



Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council
Minutes of the Virtual Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 16 September 2020 at 7.30pm

Logged-in:

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

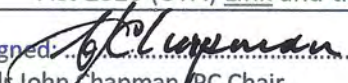
County Council Councillor: Stan Collins (SC)

South Lakeland District Councillors: Pat Bell (PB)

Clerk: Karen Little (KL)


Parish Residents: One local resident was present

Minute Number	Business Item	Lead Person
25/20	<u>Welcome and apologies</u> The Chair opening the meeting (on Zoom) promptly at 19.30.	
26/20	<u>Declaration of interests</u> No interests in any agenda item were declared.	
27/20	<u>Minutes of the previous meeting, circulated</u> RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 22.07.2020 were confirmed as a true and complete record; the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.	
28/20	<u>Open forum</u> Matters raised: 1. Industrial noise disturbance to residents in the Oakbank area emanating from Burneside Paper Mill continues. The Parish Council's support was requested to help address this. <i>Cllr JC declared an interest in this item - this item was chaired by the PC Vice Chair - HM.</i> A resident of Oakbank explained the details of the ongoing problems. A complaint had been made to the company and the Environmental Health Team about a year ago; the Parish Council were informed at the January 2020 meeting. During the lockdown period there was a lull, but once the CV-19 restrictions were lifted, the noise resumed and is now continuous throughout the day and night and intrusive. Residents find the noise is interfering with their sleep and relaxation, and consider that, with the monitoring data they have provided and the time which has since gone by, the problem ought now to have been resolved. RESOLVED: To support residents by formally requesting on their behalf that active measures are adopted to reduce the noise to an acceptable level or, better still, to eliminate it altogether, and to inform SLDC and local district councillors of the situation. 2. The feasibility for returning to open public Parish Council meetings held in Skelsmergh Community Hall. KL: Advice received from CALC (Samantha Bagshaw) - statutory regulations (the Coronavirus Act 2020 (CVA) Link and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)	KL

Signed: 
 Cllr John Chapman, PC Chair

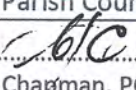
Date: 16.09.20

	<p>(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (Regulations) Link) that became active on 04.04.2020 enable local authorities to hold virtual business meetings up to 07.05.2021 with members of the public invited to participate remotely. Councillors need to be clear why a face to face meeting is required, when they have the statute to hold safe remote public meetings. The nature of the CV-19 virus means that safety can be easily compromised and the risk can quickly escalate. Councillors reported that they found the zoom meetings to be effective and safe, the technology had proved to be very straightforward and successful for both Councillors and members of the public to join/contribute to the meeting. It was also noted that face to face meetings would unduly burden the Clerk with the administration of risk assessments requiring both pre- and post-meeting actions in response.</p> <p>PB: Where would the PC stand if it went against CALC's safety advice if there was a local CV-19 spike found to originate from a public PC meeting? RESOLVED: That Parish Council meetings will continue to be held remotely until further notice, with a CV-19 risk assessment at each meeting to agree the future arrangements.</p> <p>3. Use of the parish database of email addresses to circulate information about future Parish Council meetings, to promote attendance and/or more feedback from residents.</p> <p>KL: Advice received from CALC (Samantha Bagshaw) was that personal email addresses can be used if individuals had given their consent for their personal emails to be used for this specific purpose.</p> <p>HM: Confirmed that all email addresses had been given on the basis that these would be used to notify of future PC events, with the intention that individuals would attend or contribute to the event in whatever was the most convenient way for them. RESOLVED: All personal emails on the PC database will be sent the short agenda for future PC meetings and Zoom log-in details, with encouragement for individuals to join the meeting or send in any items for consideration under the 'Open Form' item.</p> <p>4. Highways update</p> <p>SC: New money has been made available to resurface Cumbria roads and for drain repairs. Contractors will be commissioned to undertake the work; this is in addition to the routine SLDC leaf-sweep of major routes that are prone to leaf blockages. Residents are also encouraged to address small-scale blockages by their own means. The challenge will be to complete/spend the money in this financial year - quite a tight timescale.</p> <p>Q. Could the new money be used to create a new footpath from Kiln Croft towards Kendal? SC: There is strict criteria that dictates the use of the new money - the priority is to improve the conditions of the roads, especially in adverse (freezing/wet) weather. A new footpath doesn't meet the specifications.</p> <p>JC: We hope we can count on County and District Councillors' support for the footpath if future circumstances allow the development to proceed.</p> <p>FB: Financial support for a cycle path/pedestrian development to link the potential new roundabout to Dalesway is more likely, as this is eco-friendly and promotes good health. Action: Councillors and the public are urged to report highway improvements via the CCC Highways hot line, including structural repairs to embankments and culverts to have them included in the repair work programme for this financial year.</p> <p><i>SC and the local resident left the meeting at this point.</i></p>	<p>HM</p> <p>All Cllrs</p>
29/20	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes:</p> <p>a. Update on item 16/20 - Mealbank Road</p> <p>HM: The Mealbank industrial estate owner has confirmed that works to strengthen the bridge to allow heavy goods vehicles to cross into the estate will commence shortly for two-weeks. Mealbank residents have agreed for the current situation to continue until the bridge work has been completed, after which work to restore the bridleway/road will</p>	

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Date: 4.11.20

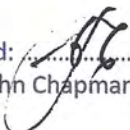
	start. Mealbank Estates will be contributing to the cost of this. Update at the next meeting.	
30/20	<p>Formal Announcements by the Chair</p> <p>a. Co-option of new Councillor (Scalthwaiterigg ward), vacancy posters circulated Actions to date have not identified confirmed interest - activities will continue.</p> <p>b. To consider whether an Annual meeting is required before 07.05.2021 RESOLVED: There is no change since the last meeting that indicates a need to hold an AGM before the next ordinary PC meeting. To be reviewed again in November.</p>	
31/20	<p>Grant applications</p> <p>KL: An application has been received from a Mealbank resident requesting £300 to coppice and chip the trees on the wildlife patch in Mealbank. These are now grown to the extent that they are interfering with the telephone wires and extending over the boundary wall. Advice from CALC (Samantha Bagshaw) is that public money is not to be used for projects that will benefit private landlords. Previously a small grant was given to develop this wildlife patch - the ownership of the site was then unknown/unclaimed.</p> <p>HM: The landowner of this site is now confirmed as the Mealbank Industrial Estate. RESOLVED: To refuse this application to comply with the advice received from CALC.</p>	
32/20	<p>Recommendations for the next steps to develop a new Community Plan, (DS-R & FB)</p> <p>An update report was provided by DS-R and FB. The next step would ideally be a face to face survey to actively engage parishioners in discussing and agreeing the priority developments for the next few years. With the CV-19 situation, other options will need to be considered. There are some items that are ongoing, and activities have commenced to develop new initiatives - FB has contacted Sustrans to discuss the potential interest/ support for a cycle path. HM advised that the current numbers on the PC database (if they all replied) would be a statistically sufficient sample size for an electronic survey.</p> <p>JC: Thanked DS-R and FB for their time and diligence to lead this work. Action: All councillors are encouraged to contribute to the update report, for discussion of next steps at the next meeting.</p>	All Cllrs
33/20	<p>Progress with the Community Action Plan 2016</p> <p>a. Environment and Community Woodlands:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Woodlands maintenance - quote for a day's felling from Scott Elbourne, Tree skills RESOLVED: To approve the quote for £180; there is potential for this expense to be recouped through the sale of firewood generated from the felling. 2. Woodlands Working Party JC will organise a Working Party when/if it is safe to do so (dependent on the CV-19 situation) after the dry-stone wall repairs are finished. 3. Litter sweep - confirmed for Sunday 25 October 2020, <i>poster circulated</i> Risk assessments have been completed; the maximum group size will be six (as per current CV-19 requirements). All volunteers welcomed. 4. Gurnal Bridge new licence - recommendations from JC & TM Involves discussion with a third party. RESOLVED: To defer to the next meeting - update report will be given. <p>b. Highways and Transport:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress with the highway reinstatement at Gurnal Bridge, <i>attached</i> TM: Highways have been informed of the concerns relating to the narrow verge. 2. Meal bank landslide - Laverock Bridge Lane AB-B: The situation has been stabilised, currently no further issues. 3. Kiln Croft path Nothing to add; FB's contact with Sustrans to explore developing a cycle path noted. <p>c. Communication</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parish Council contacts list 	

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	<p>Ongoing updates made as received; development reported under 28/20, point 3.</p> <p>2. Update on B4MS TM is now co-ordinating the details. Central Garth Row is expected to be live in three weeks time. Connection is available in Mealbank.</p> <p>3. Welcome pack for new residents, <i>circulated for the meeting</i> JC has delivered packs to eleven new householders. The Clerk will arrange packs to be delivered if informed when new residents move into the parish.</p> <p>4. PC Website accessibility compliance, 23.09.2020, Link to regulations</p> <p>i. Basic Check, Link to criteria</p> <p>ii. Plan to fix any problems - KL has completed a website audit, noting all expired or information gaps and inactive hyperlinks.</p> <p>iii. Accessibility statement for publishing, Link to sample</p> <p>RESOLVED: The reference information was noted; a simple statement will be published on the S&S PC to say that practical and reasonable (relating to the PC's precept) steps have been taken to ensure the website is accessible to all. The PC welcomes feedback from anyone experiencing access difficulties to make improvements, as required. All out of date events/items are to be archived and all hyperlinks to be made good.</p> <p>d. Community</p> <p>1. Coronavirus - impact on Parish Councillors confirmed that they have not received any formal requests to support difficult situations arising as a result of the virus. It was thought by all that the parish has not been seriously affected so far.</p>																									
34/20	<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" data-bbox="252 981 1388 1393"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payee</th> <th>Expenses/Services</th> <th>Amount (£)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Karen Little</td> <td>Clerk's salary 01.08.2020 to 30.09.2020 (4hrs/week)</td> <td>406.12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cumbria Payroll Services</td> <td>Payroll - Clerk's wages (includes VAT)</td> <td>14.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>PAYE, Clerk's salary September 2020</td> <td>23.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SLDC</td> <td>Parish Council election costs 2019-2020</td> <td>97.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Total payments</td> <td>541.42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income received</td> <td>None since the last report</td> <td></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 the current 2020-2021 year-end carry forward ~£1.5k remains available to support in-year projects (<i>report circulated in advance</i>). Action: Cllrs to propose appropriate spend of the available funding at the next meeting.</p> <p>c. To note and consider the NJC new pay scales from 01.04.2020 (Clerk is on point 17, LC1) RESOLVED: To award the national pay increase to be added to the Clerk's salary, back dated to 01.04.2020.</p>	Payee	Expenses/Services	Amount (£)	Karen Little	Clerk's salary 01.08.2020 to 30.09.2020 (4hrs/week)	406.12	Cumbria Payroll Services	Payroll - Clerk's wages (includes VAT)	14.40	HMRC	PAYE, Clerk's salary September 2020	23.40	SLDC	Parish Council election costs 2019-2020	97.50		Total payments	541.42	Income received	None since the last report		Future Commitment due 15.05.2021	Replacement electrode pads for the Mediana A15 Outdoor Community Package defibrillator		All Cllrs
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35/20	<p>Partnership meetings:</p> <p>a. District Association, Thursday 17.09.2020, 7.30pm JC to attend; papers have been distributed.</p> <p>b. Local Area Partnership meetings - Upper Kent LAP No details or plans to meet have been received.</p> <p>c. Cenacolo, letter dated 05.09.2020 circulated for the meeting RESOLVED: The temporary closure of the Dodding Green House (residents will relocate to Knock, Ireland) due to the low number of residents was noted. Plans to hold the annual</p>																									

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	local meeting are now cancelled. Councillors questioned the arrangements for the animals currently on site - these details have not been provided.	
36/20	<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&S PC: no objection given the planning background. <i>SLDC: No decision.</i></p> <p>b. SL/2019/1032, Holme House Farm, Skelsmergh, KENDAL. Demolition of existing buildings and erection of five dwellings. S&S PC: support - this is a renewal of the outline consent - the detail is still to come. <i>SLDC: No decision.</i></p> <p>PB: The delays in planning applications may be due to the home working and other effects of CV-19 on the decision process.</p> <p>c. SL/2020/0373, Land Adjacent Ladyford, Gilthwaiterigg Lane, KENDAL. Erection of bungalow and detached double garage. PC: objects as it is isolated development without an essential need unrelated to the existing development at Ladyford. As such, if approved, it would likely set an unwelcome precedent for scattered development in open country. <i>Application withdrawn.</i></p> <p>d. SL/2020/0543, Damson House Skelsmergh KENDAL LA9 6NX. Standalone solar panel installation. PC: No objection.</p> <p>e. SL/2020/0494, Buildings North West of Skelsmergh Hall, Skelsmergh, KENDAL. Extension to dwelling to create garage with external seating area above. PC: No objection.</p> <p>f. SL/2020/0421 Mill Raise, Mealbank, KENDAL LA8 9DW. Formation of menage for private use and associated access track. PC: No objection.</p> <p>g. SL/2020/0571 Patton Hall Farm, Patton, KENDAL. Removal of Condition 4 (opening season) attached to planning permissions SL/2015/0275 (Relocation of an agricultural barn and siting of nine static caravans to form extension of existing caravan park with extended access drive, a parking space for each unit and installation of foul water drainage treatment system and extensive further tree planting). PC: No comment.</p> <p>h. SL/2020/0638 Patton Hall Farm, Patton, KENDAL. Removal of Condition 2 (opening season) attached to planning permissions SL/2004/0665 (Variation of condition no.6 on planning consent 5/03/0100 re: closed season). PC: No comment.</p> <p>i. SL/2020/0639 Patton Hall Farm, Patton, KENDAL. Removal of condition 3 (opening season) attached to planning permissions SL/2006/0860 (Caravan site for eight static caravans including installation of septic tank). PC: No comment.</p>	
37/20	<p>Correspondence highlighted by the Clerk</p> <p>a. SLDC Climate change community funding (<i>application deadline 28.09.2020</i>), Link RESOLVED: Funding source noted; considered for the Kiln Croft footpath, but PC unable to provide the matched funds required.</p> <p>b. Planning for the Future - white paper & consultation (<i>replies before 29.10.2020</i>) RESOLVED: Agreed it was unlikely that the proposals will impact on this parish.</p>	
38/20	<p>Dates for next meetings (virtual until confirmed otherwise), commencing 7.30pm: Wednesday 4 November 2020; Wednesday 13 January 2021 and Wednesday 10 March 2021. The Chair concluded the business of the meeting by thanking everyone for their virtual attendance and contributions. Councillors thanked the Chair for the efficient and effective chairing that enabled a successful meeting. The meeting was formally closed at 21.00.</p>	

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