



Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting Thursday 26 September 2024 at Skelsmergh Community Hall

Present: John Chapman(JC) Chair
Parish Councillors: Angela Brand-Barker (ABB), Tim Maggs (TM)
Mick Crozier (MC)
Clerk: Ron Anderson (RA)

Minute No:

38/24

Welcome.

Councillor Chapman opened the meeting at 7pm. Councillor Loynes sent his apologies which were accepted.

39/24

Declarations of Interest. None

40/24

Open forum Two members of the parish attended. Mrs Mary Chapman attended in her role as chair of Skelsmergh Community Hall Management Committee. The heating system in the hall has broken down and estimates for the repair/replacement range from £12000 to £15000. Hall have £5000 they can provide from their contingency funding but are seeking grants from a range of providers. After discussion about regulations pertaining to parish council grants the council agreed to discuss the matter formally at the next meeting when the Community Hall Committee will be able to make a formal application.

Tony Cousins attended on behalf of the residents of the Holme House Farm development. Westmorland and Furness Council have refused their application for the naming of their road.(Holme House Farm Lane) despite the support of the Parish Council. Tony's submission highlights inconsistencies in the planning policy document and makes the point that Holme House Farm is an historic name. Council will forward Tony's notes to W&F council supporting his case..

41/24

Minutes of previous meeting. Minutes of meeting 25 July were accepted. Moved MC, seconded ABB

42/24

Matters arising from minutes. None

43/24

Formal announcements by Chair.

The felling licence is in place and Scott Elbourne has signed the licence agreement with the council and has now commenced management and training activities. Retrospective approval of the licence

agreement was granted. Moved ABB, seconded TM

44/24

Grant Applications. None

45/24

Finance. Predicted end of financial year balance is £3683. Clerk's report approved by council. Moved ABB, seconded TM

46/24

Standing Items

a. Community. Chair reported on Westmorland and Furness Council Boundary Changes. Unlikely to affect this parish but council will respond based on 2009 Community Plan which defines the area plus a suggestion/recommendation that Patton should be reunited within the Upper Kent ward.

The questionnaire for the new Community Plan is ready to go live after all dwellings in the parish have been leafleted. Leaflet in production and councillors/volunteers will deliver next month.

b. Transport, Highways, Rights of Way. Westmorland and Furness Council are using contractors to trim hedgerows and coverage is patchy. Responsibility is placed on landowners. MC will pursue this to gain more clarity, particularly in relation to Garth Row Lane which is becoming heavily overgrown.

c. Communications. Letter re councillor attendance to which there has been no reply will be resent to Council leader (see minute 49/24)

47/24

External Meetings. MC attended Highways briefing. Westmorland and Furness are trying to restructure and reorganise. Face to face consultation with highways planned for October. Formal process to start in 2025.

Discussion of gritting issues, especially on unclassified roads. W&F seem to be moving to a community powered approach which would be far beyond financial/manpower capability of small councils such as ours.

48/24

Planning Applications. Applications received by the clerk have been forwarded to councillors. No objections or issues for discussion.

49/24

Correspondence. CL has drafted letter to W&F Council Leader re non engagement by Cllr Jama. This was approved by council and clerk will resend.

50/24

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 8.35pm

Next meeting; Thursday 28 November, 7pm in Skelsmergh Community Hall

SignedChair

Date.....