

MELMERBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Melmerby Parish Council held on Wednesday 29th November 2023, 7.30 p.m. at Melmerby Village Hall.

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

Cllr Michael Hanley and Cllr Mary Robinson were also in attendance.

8 members of the public were present.

2023/104 **Apologies for absence – RESOLVED** that apologies were received from Cllr Gary Fletcher.

2023/105 **Declarations of Interest – RESOLVED** there were no declarations of interest.

2023/106 **Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 27th September 2023 – RESOLVED** that Cllr Chris Jones was authorised to sign the minutes as a correct record.

2023/107 **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.

2023/108 **Public Participation - RESOLVED** that the Chairman of the Parish Council opened the meeting for members of the public to speak.

A resident gave an update regarding the proposed play area proposals. There is still no agreement in place from the landowner but further discussions have taken place with the Rowley family. There is to be an open consultation event on 13th December 2023, 4-7 pm at Melmerby Village Hall where proposed plans can be viewed. The event is open to all and flyers will be distributed with the Memo.

An update was given about the B4RN project. Final routes for the broadband are currently being developed.

2023/109 **Westmorland and Furness Council - RESOLVED** that the updates from Cllr Hanley and Cllr Robinson were noted.

Cllr Hanley reported that finance had been secured from central government for levelling up schemes and the Penrith hub – Gateway to the Lakes project.

There is to be an electoral review which may lead to an increase in councillors at Westmorland and Furness Council (WaFC).

Cllr Hanley also reported on the lack of dentists in the area and that the WaFC area received approximately half the amount of funding from Public Health as other areas of the country.

Cllr Robinson reported that there is to be a new Local Plan for the area. The Local Plan usually take 5 years to complete but the aim is to complete it in 2 years.

There was a discussion around Place Action Groups which are to be set up across the WaFC area. For Melmerby, it will be Alston and East Fellside. The Place Action Groups will look at priorities within the area. Alston has already identified that public transport as their first priority.

Cllr Bardsley asked about road gritting and Cllr Hanley agreed to seek clarification about the issue.

In terms of the 20 mph policy, contact should be made with Laura McLellan. There will be a need for public consultation before any changes are considered.

2023/110 **Parking charges at Langwathby station – RESOLVED** that the update on the situation be noted. It was reported that the new parking charges at Langwathby train station are now set at £3 per day. The waiting time is limited to 10 minutes. It was confirmed by Cllr Robinson that planning permission was not needed as the station car park is on private land.

2023/111 **Emergency Plan - RESOLVED** that the Melmerby Emergency Plan be approved. Cllr Bardsley will contact all those who have already agreed to be contact volunteers. It would be useful to find out which properties are on which electricity supply as the village has two different supplies. It was reported that the village hall committee are looking at generator possibilities. Cllr Robinson highlighted that there are remaining grant funds available through the former Eden Community Fund.

2023/112 **Secondary School bus route - RESOLVED** that the bus route has now been amended and does not include the Great Salkeld loop.

2023/113 **Highways - RESOLVED** that the following issues be reported to the Highways authority

- a) Overhanging trees on the Gamblesby road near the caravan park.
- b) Running water in the dip on the Gamblesby road past the Sawmill due to blocked drain.

2023/114 **Planning**

- a) 23/0628 **Broadmeadows** – Proposed agricultural building for calves and milking. **RESOLVED** – that the application be supported.

2023/115 **Draft budget 2024/25 – RESOLVED** that the draft budget for 2024/25 be accepted with the exclusion of budget provisions for grants and minor maintenance as there are funds in the reserves to cover these costs if they arise. The total precept level for 2023/24 (including council tax reduction scheme) was £5,250 and it was proposed that the total precept for 2024/25 should be set at £5,400. All those present were in favour.

2023/116 **Finance– RESOLVED** that the payments outlined in the RFO report be agreed. The motion was proposed by Cllr Bell and seconded by Cllr Burford.

2023/117 **Correspondence – RESOLVED** that the correspondence register be noted.

2023/118 **Matters in hand – RESOLVED** that the ongoing issues and projects be noted. It was reported that the AONBs are now called National Landscapes. It was agreed that the clerk will chase the North Pennines National Landscape Officer regarding the information board for the village.

2023/119 **Date and Time of Next Meeting – RESOLVED** that the next meeting will take place on 24th January 2024, 7.30 p.m. at Melmerby Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.58 p.m.