

**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 Person
39/20	<b><u>Welcome and apologies</u></b> The Chair opening the meeting promptly at 19.30. Apologies from Parish Cllr Freyja Burrill and SLDC Cllr Pat Bell were accepted.	
40/20	<b><u>Declaration of interests</u></b> No interests in any agenda item were declared.	
41/20	<b><u>Minutes of the previous meeting, circulated</u></b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> 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	<b><u>Open forum</u></b> 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'. <b>a. Highway matters</b> 1. Gurnal Bridge Lane: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• The previous repair work for a number of potholes was substandard and now requires a quality, permanent solution.</li></ul> 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.	

Signed:   
Cllr John Chapman, PC Chair

Date: 13.1.21.....



	No progress to report; efforts at recruitment will continue to be made.	
46/20	<b>Update on Industrial Noise - Oakbank, info provided</b> No further correspondence has been received.	
47/20	<b>Grant applications</b> No grant applications have been received.	
48/20	<p><b>New Community Plan Developments</b></p> <p>Cllr Seddon-Roberts reported that little progress has been made, communication and actions are limited by the current CV-19 social distancing requirements. One suggestion (from Cllr Chapman) was received with interest - to offer a grant to plant other tree species to replace 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.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> JC to draft a detailed proposal on feasibility, and if appropriate, to use this to seek local views and support for funding and commitment to the project.</p> <p>HH: Advised that electronic methods, e.g. survey Monkey were being used by nearby parish Councils for consultation projects.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> It was agreed that communications re the new Community Plan with residents should be involve an initial request for their ideas/suggestions/offers of help, followed-up with a formal consultation on the proposed alternative projects.</p>	JC
49/20	<p><b>Progress with the Community Action Plan</b></p> <p><b>a. Environment and Community Woodlands:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Woodlands working party JC: Will pursue a 'modest' working party - a date will be agreed with previous volunteers by contacting them individually, to coincide with favourable weather. Confirmed that no date has been set for Mr Elbourne's tree felling day; this will be completed within this financial year - money has been committed for this.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Gurnal Bridge new licence JC: The agents have been contacted; there is no progress to produce the new licence.</li> <li>Boulders missing from Skelsmergh fields, <i>info provided</i> Covered during the Open Forum item.</li> </ol> <p><b>b. Highways and Transport:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mealbank bridge and road repairs - HGV access to the industrial site</li> <li>New damage to Laverock Bridge, <i>info provided</i> Both of the above two items were covered during the Open Forum item.</li> <li>Manhole cover on A6 verge, <i>info provided</i> The broken cover was reported to Highways, this is a potentially serious hazard to pedestrians, particularly in failing light or darkness. Early remedial action is essential. Report next meeting.</li> </ol> <p><b>c. Communication</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish Council contacts list - response to email circulation of PC meeting agenda KL: Reported that this meeting's agenda had been circulated to all email addresses on the list. Positive responses have been received, which enabled more contribution to the meeting. There were a few names removed - people who had left the area. <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the email list should continue to be used to inform/invite residents' contributions to future PC meetings. Also, for the Clerk/Cllrs to encourage residents to advise their neighbours to also register to be on the contacts list - to extend</li> </ol>	KL

Signed:  .....  
Cllr John Chapman, PC Chair

Date: 13.11.21 .....

- 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.
3. PC website Accessibility statement for publishing  
**RESOLVED:** Item deferred to the next meeting.
- d. Community**
1. 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
	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>443.92</b>
Income received	None since the last report	
Future Commitment due 15.05.2021	Replacement electrode pads for the Mediana A15 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

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