consideration will be sent to all Councillors beforehand.</p> <p>d. Opportunity for a new bee-keeper in the parish woodlands No interest has been received to date (SC was going to signpost a possible interested person); enquiries can be directed to the Clerk.</p>	HM, DS-R, KL									
75/20	<p>Formal Announcements by the Chair</p> <p>a. Co-opted Councillor vacancy (Scalthwaiterigg ward) The vacancy continues despite Councillors' best efforts. Action: All councillors to continue to seek an appointment to the vacant Councillor post.</p>	All Cllrs									
76/20	<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: Government guidance and legislation that applies at the time will be complied with. The current temporary powers for Parish Councils to hold virtual meetings will expire on 06.05.2021; legal proceedings may be taken to try to extend this. The arrangements for the May meeting will be clarified nearer the time; a 'hybrid' (a mixture of remote and face to face) meeting may also be considered as an option. No expectations or preferred option has been received from parishioners.</p> <p>b. To consider whether an Annual meeting is required before 07.05.2021 KL: The requirement (Local Government Act 1972 Part III) is that an annual parish meeting takes place between 1st March and 1st June each year. There is no duty for the Parish Council to convene this - it is customary that it is convened by the Parish Council Chairman at a date and time set by the Parish Council. And there is no effective sanction should the Parish Council not set a date and time for this to occur or if the Chairman does not convene the meeting. RESOLVED: To agree after the SLDC (Kendal Rural seat) election on 06.05.2021 whether to call an annual meeting before the end of May 2021, subject to the legislation that applies then.</p>										
77/20	<p>Grant applications</p> <p>a. Graveyard upkeep - St John the Baptist Church, Skelsmergh, application provided RESOLVED: To award a grant of £120 for the upkeep of the graves and site maintenance. Future applications will also be welcomed, with itemised details of how Parish Council grant money will be spent.</p>										
78/20	<p>Finance:</p> <p>a. To consider payments to be made as per Clerk's report, info provided 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 01.02.2020 to 31.03.2021</td> <td>382.92</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cumbria Payroll Services</td> <td>Payroll - Clerk's wages (includes VAT)</td> <td>14.40</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Payee	Expenses/Services	Amount (£)	Karen Little	Clerk's salary 01.02.2020 to 31.03.2021	382.92	Cumbria Payroll Services	Payroll - Clerk's wages (includes VAT)	14.40	
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	Dry Stone Walling Association	Donation for work in parish woodlands	75.00
	Tree Skills Ltd	A day's tree felling on woodland	180.00
	Herman Moisl	Website hosting renewal cost	209.32
	HMRC	PAYE, Clerk, January 2021	23.40
	St. John the Baptist Church PCC	GRANT: Contribution towards graveyard upkeep	120.00
		Total payments	1005.04
	Income received - sale of woodland products since last meeting:		
	Honey: £19.50; Kindling: £20.00; Bean poles: £32.50 & Firewood: £150		220.00
	Float - £90.88 (held by the Clerk)	04.03.2021: Replacement of electrode pads - Mediana A15 Outdoor Community Defibrillator. Cost: £49.20	<i>Remaining:</i> 41.68
	<p>b. Bank reconciliation and predicted 2020-2021 year-end position, info circulated The year-end surplus of £2.3k was noted (£800 is ring-fenced to comply with ICT/ website transparency requirements (item 74/20c). Councillors will consider community projects that add value/benefit to residents in allocating the carry forward funding during the 2021-2022 financial year. New grant applications are always very welcome. Councillor Chapman was thanked for his time and skills - the additional substantial income provided by his woodland management expertise was noted. Councillor Chapman advised that the woodland site will be a joy to behold from now onwards as the flora (snowdrops, daffodils, cowslips, bluebells to name a few) erupts in a blaze of colour!</p>		
79/20	<p><u>Review of the Community Action Plan</u></p> <p>a. Update on process DSR: Progress continues to be limited due to the CV-19 lockdown.</p> <p>b. Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), info provided x2 JC: As HH referred to in an earlier (item 73/20b), HH and JC had attended a CCC Highways webinar to discuss the Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plan for the Kendal area. The case for creating a cycle/footpath from Kilncroft towards Kendal was made and fully supported by both Councillors - with the increase in the Kilncroft population since the formal petition to CCC/Highways duly reported. The webinar was well attended and the representation for numerous other cycle/footpath routes creates a need to demonstrate an effective return for the Kilncroft route in comparison with competitive bids. HH: The Kilncroft project is not excessive (~300m) and is absolutely necessary for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists, given this is alongside the busy main A6 route into Kendal. There is potential to link this with the nearby industrial developments and associated highway plans. It will offer an alternative access for cyclists to cross Kendal from the A591. JC: Despite the brevity, the cost is significant (~£64k), this is what has stalled all previous activities (including the petition that the Parish Council was involved in). Councillors have discussed the advantages of 'piggy-backing' on to a local pressing concern (e.g. industrial development) and would support this. The case is strengthened with HH's (and SLDC's) support; Cllr Collins' support, with his link to Highways, would also be very helpful. The Parish Council is unable to make a 'matched' financial contribution towards the cost, we would need a partner to make-up the difference. HH: The proposed LCWIP (from the outcomes of the webinar) will be discussed by the Highways Committee on 16.03.2021 - an update will be available at the next PC meeting.</p>		
80/20	<p><u>Progress with the Community Action Plan</u></p> <p>a. Environment and Community Woodlands:</p> <p>1. Update on work in parish woodlands JC: Employing the use of a chainsaw-operative has reaped the rewards in effectively managing the failing ash trees and successfully selling on the wood as useful products. The regular (every 6 years) coppice work increases the flora of the site by letting the light in. It is a community facility, voluntary help is welcome; everyone is given a</p>		

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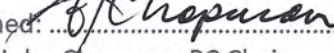
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	<p>chance to get involved with tasks they are interested in and enjoy.</p> <p>TM: Thank you for your time and personal effort to get the best outcomes from the woodland - your contribution to the 'extraction' of the logs is most appreciated.</p> <p>2. Update on Oakbank noise pollution, <i>report provided</i> Residents reported that Croppers have been responsive to the noise pollution experienced in the Oakbank area; monthly zoom meetings are held to report on progress. A change to the vacuum pump system has made an initial improvement. Councillors commended the attention given by Croppers to improve the situation.</p> <p>3. Skelsmergh parish sign, A6, Watchgate, <i>info provided x2</i></p> <p>JC: Action has been taken to replace the 'Skelsmergh' road sign (on the A6 at the border with Selside): information has been provided to the PC's insurance company and Highways have been asked to provide a quote for the replacement and installation costs. The sign was damaged beyond repair as a result of a road traffic incident in October 2020, first discovered on the Parish litter sweep event. The insurers have the police incident number; we await confirmation whether the excess (£250) for the claim can be recovered from the driver.</p> <p>b. Highways and Transport:</p> <p>1. New licence for land at Gurnal Bridge No progress - no news from the land owner/agents</p> <p>2. Highways issues on Gurnal Bridge Lane</p> <p>TM: I've not been contacted; the foreman has not got back to me (as SC discussed at the last meeting). The road repairs to Gurnal Bridge Lane on the Burnside side of the river are much better quality than the A6 side - it was regrettable that the better contractors did not do both sides.</p> <p>3. Mealbank bridge repairs: Laverock and Mealbank Industrial estate HM & AB-B reported no change.</p> <p>4. Mealbank/Patton Road land slide</p> <p>JC: Highways have been informed of this; local residents report fresh slippage; more is expected following heavy rain.</p> <p>5. Flooding - Scandale Lane & Dodding Presbytery to Laverock Bridge Situation also exacerbated by heavy rain; action is needed upstream. Residents should keep Highways informed of the problem as it occurs.</p> <p>c. Communication:</p> <p>1. Update on B4MS</p> <p>TM: There will be no extension to the Mint & Sprint network; closure of the project is expected in a couple of months time. Equipment and the business will revert to the original B4RN company.</p> <p>JC: Dan Robinson has assured me that the generator is safe in his custody and is in good working order. Dan is now employed on a part time basis by B4RN. Action: TM to discuss developing a formal rota system for the generator maintenance and 'switch-over' if/when needed, e.g due to a power cut.</p> <p>d. Community:</p> <p>1. Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Parish</p> <p>DS-R: With the good weather, there are a lot more walkers enjoying the area.</p> <p>PB: It is disconcerting that visitors to the area are not aware of safety and best practice, particularly at the start of the lambing season and during a viral pandemic, e.g. dogs must be kept on a lead; hands need to be sanitized. I am pursuing more advice/ prominent advertising of appropriate standards with the Countryside Commission.</p>	
81/20	<p>Planning Application:</p> <p>a. SL/2021/0005, Dale View, Patton, KENDAL - plans to erect a detached garage. PC - no</p>	

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	objections. SLDC: Granted with four conditions.	
82/20	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>A 'thank you' has been received from the owners of Holme House - they wanted to say they were grateful for the community's positivity to reuse the site for eco-focused family dwellings. It was noted that Councillors do not (and had not) advocate for, or get involved in, individual causes - the Parish Council always complies with the planning application criteria and process.</p>	
83/20	<p><u>Dates for next meetings</u> (<i>virtual until confirmed otherwise</i>), commencing 7.30pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 26 May 2021 - <i>Ordinary meeting (Parish and Annual meetings will be confirmed, see item 76/20 a & b)</i> • Wednesday 14 July 2021 • Wednesday 22 September 2021 • Wednesday 10 November 2021 • Wednesday 19 January 2022 • Wednesday 9 March 2022 <p>The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution and formally ended the meeting at 20.50.</p>	

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Date: 