

MELMERBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Melmerby Parish Council held on Wednesday 27th September 2023, 7.30 p.m. at Melmerby Village Hall.

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

Twenty five members of the public were present.

2023/086 **Apologies for absence – RESOLVED** that apologies were received from Cllr Michael Hanley, Westmorland and Furness Council.

2023/087 **Declarations of Interest – RESOLVED** there were no declarations of interest.

2023/088 **Minutes of the Parish Clerk Recruitment Committee held on 17th July 2023 – RESOLVED** that Cllr Chris Jones was authorised to sign the minutes as a correct record.

2023/089 **Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 28th July 2023 – RESOLVED** that Cllr Chris Jones was authorised to sign the minutes as a correct record.

2023/089 **Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 12th July 2023 – RESOLVED** that Cllr David Bardsley was authorised to sign the minutes as a correct record.

2023/090 **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.

2023/091 **Public Participation - RESOLVED** that the Chairman of the Parish Council opened the meeting for members of the public to speak. The Chairman also used his right to allow members of the public to speak at the beginning of the relevant agenda items.

2023/092 **Westmorland and Furness Council - RESOLVED** that Cllr Michael Hanley was not present and an update will be received at the next meeting.

2023/093 **20 mph Speed Limit - RESOLVED** that an expression of interest would be submitted to Westmorland and Furness Council to consider a 20 mph speed limit in Melmerby. This resolution was taken in response to Westmorland and Furness Council reviewing their policy for 20 mph speed limits and after considering comments from the members of the public present. In terms of public consultation, if Westmorland and Furness Council feel the 20 mph speed limit is viable, there will be a full statutory public consultation.

2023/094 **Melmerby Play Area Proposals - RESOLVED** that the Parish Council agreed in principle to insure and maintain the proposed new play equipment subject to approval of the proposals. The resolution was reached after considering the points raised by members of the public present at the meeting and the correspondence received from residents. It was reported that the additional insurance premium is likely to be approximately £120 per year and additional play area inspection fees of £17.50. The maintenance costs are unknown but evidence was presented from the experience of the village hall committee in maintaining their play area. It was noted that the Parish Council owned swings on the village green had not required any maintenance since their installation in 2017.

It was emphasised that the key issue is whether the landowner of the village green is willing to consider additional play provision. It was reported that out of approximately 200 people in the village, at least 110 are supportive of exploring additional play provision. There was concern that residents had not seen details of the proposals. Those residents present who are involved in progressing the project, confirmed that no definite plans have been developed before there is agreement from the landowner. When proposals progress, it is envisaged that an open public meeting will be held to discuss the proposals.

Residents who had submitted written comments would be contacted to seek their permission for their comments to be shared with interested individuals in the village.

The resolution to, in principle, insure and maintain the proposed new play equipment was proposed by Cllr Chris Jones and seconded by Cllr David Bardsley and all parish councillors were in favour.

2023/095 B4RN update - RESOLVED that the update was received. It was reported that B4RN are now very close to meeting the required numbers to go ahead with the installation. B4RN need landowners permission to install the necessary infrastructure and have agreed that if any road closures are required, these will be kept to a minimum and approached sensitively. There will also be a financial resource for community use.

2023/096 Emergency Plan - RESOLVED that residents were asked to volunteer to help in an emergency situation if they were able to do so. A sign up sheet was circulated.

2023/097 Secondary School bus route - RESOLVED that the Parish Council would write to Cllr Mary Robinson, Westmorland and Furness Council, to seek clarification on the amended secondary school bus route which now includes Great Salkeld. It was noted that the official pick up and drop off point in the village is in a much safer location.

2023/098 Highways - RESOLVED that Christine Rowley as the landowner of the woodland half way up the Gale Hall Lonning would help with clearing the drain to ease the water run off.

Other highways matters which were raised, would be reported to Highways. These included potholes on the road leading from near the village hall to the A686 and also from the road near the village bakery to the A686.

A blocked drain near Gate House/Lilac House had previously been reported to Highways but would be followed up by the Parish Council.

Also, there are stones which do not appear to be secure on the bridge on the A686 at the bottom of Elm Bank Lonning. This issue will be reported to Highways.

2023/099 **Planning**

- a) 23/0490 Glamping pods in woodland at Melmerby Hall. **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council support the application.
- b) 23/0279 Greenholme extension and conversion of outbuildings. **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council support the application.

2023/100 **Finance**– **RESOLVED** that the payments outlined in the RFO report be agreed.

2023/101 **Correspondence** – **RESOLVED** that the correspondence register be noted.

2023/102 **Matters in hand** – **RESOLVED** that the ongoing issues and projects be noted.

2023/074 **Date and Time of Next Meeting** – **RESOLVED** that the next meeting will take place on 29th November 2023, 7.30 p.m. at Melmerby Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.56 p.m.

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