

MELMERBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 11th March 2024, 7.30 p.m. at Melmerby Village Hall.

David Bardsley, Chris Jones, Gary Fletcher, Bill Burford and Dougie Bell (all Melmerby Parish Councillors) were in attendance. Claire Rankin, Parish Clerk was also in attendance. Six members of the public were present. Cllr Michael Hanley, Westmorland and Furness Council was also present. Steph Cordon and Emma Brass, Westmorland and Furness Council and Mo Bibby, Cumbria Police were also in attendance. Cllr Mary Robinson, Westmorland and Furness Council sent her apologies.

Welcome and Introductions

David Bardsley welcomed all those present to the Annual Parish Meeting for Melmerby.

David outlined some of the activities the Parish Council had been involved in during the last year. These included:

- Supporting the implementation of B4RN. Thanks were given to the volunteers involved with the project.
- Pursuing a 20mph speed limit in the village. However, the project is not going ahead in Melmerby due to feedback from the community during the consultation.
- Completion and installation of the Village Information Board.
- Re-establishment of the electricity supply to the phone box for the defibrillator.
- Responding to planning applications.
- Reporting highways issues.
- Building positive relationships with Westmorland and Furness Council and Cumbria Police in terms of management of the Horse Fair.
- Giving support to the group developing playground ideas for the village.
- Attending Place Action Group meetings and gaining awareness of wider projects in the East Fellside area.
- Responding to Westmorland and Furness Council initiatives and policy harmonisation.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th March 2024

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th March 2024 were approved as a correct record and Chris Jones signed these as the Chairman of the Parish Council at this time.

Appleby Horse Fair

Steph Cordon and Emma Brass from Westmorland and Furness Council and Mo Bibby from Cumbria Police were present at the meeting.

Mo Bibby explained that staff teams were in place for the Horse Fair. The Police are currently in Phase 1 which is liaison with Parish Councils and caravan counting when attendees of the Horse Fair begin arriving. It was confirmed that there was an increased police team for 2025 and caravan checks will be carried out earlier this year. Mo emphasised that feedback from local residents was particularly important as they have the local knowledge on the ground. Parish Councils and local residents were urged to use the online feedback forms which are discussed on a daily basis. The link for the online forms will be sent to the Parish Council and any other interested parties. Local residents were asked to contact a parish councillor with concerns or complete the feedback forms and send directly to the Police.

The Police were working to stop early arrivals but it was confirmed that the Police nor any other body has legal enforcement powers to limit numbers.

Emma Brass confirmed that there had been no engagement with the landowner yet but if the landowner was in agreement, 4 portable toilets would be provided for the incoming visitors and 2 portable toilets for the outgoing visitors. In addition, a stand pipe would be in place for the incoming visitors. A discussion was held regarding the placement of the toilets. It was also agreed that better signage for the chemical waste container would be in place this year.

Parking encroachment on the road was raised as one of the main concerns from 2024.

Playground Proposal for Melmerby Village Green

Bridget Renvoize gave an update on progress with the playground proposal. Trustees for the landowner have agreed to the proposed plan and two quotations (from Playdale and Kompan) had been received. The total cost of the playground is approximately £40,000 (inclusive of groundworks). The Parish Council working party has already met with the playground project leaders to discuss the proposals.

Steph Cordon, Westmorland and Furness Council highlighted that a Playground Strategy would be considered by the Council on 18th March 2025 to look at all playground provision in the area not just Council owned facilities. It was confirmed there is funding available in the budget and Steph and her team can also help with grant funding sources.

Matters of Interest

An issue was raised regarding crossing the A686 near the bus shelter and the Gamblesby corner to access the primary school bus stop. This issue has arisen as there is only one bus pick up point for the primary school bus due to bus route changes.

The meeting closed at 8.23 p.m.