



Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council
Ordinary Meeting Minutes
24 September 2026 at Skelsmergh Community Hall

Present John Chapman, Chair, (JC)
Councillors Angela Brand-Barker, (ABB), Tim Maggs. (TM),
Clerk Ron Anderson

Minute no:

32/26 **Welcome and apologies.** The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Nic Williams, applicant for the casual vacancy, to the meeting. Cllr Chris Loynes had sent his apologies which were accepted

33/26 **Declarations of Interest** Councillors were reminded of the need to update their Declarations of Interest

34/26 **Minutes of last Meeting.** The minutes of the meeting on 13 August 2026 were read and approved. Moved JC seconded ABB

35/26 **Matters arising from the minutes.** The notice board at Oak Bank has been renovated and the clerk has made enquiries to replace the one at Dodding Green

36/26 **Formal announcements by Chair.** The Chair welcomed Nic Williams to the meeting. After public notification of a casual vacancy on the council Nic expressed interest in the position. He spoke to the council about his experience as an army officer and physics teacher and also his commitment to community projects. The councillors unanimously voted to accept him onto the council.

37/26 **Correspondence.** The clerk has been able to contact the management of 'The Well' and they have agreed to meet with chair and clerk to set up a liaison protocol. Clerk will reply and confirm dates.

38/26 **Grant Applications.** None

39/26 **Standing Items**

Community: The Annual Litter Pick will take place on Sunday 26 October. A budget of £30 for refreshments was proposed. Moved ABB, Seconded TM.

Highways and Footpaths. The fencing and style at Paradise Wood needs repair to protect flora from grazing and facilitate access for the public. Chair has obtained a quote for the work and it was proposed that the parish council will fund 50% of the cost, approximately £250, with the rest coming from donations. Westmorland and Furness have some responsibility for this but currently have no funds for this type of project. Moved ABB, seconded TM. The Dalesway sign that had fallen has been replaced. The 'Skelsmergh' sign on A6 was discovered in the undergrowth beyond the verge and has been reported to highways.

Woodlands: The sign for Judith's Wood is ready. It is planned to have an official opening when it is in place. Chainsaw sessions at Garth Row have been taking place and there is plenty of firewood available. Chair has noticed signs of a badger moving into the woodland

40/26 **Finance Report** The clerk presented the bi-monthly finance report. The National Joint Council for Local Government Pay Award 2026 recommended a 3% increase in salary for the clerk, backdated to April 2026. This was agreed by the council. The Woodland account with Unity Trust Bank is now closed. Moved TM, seconded ABB

41/26 **Planning Applications.** The council has received notification of the new Government Planning proposals, placing more responsibility on planning officers in order to speed up planning decisions.

42/26 The chair thanked everyone for their contributions and the meeting closed at 8.35pm
The next meeting of the parish council will be on Thursday 26 November 2026, 7pm in Skelsmergh Community Hall

Ron Anderson, clerk. clerk@skelsmerghandscalthwaiterigg-pc.gov.uk

Signed Chair..... Date.....