

Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 6 November 2019 at 7.30pm

Skelsmergh Community Hall

Present:

Parish Councillors:

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

South Lakeland District Councillors: Hazel Hodgson (HH) and Pat Bell (PB)

County Councillor:

Stan Collins (SC)

Clerk:

Karen Little (KL)

Parish Residents:

Five other people attended, including the new owners of Holme House Farm

Minute Number	Business Item	Lead Person
56/19	<u>Welcome and apologies</u> Apologies were received from Parish Cllr Freyja Burrill (FB); consent was given. The meeting was quorate. SLDC Councillor Anne Hutton also sent her apologies.	
57/19	<u>Declaration of interests</u> Cllrs Moisl, Brand-Barker and MacLaine declared an interest in agenda item 66/19b2.	
58/19	<u>Minutes of the previous meeting, circulated</u> RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 11.09.2019 were confirmed as a true and complete record, and signed as such by the Chair.	
59/19	<u>Open forum</u> Item raised: Rachel Mackinnon provided details on the Skelsmergh Baby and Toddler Play Group grant application - item 63/19b. Councillors noted the desperate need for shelving, new storage boxes, table, baby mats and toys. The Play Group is well attended by local families, as well as others from further afield. The proposed work to decorate the cellar will be undertaken by Group members and will also benefit the local Bowling Club, as they store their equipment in the cellar. The Skelsmergh Hall Committee will fund new flooring, damp-proofing and better lighting for the cellar.	
60/19	<u>Plans for Holme House Farm - representation by the new owners, flyer circulated</u> Introductions were made and a discussion followed on the new owners' background and plans for the site. The purchase was completed at the end of September 2019. Some currently live locally, others are relocating. All are committed to sustainability and eco-conservation. There is outline planning permission for five dwellings - building work cannot start until autumn 2020 due to the resident bat roost. A detailed planning application for the full site will be submitted	

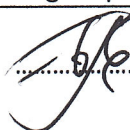
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	<p>before the end of the year. Work to clear the debris and secure the site is progressing. The group own the site as a limited company.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Councillors will consider making a site visit on receipt of the detailed planning application. The Holme House Farm owners all left the meeting after this item was concluded.</p>	
61/19	<p><u>Matters arising from the minutes</u></p> <p>a. Pothole repair - Laverock Bridge Lane repairs, email circulated Highways had informed the Clerk that the repair work had been completed. Councillors commented that the road surface was now much safer, but questioned how long the 'patching' would last?</p>	
62/19	<p><u>Formal announcements by the Chair</u></p> <p>There were no formal announcements made by the Chair.</p>	
63/19	<p><u>Grant applications</u></p> <p>a. B4MS, email circulated The benefits of an investment in a local emergency generator was discussed in detail. RESOLVED: To grant a sum of £600 to the B4MS project towards the purchase of a local generator, with the stipulation that the generator is operational asap - during the current winter months. B4MS have confirmed that they will provide matched funding to make-up the full purchase and running costs. It was agreed that the benefits to Mint/Sprint residents was significant due to the rural location and especially in bad weather - a generator could keep communications live if there was a power failure or access difficulties for B4MS staff.</p> <p>b. Skelsmergh Baby and Toddler Group - decoration and refurbishment, circulated RESOLVED: To grant a sum of £600 to support the work/items described under item 59/19. Councillors requested that a plaque was displayed in acknowledgment of the PC's donation.</p>	
64/19	<p><u>Review of the Community Plan</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: To defer the item to the next meeting.</p>	
65/19	<p><u>BT payphone removal consultation, information circulated</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: That the payphone should continue to be a resource while/ if BT will provide the service - it is considered a vital component of rural life, especially as it is in an area of poor mobile phone signal. Residents will be consulted for their suggestions on alternative uses for the structure when BT decommission the current service.</p>	
66/19	<p><u>Community Action Plan 2016</u>, update reports on:</p> <p>a. Environment and Community Woodlands:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Litter pick, 27.10.2019 The event was well attended (15 volunteers), with a sizeable amount of litter collected (but less than for previous years) and correctly disposed of. Councillors recognised that progress is being made in changing the culture - regularly removing discarded rubbish seems to establish a 'no-throw' environmental conscience. All the volunteers were thanked. The litter clearing route was confined to the roadsides with wide verges. RESOLVED: Litter-picking will continue on a biannual basis with refreshments. Woodland management and plans for the Working Party, 17.11.2019 Information on the event has been circulated, a basic tree survey report has been commissioned (Tree Skills Ltd). Everyone is welcome. <p>b. Highways and Transport:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Kiln Croft - response to residents' petition, SL Local Committee meeting 28.11.2019 JC has been invited by Mr White to attend and speak in support of the petition at the meeting. A proposal will be made to consider using GrassProtecta mesh as an affordable (indicative costings will be provided), secure and eco option. Funding will need to be clarified, as the PC can only make a limited contribution. Richard Ingram (Cumbria Cycling mayor) was thought to be a potential supportive ally for the project. Bridge repairs - access to Mealbank Industrial Estate 	


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	<p>HM provided an update - it was thought that the recent developments, with Mr Farron's (MP) timely intervention, would enable the repairs to be completed and the road to be operational again by Christmas. The resulting increased repair costs and business hit to Mealbank Estates Ltd from the Environmental Agency's extensive (two months) working timeframe was acknowledged.</p> <p>Action: HM to upload a photographic account of the project/progress on the website.</p> <p>Action: KL to send a 'thank you' letter to Mr Farron for his effective intervention.</p> <p>3. Progress with the highway reinstatement at Gurnal Bridge, <i>linked to item 71/19b</i>. Progress is being made - the bridge has almost been reached. The planting area is marked out and will be covered with grass seed. It was noted that the roads through-out Garth Row had been seriously degraded due to frequent heavy machinery traffic - work to address the road conditions is needed before the project can be signed-off.</p> <p>4. Update on the verge cutting at Garth Row No longer applicable, as all the grass verges (and the drains) have been destroyed by the construction traffic. Cllr Collins gave an assurance that work would be undertaken to make good all the damage before the project is signed-off.</p> <p>5. Update on drain issues: Helm Lane, Otterbank, Joiner's Lane From Cllr Collins: Highways are working through a programme of clearing gullies and connecting drains, to continue in the new year - weather permitting.</p> <p>Action: SC to pursue a resolution for the water draining onto Laverock Bridge road that originates from privately-owned land.</p> <p>c. Communication</p> <p>1. Update on local B4MS connection Project is now approximately two thirds complete. Oakbank are connected. Mealbank is on 'hold' until the bridge is re-opened to traffic; work is being pursued in readiness to connect to the chamber once the bridleway is less busy. The project is likely to be completed in the average time this size of scheme takes to get started, credit was given to all involved.</p> <p>d. Community</p> <p>1. Community Hall Committee meeting - September 2019, <i>report circulated (DS-R)</i> Report noted; the new website (on the horizon) should make online bookings easier. Action: DS-R to attend the next meeting on 20.11.2019.</p>	<p>HM KL</p> <p>SC</p> <p>DS-R</p>												
67/19	<p><u>Items of the next Upper Kent Local Area Partnership (LAP) meeting</u> Date to be confirmed yet; Councillors to inform JC of any items to raise for discussion.</p>													
68/19	<p><u>District Association meeting, 19.09.2019</u> No PC representation, the minutes will be included in the papers for the PC next meeting.</p>													
69/19	<p><u>Feedback on the training events:</u></p> <p>a. Becoming an Effective Member, SLDC - 18.09.2019, Kendal Town Hall JC attended; information was interesting - it was thought to be more relevant for District than Parish Councillors.</p> <p>b. Effective Councillors, CALC - Module 1: 14.10.2019 AB-B attended; it was good to meet Councillors from other parishes. A discussion followed on how to be effective in making members of the public welcome at a PC meeting. Action: KL to order a copy of the Good Councillors guide for AB-B (as part of her induction).</p>	KL												
70/19	<p><u>Finance:</u></p> <p>a. To consider payments to be made as per Clerk's report, report circulated RESOLVED: To make the following payments:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="288 1756 1382 1901"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payee</th> <th>Expenses/Services</th> <th>Amount (£)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Karen Little</td> <td>Clerk's salary 01.10.2019 to 31.11.2019</td> <td>312.43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cumbria Payroll Services</td> <td>Payroll - Clerk's wages (<i>includes VAT</i>)</td> <td>14.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grant</td> <td>B4MS - local emergency generator</td> <td>600.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Payee	Expenses/Services	Amount (£)	Karen Little	Clerk's salary 01.10.2019 to 31.11.2019	312.43	Cumbria Payroll Services	Payroll - Clerk's wages (<i>includes VAT</i>)	14.40	Grant	B4MS - local emergency generator	600.00	
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	Grant	Skelsmergh Baby and Toddler Group - decoration and refurbishment	600.00	
		TOTAL	1,526.83	
	Income received	None		
	Future Commitment	Replacement electrode pads for the Mediana A15 Outdoor Community Package defibrillator due 15.05.2020		
	<p>b. To receive and note the bank reconciliation and 2019-2020 current statement, circulated RESOLVED: Noted; with the previously agreed commitments ~£1.4k is available to fund new projects or support new in-year grant applications.</p> <p>c. To receive an update on the Transparency funding float RESOLVED: Information noted - no change to that reported at the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total remaining transparency funds: £827.28 • Total left in the Clerk's float funds: £90.88 <p>Action: KL to purchase back-up data storage facilities and a scanner from the funds.</p>			KL
71/19	<p>Planning applications</p> <p>a. SL/2019/0743, Land North of Meadowbank Business Park Shap Road KENDAL LA9 6NY. Full application for motor dealership and outline planning application for employment business park. S&SPC: no objection given the planning background; the detailed planning application will be discussed in detail.</p> <p>b. SL/2019/0838, Land adjacent to Gurnal Bridge Lane, Skelsmergh, KENDAL. Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission SL/2019/0113 (re-routing of a section of Gurnal Bridge Lane and associated works). S&SPC: support - the plans agree with the PC's recommendations in consultation with residents.</p>			
72/19	<p>Correspondence highlighted by the Clerk</p> <p>a. Email from Michelle Wiggins (Cumbria Chamber of Commerce), 06.11.2019 RESOLVED: The PC website is not a commercial resource set-up to receive income from advertising. A policy would be needed if this was to change, e.g. if requested by residents.</p>			
73/19	<p>Dates for next meetings (venue: Skelsmergh Community Hall, commencing 7.30pm):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 15 January 2020 • Wednesday 18 March 2020 			
	The Chair thanked Councillors for their contributions and closed the meeting at 21.20.			

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