



Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting Thursday 28 November 2024 at Skelsmergh Community Hall

Present: John Chapman(JC) Chair
Parish Councillors: Mick Crozier (MC) Chris Loynes (CL)
Clerk: Ron Anderson (RA)

Minute No:

51/24 Welcome.

Councillor Chapman opened the meeting at 7pm. Councillors Maggs and Brand-Barker sent their apologies which were accepted.

52/24 Declarations of Interest. None

53/24 Open forum Mrs Mary Chapman attended as Chair of the Community Hall Management Committee to update the council on progress towards replacement of the ground source heat pump. The committee have decided on a highly recommended new pump which will cost £16800. They have obtained grants of £14000 including £8000 from the Rural Enterprise Prosperity Fund. An application to the Parish Council will be considered in Item 8.

53/24 Minutes of previous meeting. Minutes of meeting 26 September were accepted. Moved MC, seconded CL

54/24 Matters arising from minutes. Westmorland and Furness Council are standing firm on their policy for street names and numbering and will not accede to residents' request, supported by the Parish Council, to name their access road Holme House Farm Road. Residents are to reconsider.

55/24 Formal announcements by Chair. None

56/24 Presentation by Beki Winter re affordable housing. In her role with C of E and local community and housing groups Beki explores possibilities for affordable housing within the area. She wanted to understand the Parish Council's attitude to affordable housing within the parish. Council response was that the current survey may indicate any concerns in this area that parishioners may have. Council will revisit this after survey is complete and may be willing to work with other bodies such as W&F council.

57/24 Grant Applications. Skelsmergh Community Hall have applied for a grant of £2000 towards the replacement of the ground source heat pump. This amount, together with other grants obtained and a top up from Community Hall reserves will meet the cost of £16800. Parish Council can make this grant under Section 137 of financial regulations. Moved CL, seconded MC. **Approved.**

58/24 Finance. Monthly Finance report was accepted. It was noted that even taking into account financial commitments approved by the council there will be a carry forward of £1229.99. After discussion of future commitments into 2025-2926 councillors approved an increase of 3% on the precept, giving a total of £5734.22. Clerk will notify W&F by email

Moved CL Seconded MC

59/24 Standing Items

a. Community. CL reported online survey to inform Community Plan now live. Flyers are printed and will be distributed to all dwellings in parish. Will also be advertised on notice boards, facebook page, website, parish magazine.

Woodland. Chair has obtained a quote of £393.56 from Messrs Hanafins to supply and fit a replacement gate for the Parish woodland. Agreed to authorise -Clerk to instruct contractor to proceed.

Selside School have requested permission to use the woodland for educational activities. Councillors welcomed the initiative which is in line with objectives in the Management Plan. Agreed. Clerk authorised to settle terms including confirmation of risk assessments and insurance.

Woodlands at Gurnal Bridge. Parish Council has held licence to plant and make use of land owned by Stephenson Trust. The Trust have contacted Parish Council regarding management of existing and adjacent land but councillors feel this would be beyond council's means. However, Council may be willing to join with other interested groups; including Kendal Conservation Volunteers, Natural Kendal and Holme House residents to manage land for access and conservation. CL will seek commitment from these groups. Deferred for Parish Council to debate when all councillors are present.

b. Transport, Highways, Rights of Way. Councillor Peter Thornton is to attend next meeting and parish councillors framed some questions to put to him in writing before the meeting:

1. Collapsing river bank at Meal Bank GR 539 957
2. Flooding on A6 north of Garth Row turnoff
3. Communication with W&F council members
4. Decayed footbridge on Gilthwaiterigg Farm footpath
5. Communication with Countryside Access Team;- website not helpful

c. Communications. Clerk reported difficulties with current dedicated PC laptop. In view of website upgrade, (see minute 60/24) current laptop is not fit for purpose. Clerk sought advice and found suitable machine available for £299. Councillors agreed that clerk should go ahead at that price.

60/24 External Meetings. Clerk attended webinar hosted by CALC and presented by Active Council. They are able to provide website, support, .gov.uk domain name and .gov.uk emails for councillors. In the present climate where the Parish Council is seeking to raise its profile and seek engagement with parishioners an upgraded website is an important element. The website will also provide improved functionality, security and tools for councillors. Councillors who have viewed the Active Council website saw the potential for better communication and security and the proposal was agreed. The prices provided by Active Council are higher than the current provider but the improved service justified this. Clerk will contact Active Council to start the transfer process.

61/24 Planning Applications. None

62/24 Correspondence. Email from parishioner re filling of salt boxes at Meal Bank. MC explained this can be communicated to highways through W&F website. Clerk will advise parishioner.

CL distributed flyers to councillors for distribution throughout the parish

63/24 The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 9.20pm

Next meeting; Thursday 30 January 2025 7pm in Skelsmergh Community Hall

SignedChair

Date.....

