



Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council  
Ordinary Meeting Minutes  
27.11.2025 At Skelsmergh Community Hall

Present                      John Chapman, Chair, (JC)  
Councillors                Angela Brand-Barker, (ABB), Mick Crozier, (MC), Tim Maggs. (TM), Chris  
   Loynes, (CL)  
Clerk                         Ron Anderson

Minute no:

- 53/25                      **Welcome and apologies.** No apologies were received. The chair welcomed four parishioners to the meeting
- 54/25                      **Declarations of Interest** Councillors were reminded of the need to update their Declarations of Interest
- 55/25                      **Minutes of last Meeting.** The minutes of the meeting on 26 September 2025 were read and approved. Moved ABB, seconded CL
- 56/25                      **Matters arising from the minutes.** The development of woodland at Judith's Field is progressing well. JC and CL will meet to plan action on Tree Survey. CL has ordered support canes for the trees to be planted in new year. The partnership with Kendal Conservation Volunteers is going well.
- 57/25                      **Formal announcements by Chair.** The final formal agreements for the Woodland project are now all in place.
- 59/25                      **Correspondence.** The Parish Council and local residents have received a letter from solicitors acting for 'The Well', an organisation providing rehabilitation for people suffering from addiction. The letter informed the council and parishioners that they intend to apply for planning permission to use the presbytery at Dodding Holme as a centre for their activities. The standpoint of the parish council is that it will reserve judgement until the planning application is made public. Meanwhile the councillors will canvas opinions from parishioners. One of the parishioners present addressed the meeting. He made the point that 'The Well' had made a previous, ill prepared bid to use Dodding Holme, which raised concerns in itself among parishioners, but now were making a second attempt through a solicitor. The concerns raised on behalf of parishioners were noted by the parish council. The (mostly) men who would use the property are not local. 'The Well' provides rehabilitation; previously Dodding Holme was used by Cenacolo and the residents then were self managing and not undergoing rehabilitation. The parish council had a good relationship with Cenacolo. The concerns were noted and the parish council will take further action when the planning application is published.
- 60/25                      **Grant Applications.** The Parochial and Church Council submitted an application for a grant of £500 towards maintenance of the churchyard and purchase of a new mower. This was discussed and approved by the parish council. Moved, CL, seconded TM
- 61/25                      **Standing Items**  
Community: The Environment Agency will give a presentation in the Community Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026 on Flood Management in the Upper Mint valley. The chair proposed the parish council finance the evening, £48, seconded by CL, but the final arrangements are not yet confirmed. The annual Litter Pick was attended by 9 parishioners and went well. It was noted there was much less litter this year. Parish facebook page now has 27 members.

Highways and Footpaths. A parishioner has identified a signpost that needs attention and MC will deal with that. Water is running across the A6 at Strawberry Bank; highways will be notified. There have been issues with delivery of grit to areas such as Garth Row and Laverock Bridge, possibly due to the change in local council. Clerk will contact Highways for clarification of delivery schedule

63/25 **Finance Report** The clerk presented the bi-monthly finance report. The invoice for the tree survey has been paid from the parish account but will be reimbursed when the grant from Westmorland and Furness arrives. The report was accepted, moved TM, seconded ABB

64/25 **Planning Applications.** The parish council considered an application for a vehicle entrance to land on the A685. Councillor Brand-Barker had made several attempts to call on residents in that area. The council were concerned about safety on a major road, The clerk had also received concerns from parishioners who live opposite the planned access. They have already objected to the application. The work would impact their water supply which passes under the existing gateway. Moreover that particular stretch of road is also prone to flooding and any new work would exacerbate that. The parish council supported their objection and responded to the planning application raising these concerns.

65/25 The chair thanked everyone for their contributions and the meeting closed at 8.40pm

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 7pm in Skelsmergh Community Hall

Ron Anderson, clerk. [clerk@skelsmerghandscalthwaiterigg-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@skelsmerghandscalthwaiterigg-pc.gov.uk)

Signed

Chair.....

Date.....