

Claife Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at High Wray Village Hall
Tuesday 12th December 2023

Attendees: Parish Councillors A Brodie (Chair), S Denyer, S Hilton (Vice Chair), K Keighley & J Whitworth, Parish Clerk L Prescott & 2 representatives from the National Trust.

130/2023 **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Parish Councillor M Stanton, Unitary Councillor S Pender and L Ruxton of the National Trust.

131/2023 **Requests for Dispensation**

None received.

132/2023 **Declarations of Interest**

None received.

133/2023 **Minutes**

Resolved The Council approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 31st October 2023.

134/2023 **Public Participation**

a) Reports were received as follows:

i) Police

The Clerk reported that a vehicle crime at Ferry Landing was reported to the Police in October 2023.

ii) Unitary Councillor

No report.

iii) National Trust

Representatives from the National Trust (S Hill & P Farrington), provided an update on recent personnel changes at the Trust and related matters. S Hill has replaced J Moffat as Countryside Manager, L Ruxton is now the General Manager. They want to re-establish the relationship with the Parish Council which has lapsed in recent months. Councillors had raised concerns about the structure at Ash Landing and the storage of materials on Council land which the Estate Manager (D Towler) is dealing with. The NT tree felling has been delayed due to the weather but is expected to be completed by the end of January. There are currently no plans to make amendments to the Hill Top Car Park.

b) Members of the Public

None.

135/2023 **Councillor Matters**

a) Councillor Whitworth reported that a resident has raised concerns regarding the excessive speed of traffic on the Wray road, which is within the boundary of Skelwith Parish Council and whether a 20 mph speed limit could be implemented.

Resolved Councillors to speak to residents, Clerk to contact Skelwith Parish Council and to include in next meeting's Agenda.

b) Councillor Brodie reported that residents at Ferry House have raised concerns regarding the proposed development at Pearsall House, in particular in relation to the potential contamination of the water supply, sewage treatment proposals. She also reported that the Hatch snack bar has been given notice and the owner wants to moor their own boat on the jetty.

136/2023 **Updates on Ongoing Issues and Actions**

a) Windermere Ferry

Councillor Brodie attended the ferry meeting and reported that data for the actual Ferry Service operation as a percentage of timetabled services for 2023 was 73% in January-March, 94% April-June & 89% July-September. Westmorland and Furness Council have now appointed a maritime consultant in relation to maintenance and plans for a replacement ferry. The 5-year inspection is scheduled to take place from 2nd February 2024. There are

plans to install radar and amend the ferry ramps to deal with issues of low visibility and variable water levels to make the service more reliable. There will be a requirement to have 4 staff on board. Fares will increase in 2024 and blue badge holders may be charged, but mobility scooters won't. A ferry leaflet is being prepared. She raised concerns regarding the signage only being available on the slipway to indicated service breaks and advised that the operators are considering a text/email service to advise businesses and customers. There are also concerns about stranded pedestrians. The next meeting is at 4 pm on 27th February 2024 on Teams.

b) Road gritting/snow ploughing arrangements

Unitary Councillor S Pender is trying to arrange a meeting between the Parish Councils and the Unitary Highways in relation to local arrangements. Due to the lack of progress on training and grit supplies local residents/farmers took matters into their own hands, which could potentially pose a greater risk. Councillor Brodie attended the Chairs' Forum with others from rural parishes who had the same complaint.

c) Requested new Grit Box at Near Sawrey

Unity Councillor S Pender has been asked to progress this. Grit boxes are needed at Stones Lane and near the Sawrey House Hotel.

Resolved To request Councillor Pender to progress both.

d) Council Land

Councillor Brodie reported that an ash tree had fallen down at Esthwaite and Councillor Hilton had cut it back off the road. She will cut back the foliage and undertakes monthly litter picking on the Esthwaite Path and layby and would appreciate volunteers. The Esthwaite path maintenance has not yet progressed. Ash Landing requires the installation of new posts once the water level falls.

Resolved To follow up on path maintenance and plan ongoing maintenance for council land.

e) Environmental & Water Quality

Councillor Brodie advised that Peter Cook of Windermere and Bowness Town Council has offered to represent Parish & Town Councils on the 'Love Windermere' board.

Resolved To approve him as representative.

Councillor Brodie attended a Love Windermere event at Kendal Green where she offered to assist the Environment Agency in identifying properties with septic tanks within the parish.

Resolved To publicise information on the website and locally in January 2024.

Councillor Brodie is working with the South Cumbria Rivers Trust to set up volunteer groups to monitor 6 sites on Wilfin Beck. Training will be provided to volunteers by SCRT at Haverthwaite. She reported that there has been seepage from the Far Sawrey Treatment Works into Wilfin Beck. Some repairs have been undertaken but seepage has still continued, which she has reported to the United Utilities Catchment Manager. The Septic tank at Ferry Landing overflows on land during heavy rainfall. Councillor Denyer proposed that further information was requested from United Utilities (UU) regarding their proposals at Near Sawrey.

Resolved Councillor Brodie to provide UU contact person details, Councillor Denyer to prepare questions and the Clerk to contact UU regarding proposals at Near Sawrey.

f) Improving Footpath Signage

Councillor Brodie reported that walkers are still walking on the road instead of using the off road footpath to Hill Top. She asked whether the National Trust would install a sign to indicate it is a route to Hill Top, which P Farrington noted. The sign which now indicates 'Briars Fold' used to indicate the footpath to the ferry. The Parish Council could consider installing a sign indicating it goes to the ferry.

Resolved To consider potential signage at location at next meeting.

g) Harrowslack Lake Shore

The National Trust advised that they want to engage with the community in relation to finding long term solutions to the increasingly challenging behaviour of visitors to this site, which is one of 3 hotspots within the county. The National Trust worked 900 hours in 2022 engaging with visitors and employed an external security company on weekends from August 2023. The National Trust want to balance the conflicting priorities of residents, farmers and visitors and plan to arrange Drop In events locally to gather information as well as publishing information in the Esthwaite Link. This engagement will be the first stage of a longer term

plan which is expected to take 2 or 3 years to implement. Councillors are supportive of this engagement and will notify their contacts.

- h) Designating a bathing water location within the Parish
Councillor Keighley has advised that she will not be able to take this forward due to the time it would take to undertake information gathering in the summer months.
- i) Cumbria wide call for sites - Biodiversity Net Gain and other Habitat restoration
The Clerk reported that she had not yet received any response to the submission.
- j) CALC training courses
The Clerk reported that CALC have advised the Planning trainer was only prepared to undertake online training, not in-person. No indication of cost was given.
Resolved To establish what charge would be made either individually or as a group.

137/2023 **New Agenda items**

- a) Hawkshead Primary School
Councillor Keighley reported that she had spoken to the Head Teacher and visited the new Nursery/Preschool. The school is concerned about the falling roll, with only 35 children due to attend in September 2024. The shortage of local housing for families is an issue, Councillor Keighley has been in contact with the National Trust Estate Manager about a vacant house in Sawrey and suggested the Head Teacher provide leaflets about the School to him. Councillor Hilton advised that some other local schools are providing funded transport for pupils.
- b) Recent emergency responses - utility companies and Westmorland and Furness Council
Councillors outlined the difficulties experienced during the recent Snow Event starting on 3/12/2023. Electricity supplies were affected in at least 2 areas of the parish, water supplies unavailable where supplied by boreholes, mobile phone signals lost, roads blocked by snow and fallen trees and visitors stranded. There was little information or support provided by the Unitary Council, the only road to be ploughed (B5285) was not completed until residents had cleared fallen trees and the snowploughing managed to block entrances to side roads.. The Parish Council was unable to employ a contractor to clear all the other roads due to no permission being granted or grit provided by the Unitary Council, so residents took matters into their own hands. Grit bins had not been filled and permission for extra grit bins previously denied by the Unitary Council. The community cleared fallen trees, cleared snow, provided water as well as shelter for visitors. The Parish Council does not currently have an Emergency Plan in Place.
Resolved To submit a response to the Unitary Council Snow Event Questionnaire.
Resolved To prepare a Parish Council Emergency Plan.
- c) CALC Chairs Forum
Referred to at 136/2023 b).
- d) Registering Parish Council land
The Clerk reported that she has collated the information for registering the Council Land at Chapel Cottage. Councillor Brodie can provide the name of a contact at Napthens solicitors.

138/2023 **Planning Applications**

- a) The following Planning Applications were considered:
 - i) 7/2023/5668. Aspland House, Near Sawrey, Cumbria, LA22 0JZ. Amendment to local occupancy to correspond with current Supplementary Planning Document, condition 3 on planning permission 7/2018/5052, two detached dwelling houses for local needs with ancillary parking and access.
Resolved To support
 - ii) 7/2023/5716. Bryers Cottage, Far Sawrey, Ambleside, LA22 0LW. Replacement of timber jetty on same footprint.
Resolved No objection.
 - iii) T/2023/0179. St Peter's Church, Claife, Far Sawrey, LA22 0LH. Prune 1 leylandii conifer.
Resolved No objection.
- b) The following Planning Decisions were noted:
 - i) T/2023/0171. Church Cottage, Far Sawrey, Ambleside, LA22 0LH. Ash Tree (5 day notice). Granted.
 - ii) 7/2023/5433. Linden Cottage, Colthouse, Ambleside, LA22 0JU. Replacement of bedroom, kitchen and living room windows and frames. Replacement of living door to

- garden and shed door. Repair of external render/drip sills. Making good internal damp plaster. Slate over porch roof. Granted with conditions relating to plans and roofing.
- iii) 7/2023/5616. High Wray Bank, High Wray, Ambleside, LA22 0JD. Erection of a potting shed; and re-siting of chicken coop approved under application 7/2022/5399 (part retrospective). Granted with conditions relating to plans.

139/2023 **Financial Matters**

- a) Bank Balance
Noted that the bank balance at 31 October 2023 was £16,431.05
- b) 2024/25 Budget
Resolved To include the following additional items in the 2024/25 budget:
Winter maintenance, signage & tree felling.
- c) Payment of Accounts
Resolved To authorise payment of the following account:
CALC Chairs Forum Training Course £5.00
- d) Great North Air Ambulance Grant Application
Resolved To award a grant of £100.

140/2023 **Highways**

- a) Highways items to be reported
None.

b) Highways items reported

Date	Reference	Details	Response
01/11/2021	EI/23846	Road junction markings faded / washed out . Junction of Stones Lane, Near Sawrey with B5285	Assigned to Highways Team
01/11/2021	EI/23783	Road surface deteriorating with multiple pot holes developing. B5285 near Sawrey House Hotel	Assigned to Highways Team
01/11/2021	EI/23796	Road surface from Belle Green to the entrance to the last house on the left of the lane.	Assigned to Highways Team
01/11/2021	EI/23823	Passing place sign broken off post and other one unreadable, B5285 between Near and Far Sawrey.	Completed
01/11/2021	EI/23831	White lines at road junctions on B5285 in Near and Far Sawrey are faded / washed away and need replacing.	Assigned to Highways Team
07/07/2022	EI/70844	White lines faded at junction with B5285, half way up the ferry hill road.	Assigned to Highways Team
06/09/2022	EI/84443	Edge of road disintegrating - Cuckoo Brow Lane	Completed
30/01/2023	EI/119690	Blocked grid near High Wray Farm	Assigned to Highways Team
09/03/2023	EI/131765	Tarmac infill eroded- B5285 from Hawkshead to Sawrey East side of Pool Bridge	Assigned to Highways Team
09/03/2023	EI/131767	Grit bin empty - B5285 at bottom of Cuckoo Brow Lane, Far Sawrey LA22 0LQ	Completed
09/03/2023	EI/131768	Grit bin empty - B5285 Top of Ferry Hill, Far Sawrey near junction with road to Cunsey	Completed
09/03/2023	EI/131782	Drain blocked with debris.B5285 at Far Sawrey	Assigned to Highways Team
27/04/2023	EI/147750	Pothole B5285 Close to West Vale, Far Sawrey	Completed
27/04/2023	EI/147748	Edge of road and potholes B5285 between Near and Far Sawrey	Assigned to Highways Team
27/04/2023	EI/147779	Multiple deep potholes between Joyey's Cafe and first cattle grid and gate as head towards Harrowslack	Completed
03/05/2023	EI/148768	Grit bin requested for Near Sawrey	Refused
10/06/2023	EI/156272	A pipe has been installed by a resident which discharges directly onto the B5285 Road.	Householder contacted
12/07/2023	EI/161952	Spoil from Brant Howe dumped on B5285 ferry hill	Assigned to Highways Team
31/07/2023	EI/164653	Deep culvert on B5285 by water trough on right hand side of road if traveling from Near Sawrey .	Closed but further works required
19/08/2023	EI/166424	Fence alongside the road has collapsed due to the posts being rotten adjacent to Chapel Cottage, LA220LQ.	Assigned to Highways Team
20/11/2023	EI/176534	Top of Ferry Hill, Far Sawrey. Close to electronic sign that shows whether ferry operating. Grit bin needs refilling	Assigned to Highways Team
20/11/2023	EI/176539	B5285 at junction with Cuckoo Brow Lane, Far Sawrey, LA22 0LQ. Grit Bin needs refilling	Assigned to Highways Team
20/11/2023	EI/176546	Ferry slipway at Far Sawrey - Grit bin needs refilling	Assigned to Highways Team
20/11/2023	EI/176550	A large slab of rock has fallen from rock face on B5285 near Ash Landing.	Assigned to Highways Team
04/12/2023	EI/178712	Grit heap requested for road from Near Sawrey down to bottom of Esthwaite.	Assigned to Highways Team

Councillor Brodie reported that the roadside bollards had been reinstated.

141/2023 **Correspondence (for information only)**

The circulated correspondence was noted.

142/2023 **Date of Next Meeting**

Noted that the next Parish Council meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 23rd January 2923 at Braithwaite Hall, Far Sawrey.

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Signed & Approved by (Chair)

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Date