

# **Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council** Minutes of the Virtual Ordinary Parish Council Meeting (via Zoom) Wednesday 4 November 2020 at 7.30pm

Logged-in:

**Parish Councillors:** 

John Chapman (JC) - Chair

Tim Maggs (TM)

Angela Brand-Barker (AB-B)

Danny Seddon-Roberts (DS-R), arrived during item 44/20

Hermann Moisl (HM)

**County Council Councillor:** 

Not present

South Lakeland District Councillors: Hazel Hodgson (HH)

Clerk:

Karen Little (KL)

**Parish Residents:** 

No local residents attended

Minute Number	Business Item	Lead Persor		
39/20	<u>Welcome and apologies</u> The Chair opening the meeting promptly at 19.30. Apologies from Parish Cllr Freyja Burrill and SLDC Cllr Pat Bell were accepted.			
40/20	Declaration of interests  No interests in any agenda item were declared.			
41/20	Minutes of the previous meeting, circulated  RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 16.09.2020 were confirmed as a true and complete record; the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.			
42/20	Open forum Correspondence had been received from local residents relating to a number (some shared) of concerns for Councillors' attention; it was agreed to deal with related issues in 'bundles'.  a. Highway matters  1. Gurnal Bridge Lane:  • The completed action to address flooding in wet weather is not robust - the problem continues and poses a serious risk of sheet-ice to drivers and pedestrians (it is a much walked lane) in freezing conditions. A resident detailed a simple solution.  • The extensive erosion of the edge of the bitmac wearing course is also an ongoing flooding/ice-risk. The situation was exacerbated by the construction traffic involved in the work to realign the road, and was reported then. No remedial action was taken at that time. A solution was also provided by a resident.  • The previous repair work for a number of potholes was substandard and now requires a quality, permanent solution.  2. Scandale Level and Laverock Bridge to Dodding Presbytery: flooding caused by blocked gullies had 'drowned' a car; water levels at car hub height for ~20-30 meters - this was due to relatively modest rain conditions.			

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### 3. Bridge repairs:

- Mealbank industrial estate bridge the 10 tons weight limit still excludes HGV access to the estate. There are no plans/date scheduled for the repair work to recommence. The traffic pressure through the village has eased up, apart from the HGVs/loads exceeding 10 tons as they have no alternative route into the estate.
- Laverock bridge has been considerably damaged again by vehicle contact. Concerned that the damage was left for many months last time and an inappropriate stone was used to replace the one that was lost. A quick repair was advocated as a much safer and cheaper option this time.

Councillors were very disappointed with the time lag and ineffective fixes from Highways to address all these issues that pose obvious risk to residents' safety and vehicles. It was noted that these issues are live on the Highways carriageway defects map and that CCC/Highways now contract this work out, including project management and prioritisation of all repair work. It was known that Cllr Collins had made personal representation for some of the issues. An accident was waiting to happen, possibly a car could slide on ice and go over the edge, resulting in considerable expense to repair and compensate for the resulting damage.

**Action:** HH offered to send another 'reminder' to Highways to take action.

HH

# b. Glacial geological features, Stephenson Trust field

The Chair updated that the agents for Trust were now pursuing the restoration of these 'boulders', which are reported to have been moved to the Benson Hall yard. From information received, it is understood that Mr Ladds had removed them after losing a calf it became trapped in between them and broke its leg. To restore the character, geology and historical significance, Mr Ladds has been asked to return them, with a slight rearrangement to their positioning to avoid a future hazard to cattle. This is expected once the land conditions have firmed up. Update requested at the next meeting.

KL

#### **Matters Arising from the Minutes** 43/20

 Website accessibility/training - the Clerk reported that there is a lot to research and consider. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

KL

# 44/20

# Standing CV-19 Related Agenda items, info provided

- a. To consider the arrangements for the next meeting (face to face or virtual), info provided
- IC: A request has been made to restore face to face Parish Council meetings. **RESOLVED:** For safety reasons it was unanimously agreed to continue virtual meetings indefinitely - until confirmation is given that the CV19 risk has abated. Councillors are pleased with the ease that technology enables effective, inclusive and accessible public meetings.

# b. To consider whether an Annual meeting is required before 07.05.2021

HH: Currently SLDC is requesting proposals to create a new single tier authority for the area which will be responsible for local government functions. A consultation will follow, all residents will be asked to vote on their preferred option. A Parish annual meeting could provide an opportunity for local detailed discussion.

JC: The consultation is recognised as important - parishioners can reply individually and independently of an annual meeting.

**RESOLVED:** It was unanimously agreed that there was no need to call an Annual parish meeting before May 2021. Development with the unitary proposals will be reported in

45/20

# Formal Announcements by the Chair

a. Co-option of new Councillor (Scalthwaiterigg ward)

Signed: Cllr John Chapman, PC Chair 13.1.21

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No progress to report; efforts at recruitment will continue to be made.					
46/20 Update on Industrial Noise - Oakbank, info provided					
No further correspondence has been received.					
47/20 Grant applications					
No grant applications have been received.					
New Community Plan Developments					
Cllr Seddon-Roberts reported that little progress has been made, communication and a	ctions				
are limited by the current CV-19 social distancing requirements. One suggestion (from 0					
Chapman) was received with interest - to offer a grant to plant other tree species to rep					
ash trees at risk of dieback in parish hedgerows over a five-year period. The replacement					
trees could be grown-on from local seedlings in the Parish Woodland. This was thought	a				
good fit with both local and national environmental aspirations and challenges.					
Action: JC to draft a detailed proposal on feasibility, and if appropriate, to use this to se					
local views and support for funding and commitment to the project.					
HH: Advised that electronic methods, e.g. survey Monkey were being used by nearby p	arish				
Councils for consultation projects.	nts				
<b>RESOLVED:</b> It was agreed that communications re the new Community Plan with reside	iits				
should be involve an initial request for their ideas/suggestions/offers of help, followed-	Jb				
with a formal consultation on the proposed alternative projects.	п				
49/20 Progress with the Community Action Plan					
a. Environment and Community Woodlands:					
<ol> <li>Woodlands working party</li> <li>JC: Will pursue a 'modest' working party - a date will be agreed with previous</li> </ol>					
volunteers by contacting them individually, to coincide with favourable weath	er.				
Confirmed that no date has been set for Mr Elbourne's tree felling day; this wi					
be completed within this financial year - money has been committed for this.					
2. Litter sweep - Sunday 25 October 2020					
JC: Well done and thank you to the 15 volunteers who collected a total of 13 bags	of				
rubbish. Their help was much appreciated to keep on top of the ongoing litter	pile-up.				
3. Gurnal Bridge new licence					
JC: The agents have been contacted; there is no progress to produce the new lices	ice.				
4. Boulders missing from Skelsmergh fields, info provided					
Covered during the Open Forum item.					
b. Highways and Transport:					
<ol> <li>Mealbank bridge and road repairs - HGV access to the industrial site</li> </ol>					
New damage to Laverock Bridge, info provided					
Both of the above two items were covered during the Open Forum item.					
3. Manhole cover on A6 verge, <i>info provided</i>					
The broken cover was reported to Highways, this is a potentially serious hazar					
pedestrians, particularly in failing light or darkness. Early remedial action is ess Report next meeting.	KL				
c. Communication	KL				
Parish Council contacts list - response to email circulation of PC meeting agence	а				
KL: Reported that this meeting's agenda had been circulated to all email addresse	l l				
the list. Positive responses have been received, which enabled more contribut	1				
the meeting. There were a few names removed - people who had left the area					
RESOLVED: That the email list should continue to be used to inform/invite resi					
contributions to future PC meetings. Also, for the Clerk/Cllrs to encourage resi	dents				
to advise their neighbours to also register to be on the contacts list - to extend	1				

Signed Cllr John Chapman, PC Chair

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outreach into the Parish.

2. Update on B4MS

TM: Garth Row went live last week; a few outliers will be connected over the next few weeks, depending on the wave leave authorisations. Grayrigg is the next project.

PC website Accessibility statement for publishing RESOLVED: Item deferred to the next meeting.

# d. Community

Coronavirus - impact on Parish
 No adversities reported in any local area. JC was contacted as a point of reference to
 help with shopping for a housebound lady in Kendal. The list was corrected after he
 explained his remit area.

# 50/20 | Finance:

a. To consider payments to be made as per Clerk's report, circulated RESOLVED: To authorise the payments as follows:

Payee	Expenses/Services	Amount (£)
Karen Little	Clerk's salary 01.10.2020 to 31.11.2020 (4hrs/week)	406.32
Cumbria Payroll Services	Payroll - Clerk's wages (includes VAT)	14.40
HMRC	PAYE, Clerk's salary November 2020	23.20
	Total payments	443.92
Income received	None since the last report	
Future	Replacement electrode pads for the Mediana A15	
Commitment due 15.05.2021	Outdoor Community Package defibrillator	

- b. To note the bank reconciliation and the predicted 2020-2021 year-end position With the allocations as identified, £1.5k is available to support in-year projects, or as carry-over. However, if these allocations are not required or not actioned at the next meetings, then the carry forward will be nearer to £4.5k. There have been savings made due to CV-19, e.g. no hall hire costs as meetings have been virtual; no training or social gatherings as these events have been cancelled.
- c. To discuss and agree investment for this financial year
  Following the decision last year to raise the precept in line with inflation, the Council now needs to direct the use of this money into local projects that residents will benefit from.
  Originally, the intention was to have spending power to support items identified through the review of the Community Plan. Opportunities have been more limited than expected due to the CV-19 pandemic. Currently, the only project for consideration is the ash tree replacement suggestion which is not yet in draft form, with a number of unknowns that may be 'show-stoppers'.
- Q: Can the Kilncroft footpath be revived?
- JC: This remains on hold due to unaffordable contributions to (percentage of) the total costs that the Parish is required to make. No response has been received to residents' petition and/or the presentation to the CCC local area meeting that the PC (Cllr Chapman) supported in person. All enquires for a cycle path have made no progress to date we await Cllr Collins' update.
- HH: Offered to explore if the resources at SLDC could help/advise with the process to seek funding/project plans to develop a cycle pathway. Report at next meeting.
  - d. To discuss and agree next year's precept RESOLVED: Following a discussion of everyone's views, it was agreed that all Councillors would think deeply on possible appropriate development projects to invest in, to be included in the Community Plan, and how best to set next year's precept to fund new

Signed: Cllr John Chapman, PC Chair

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