



Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14 November 2018
at Skelsmergh Community Hall, 7.30pm

Present:

Parish Councillors:

John Chapman (JC) - Chair
Mary Chapman (MC)
Hermann Moisl (HM)
Claire Maclaine (CM)
Freyja Burrell (FB)

Cumbria County Councillor:

Stan Collins (SC)

South Lakeland District Councillors:

Hazel Hodgson (HH)
Anne Hutton (AH)

Members of the public in attendance:

No members of the public

Clerk:

Karen Little (KL)

Minute Number	Business Item	Lead Person
55/18	<u>Welcome and Apologies</u> The Chair opened the meeting. Apologies were received from, and consent given to, Parish Councillors Danny Seddon-Roberts and Tim Maggs. The meeting was quorate. SLDC Cllr Pat Bell sent her apologies.	
56/18	<u>Declaration of Interests</u> No declarations were made.	
57/18	<u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u> RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish meeting on 12 September 2018 were confirmed as a true and complete record, and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.	
58/18	<u>Open Forum</u> Updates were received on highway issues from Cllr Collins – reported under item 62/18b below. New issues were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy rain is causing flooding for Mealbank residents living below Ponderosa – could the drain grid be increased to be more effective in channelling the water away from the houses? • Below Otterbank on the A6, blocked gulleys could cause a danger spot for traffic after heavy rain. Action 1: SC to ask Highways to increase the Mealbank drain and the District Cllrs to ask for Otterbank to be included in SLDC's leaf sweeping/gully unblocking schedule as a priority matter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ragwort issue on the A6 was reported too late in the season for an effective response; next year a concerted community effort (in view of the wide spread problem) is needed before July (when the seeds are formed) to limit the problem. 	SC
59/18	<u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u> a. Update on Mealbank weir (CM) From CM: no response received from 'Becks to Bay'/SCRT; deferred to the next meeting. b. Website training CALC website training is not applicable (Word press); HTML code training maybe available from Carlisle College. Action 2: KL to pursue HTML web site training.	KL
60/18	<u>Formal Announcements by the Chair</u> No announcements were made.	
61/18	<u>Grant Applications</u> Bowling mats - grant application from Mrs Richardson, approved 14.03.2018 (minute 90/17a).	

Signed:

Date:

16.1.2019

RESOLVED: As the full cost of new mats has now been raised through grant applications, Councillors agreed to release the money previously agreed (£500).

62/18

Community Action Plan 2016

a. Environment and Community Woodlands:

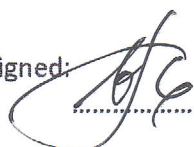
1. Report from the Environment Group (MC), *circulated with the agenda.*
 - The Litter Clear-up Day (14.10.2018) went well; volunteers were thanked for their efficiency and commitment. About 20 bags were collected (lower than previous days, with less volunteers on the day, although it was noted that some residents help on other days). SLDC provided equipment and disposed of the litter, as usual.
 - The Countryside Access Team have been informed about the missing/damaged finger posts (Benson Hall, Laverock Farm and Low Groves).
 - Future events: the Parish Walk is scheduled for 02.12.2018; the Woodland Working Party will meet on 18.11.2018 and 09.12.2018.
 - Continuing local inappropriate agricultural practice was discussed as a contributory factor to the absence/reduction in wildlife (e.g. hedgehogs, swallows, tree sparrows, cuckoos, peewit, curlews). This is an ongoing item of concern to the Group.
 - The next meeting will be in March 2019.
2. Woodlands Management
RESOLVED: To accept the quote provided (£180) for a day's work to fell trees as marked, and chop into firewood. £200 has been committed; income from the sale of the firewood and honey will offset some of this expense.

b. Highways and Transport:

1. Update on Laverock Bridge HGV access
JC: As resolved at the September 2018 Parish meeting - road signs prohibiting HGVs at the two junctions for Laverock off the Appleby Road are considered the best use of resources and less inconvenience for residents and deliveries to the Mealbank industrial estate.
SC: The views of the Parish Council will be included in the discussion at tomorrow's full SLDC Council meeting.
2. Highway repairs
 - Helm Lane – the drainage problems (by the post box near the A6) continue.
SC: Highways now have new road repair equipment. An ambitious schedule is being planned for next year – hopefully prioritising work to resolve the risk of flooding to domestic/business premises, followed by general drainage and pothole repairs. Engineering work to repair the collapsed drain on Helm Lane will be included in the work schedule for 2019.
 - Joiner's Lane (Garth Row)
SC: Has been completed.
JC: Further problems in Garth Row are evident – there is a fracture down the centre of the southern access road opposite Strawberry Bank.
Action 3: SC to include the issues on Helm Lane and Garth Row in ongoing discussions with the Highways team.
3. Progress with highway reinstatement at Gurnal Bridge, Garth Row
SC: The County Council is in negotiation with the landowner to build a new road; a number of options are being considered. Confirmed unequivocally that the bridge will be re-opened. Discussion continues to secure the river bank with rock armour and minimise future damage to Gurnal Bridge prevent.
JC: The Parish Council are the licence holder (contract with the Stephenson Trust) for the wedge of land beside Gurnal bridge.

SC

Signed:

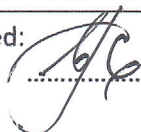


Date:

16.1.2019

	<p>HM: No response has been received to the circulated flyers inviting residents to join the contacts list. The list is growing as a result of personal conversations on an individual basis.</p> <p>2. Update on B4MS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mealbank is almost ready to go: wayleaves and digging dates are confirmed. Kiln Croft has made very good progress and will be live on 20.11.2018. Oakbank are undertaking fresh negotiations for the wayleave agreements with land owners. A residents' meeting is scheduled for the following evening to discuss progress and alternative options. <p>d. Community: There will be a community event in the Hall before Christmas; possible involving the Bowston Brewery. Date and details to be confirmed.</p>																									
63/18	<p>Upper Kent Local Area Partnership (LAP)</p> <p>The LAPs are in abeyance - there are no administrators following the SLDC reorganisation. MC has written to John Heap expressing concerns that the benefits of local partnership working will be lost with the demise of the LAPs. This is particularly significant now that the SLDC Local Important Project (LIP) grant scheme is operational again.</p> <p>Action 4: MC to seek clarity on SLDC's future plans/support for the LAPs.</p>	MC																								
64/18	<p>District Association meeting, 20.09.2018, report provided by MC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of the 'Great Place: Lakes and Dales initiative' (presentation) is to change the local demographics by attracting more young people, families and businesses to the area. The SLDC reorganisation will continue into 2019; on-line services are expected to be more efficient and enable ~ £1.5m savings/year. Jobs/posts will be lost in the process. Faults with the new Highways system were discussed - reports have been deleted before repair work has been completed. Highways will give a presentation at the next meeting. <p>RESOLVED: FB and/or JC to attend the next meeting on 29.11.2018, 7pm at Gilpin Bridge.</p>																									
65/18	<p>Skelsmergh Community Hall Management meeting, 19.09.2018, report from MC circulated with the agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The budget is healthy, funds will be used to provide a new bar – the first event will be this year. There is a new webmaster (Heather Fitzsimons); hall bookings will now be through Paypal. It was resolved that the Hall and Church would apply for a B4MS connection. Installing a nappy disposal unit on site is being investigated. It was agreed to have the microphone available for all meetings. A suggestion to display a calendar of weekly bookings in the hall (as well as on the hall website) is being looked into. The next meeting is on 09.01.2019. 																									
66/18	<p>Finance:</p> <p>a. To consider payments to be made as per Clerk's report:</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 01.10.2018 to 30.11.2018</td> <td>312.43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CVS</td> <td>Payroll - Clerk's wages</td> <td>21.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grant</td> <td>Bowling club, minute 90/17a (14.03.2018) - new mats</td> <td>500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mary Chapman</td> <td>Flags - Memorial Exhibition in Skelsmergh Community Hall, November 2018</td> <td>76.92</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td>910.35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income received</td> <td>None</td> <td>0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payment committed</td> <td>Grant: Woodland maintenance, Minute no: 16/18c</td> <td>180.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>b. To receive and note the bank reconciliation and 2018-2019 year end statement, attached The bank reconciliation was noted. Before the above payments and commitments, the predicted year-end position is a carry forward of £533.24.</p> <p>c. To receive an update on the Transparency funding float</p>	Payee	Expenses/Services	Amount (£)	Karen Little	Clerk's salary 01.10.2018 to 30.11.2018	312.43	CVS	Payroll - Clerk's wages	21.00	Grant	Bowling club, minute 90/17a (14.03.2018) - new mats	500.00	Mary Chapman	Flags - Memorial Exhibition in Skelsmergh Community Hall, November 2018	76.92		Total	910.35	Income received	None	0.00	Payment committed	Grant: Woodland maintenance, Minute no: 16/18c	180.00	
Payee	Expenses/Services	Amount (£)																								
Karen Little	Clerk's salary 01.10.2018 to 30.11.2018	312.43																								
CVS	Payroll - Clerk's wages	21.00																								
Grant	Bowling club, minute 90/17a (14.03.2018) - new mats	500.00																								
Mary Chapman	Flags - Memorial Exhibition in Skelsmergh Community Hall, November 2018	76.92																								
	Total	910.35																								
Income received	None	0.00																								
Payment committed	Grant: Woodland maintenance, Minute no: 16/18c	180.00																								

Signed:



Date:

16.1.2019

Payee	Expenses/Services	Amount (£)
Qualsafe.com	Mediana HeartOn A15 AED Defibrillation Pads Minute no: 17/18d.	358.14
	Total remaining in the float	441.86
	Total remaining for spend – Transparency Funding	1120.12

d. To discuss next year's precept

Discussion points included:

- Historically the PC has invested in savings rather than committing funds to local projects, so with an ongoing surplus there was no need to increase the precept.
- If the principle of annually increasing the precept in line with inflation is not adopted, the value of the spending power will decrease year on year.
- There are a number of local projects that the PC would like to commit to, some on an ongoing basis, and some as a one-off contribution. All projects that have been/will be supported are compliant with the objectives of the PC Community Action Plan 2016 (which was developed in consultation with residents).
- The statutory limit of the PC's discretionary spend is: 352 (number of electors in the parish) x £7.86 = £2,767.
- It is difficult to predict/get a sense of local projects that will benefit the local community, and how much we have to allocate after covering the statutory PC operational costs.

RESOLVED:

- **Action 5:** JC, MH and KL will meet to draft a 2019-2020 precept proposal and outline spending proposal to discuss at the next PC meeting.
- To hold a coffee morning before the AGM in May 2019 (note PC elections will be held again in May) to involve local residents in setting the precept for the following year and developing a two-year grant allocation plan.

JC,
HM
& KL

67/18

Planning Applications

- a. **SL/2018/0048 Dodding Green Dodding Holme Mealbank** LA8 9DH, installation of 16 lighting bollards (approx. 1 metre high) with weatherproof power sockets for driveway lighting, illumination of existing sign and provision of electric sockets to enable temporary external lighting. PC: object - light pollution. *SLDC: Permit with three conditions.*
- b. **SL/2018/0725, Buildings North West of Skelsmergh Hall, Skelsmergh, KENDAL**, Change of use and alterations to workshop (Class B2) to form domestic extension to Unit 1, change of use of land to the north to form parking and garden, erection of detached garden room and siting of LPG tank, change of use of land to garden and installation of balconies, decking and steps to rear of units 1-4. PC: no objection. The retention of a workshop in this development is neither here nor there after the approved change of use to dwellings and cartilages. A garden room would not be out of place provided that it is strictly conditioned for incidental use only. *SLDC: Permit with four conditions.*

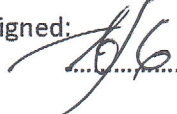
68/18

Correspondence Highlighted by the Clerk

- a. Working together briefing – Highways maintenance, *information circulated.*
RESOLVED: Information noted, no action required.
- b. Community governance review, *information online:* <https://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/electoral-reviews/community-governance-review/>
Councillors have received information on the SLDC governance review; the consultation ended on 09.11.2018. This parish's demographic make-up and needs remains static.
RESOLVED: No response was made by the Parish Council, it was thought the current constitution aptly represents the local community. No changes are needed.

69/18

Dates for Future Meetings (venue: Skelsmergh Community Hall, commencing 7.30pm)
Wednesday 16.01.2019 and Wednesday 13.03.2019.
The Chair thanked Councillors for their contributions and closed the meeting at 21.30.

Signed: 

Date: 16.1.2019