



Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council  
Ordinary Meeting Minutes  
13<sup>th</sup> August 2026 at Skelsmergh Community Hall

Present John Chapman, Chair, (JC)  
Councillors Angela Brand-Barker, (ABB), Chris Loynes, (CL)  
Clerk Ron Anderson

Minute  
no:

- 21/26 **Welcome and apologies.** Tim Maggs sent his apologies which were accepted. Councillor Mick Crozier also sent his apologies and indicated his decision to retire with immediate effect. The chair recorded his and the council's thanks for the work and contribution made by Councillor Crozier during his time in office. The chair also welcomed a parishioner to the meeting
- 22/26 **Declarations of Interest** Councillors were reminded of the need to update their Declarations of Interest
- 23/26 **Minutes of last Meeting.** The minutes of the meeting on 28 May 2026 were read and approved. Moved ABB, seconded CL
- 24/26 **Matters arising from the minutes.** None
- 25/26 **Formal announcements by Chair.** The chair invited the parishioner, who was representing the views and concerns of a number of residents, to address the council concerning several current issues. The first concern was the proposed re-warding which would include Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg in a large Westmorland and Furness Council ward. The potential councillors are as yet unknown but it is hoped that there will be opportunity for more contact with any new W&F councillors. The chair responded that he felt the parish council could have little impact on any final decision at the moment but there would be another opportunity to comment when final plans were published.  
There were also concerns from parishioners regarding the development at Dodding Holme by 'The Well'. At the planning meeting where the amended plans were approved there was no mention of ongoing inspection or community liaison. These aspects were proposed by 'The Well' at a meeting with parishioners in March 2024 and were raised again by parishioners and the Parish Council at the time of the planning application. The parish council will write to 'The Well' asking for clarification and establishment of community communication.  
The chair drew attention to the vacancies on the council. These can be filled by co-opting new members through a casual vacancy. Existing councillors will contact some potential candidates and clerk will post casual vacancy notices.
- 26/26 **Grant Applications.** The Community Hall submitted a request for financial support for their new electric mower and power supply. The council agree a contribution of £250. Moved CL, seconded ABB
- 27/26 **Standing Items**  
**Correspondence** The council have received notice of a Resilience Grant available from W&F Council. There is the possibility of the Community Hall being used as a 'Warm Hub'. The information will be passed to the Hall committee.  
**Transport and Highways.** Chair reported that there seems no prospect of local bus routes along A6. Chair has used reporting system to advise a deteriorating stile over the river Sprint and a damaged Dalesway signpost at Garth Row.  
**Local Plan** W&F Council are developing a Local Plan with the main purpose of identifying new land for housing development. The PC would not expect to make contributions to this but may be involved in any proposed developments
- 28/26 **Finance Report** The clerk presented the bi-monthly finance report. The Woodland account will be closed now the grant has been used and spending reported to W&F.

A proposal to replace/renovate parish notice boards was discussed. Chair has renovated Oak Bank board. A new notice board for Meal Bank was discussed. It will cost approximately £700 + VAT. Clerk will source from approved suppliers. Moved ABB, seconded CL

29/26 **Planning Applications.** The application from 'The Well' had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

W%F are changing the planning process to make applications easier. The implication being that appeals and objections will be dealt with in a shorter timescale. The council will therefore need to be more aware of the streamlined process.

30/26 **Parish Woodlands** Older planting in Judith's Wood is doing well and the new planting has been 95% successful. There has been a sighting of a Clouded Yellow butterfly. CL will organise an event when the new signage is ready. Chris Loynes is still working on the CALC workbook and will be presenting to other councils highlighting the work done at Judith's Wood

Other woodlands will need work in the autumn.

31/26 The chair thanked everyone for their contributions and the meeting closed at 8.45pm  
The next meeting of the parish council will be on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2026, 7pm in Skelsmergh Community Hall

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

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