

MELMERBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Melmerby Parish Council held on Wednesday 25th January 2023, at Melmerby Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Chris Jones, Cllr David Bardsley, Cllr Bill Burford, Cllr Gary Fletcher, Cllr Dougie Bell and Claire Rankin, Interim Parish Clerk.

Two members of the public were also present.

Cllr Michael Hanley, Eden District Council was also in attendance.

2023/007 **Apologies for Absence: RESOLVED** that no apologies had been received and all members of the Parish Council were present.

2023/008 **Declarations of Interest: RESOLVED** that no declarations had been received.

2023/009 **Minutes: RESOLVED** that Cllr Chris Jones be authorised to sign the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 14th December 2022 and Cllr David Bardsley be authorised to sign the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 11th January 2023 in Cllr Jones' absence.

2023/010 **Exclusion of Press and Public (Public bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960): RESOLVED** that there were no items on the agenda that required this exclusion.

2023/011 **Public Participation: RESOLVED** that there were no items previously submitted to a councillor for consideration.

2023/012 **Westmorland and Furness Council:** this item was considered at this point of the meeting to allow for input from Cllr Michael Hanley who is one of two shadow councillors on Westmorland and Furness for the Alston and Fellside ward.

Cllr Michael Hanley joined the meeting to give an update on the new Westmorland and Furness Council (WaFC) which will come into being on 1st April 2023. He reported that WaFC will operate 3 locality boards based in Kendal, Barrow and Penrith. The locality board based in Penrith will consist of 16 elected councillors. The Planning Committees will also be based on localities and will each contain 8 councillors. Cllr Hanley gave a brief summary of the meetings he had recently attended including:

- Zero Carbon Working Group, looking at reducing carbon emissions and energy use in public buildings and businesses,
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee, looking at affordable housing (current the average cost of a property in Eden is 7.7 times the average salary), second home ownership and empty properties,
- Finance Scrutiny including the Inspire programme,
- Nutrient Neutrality looking at reducing the phosphate levels in the rivers which cause algae blooms.

RESOLVED that Cllr Hanley's feedback be noted.

In addition, consideration was given to the proposals for changes in the Council Tax. WaFC is proposing that Council Tax be increased by 4.99% (which includes 2.99% general increase and 2% for

adult social care), harmonisation of Council Tax levels across the 3 previous district authority areas and a 100% increase in Council Tax for second homes.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council supports all the proposed changes to Council Tax and that the clerk be authorised to submit a response on that basis.

2023/013 Parish Precept 2023/24

RESOLVED that the Parish Precept for 2023/24 be set at £5,250 (which includes a precept request for £5,210 and £40 contribution from the Council Tax Reduction Scheme). The clerk was authorised to submit the precept request to EDC. The precept request was proposed by Cllr Burford and seconded by Cllr Fletcher.

2023/014 Training

RESOLVED that the Effective Councillor course run by CALC will take place on 20th March 2023 (via Zoom).

2023/015 Parish Projects

RESOLVED that the update from Cllr Bardsley be noted. Steve Bayles has agreed to help with the installation of the goalposts as part of the voluntary labour needed to complete the project. The remaining grant funding needs to be claimed before end of March 2023.

2023/016 Melmerby Emergency Plan

RESOLVED that the update be noted. Cllr Bell has spoken to the local farmers and those with machinery and all are willing to help in an emergency situation. The Parish Clerk agreed to draft a note to be distributed to the community to ask for volunteers willing to act as a point of contact during an emergency.

2023/017 Accounts and Finance

RESOLVED that the requests outlined in the finance report be approved for payment. It was noted that the payment for Melmerby Village Hall will be £100 to be paid in March 2023. The Village Hall hire costs will increase to £110 for 2023/24 which will be paid at the end of the financial year (end of March 2024).

2023/018 Correspondence

RESOLVED that the correspondence register be noted.

2023/019 Date of the next meeting – 22nd March 2023, 7.30 p.m. at Melmerby Village Hall. This meeting will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting also on 22nd March at 7 p.m. at Melmerby Village Hall.