



Melling with Wrayton Parish Council

Clerk: Claire Helme

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Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 16 July 2024 at 6pm in Melling Village Hall

Present: Cllr Towers (Chair), Cllr Howson, Cllr Fawcett, Cllr Gibson, Cllr Stevenson and City Cllr Ross Hunter

Cllr Jackson entered the meeting at 6.10pm

Clerk: Claire Helme

10 members of the public were in attendance.

Open Forum:

Melling Green accident

Residents discussed the road accident on the A683 adjacent to Melling Green which left parked cars damaged and two BT Openreach cabinets out of action leaving many residents without internet or phone connections. The accident was thought to be due to a medical emergency suffered by the driver. This is the latest in a of serious accidents over the years and traffic calming measures are needed. Reference was made to a report made in 2002/3 by Ecologica which should contain all the road safety information needed for the Parish Council to make a case for some form of traffic control through the village. It was noted that Melling does not have a speed camera in the middle of the village and residents questioned why not. It was also noted that service vehicles need to get through the village quickly and that it is also a main route for haulage. Lancashire County Council have shown a lack of interest in further traffic calming measures in Lune Valley villages like Whittington, Cantsfield and Melling to date. It was also noted that Melling Village Green is registered common land and also an SSSI so residents cannot park directly on it.

Sustrans

The recent meeting with Jim Yeoman from Sustrans was discussed. The cycleway as far as Hornby is well-planned and ready to go; however, there are problems to be overcome with the route from Hornby to Kirkby Lonsdale including very high gradients, flooding issues etc. The Greta and Wenning (Hornby) bridges present a formidable problem and routes to Wennington are too steep and have been abandoned. Additionally, not all landowners, particularly from Tunstall northwards, are supportive of the project for various reasons. All parish councils along the proposed route need to communicate and work together to help push forward the project and discuss any problems and potential solutions. It was suggested that the parish councils get a group together to communicate.

Moorside

David Nott gave a brief resume of the history of the 'pollinator patch' on Moorside. This formed a 5-year agreement with John Clarke the landowner whereby one third of the grassed area opposite the school is managed by Lancaster City Council as a wildflower area and is tended twice a year. The agreement will soon be due for review and it is proposed to allow the whole of the grassed area, currently mown seven times a year, to become a wildflower area; the landowner, neighbouring residents and the city council will however need to be

consulted before proceeding. It is hoped that some of the biodiversity grant money could be used to fund part of the project.

David Nott also thanked the Parish Council for his leaving gift which was presented to councillors with long service records.

The Open Forum finished at 6.30pm.

30/24 Apologies for absence:

Cllr Holmes, Co Cllr Maxwell-Scott,

Cllr Jackson apologised in advance as she would have to leave and return owing to a school Ofsted inspection.

31/24 Declarations of interests and dispensations:

Cllr Towers declared an interest in agenda items relating to Melling Village Hall as she is a trustee. Cllr Jackson declared her interest as a trustee of Melling Village Hall and also as Chair of Governors of St Wilfrid's School. Cllr Gibson declared an interest in the Sustrans item as he owns land near the route of the proposed cycle path.

32/24 Minutes of last meeting:

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 7 May 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair.

Proposed Cllr Towers

Seconded Cllr Stevenson

33/24 Matters arising:

Cllr Gibson enquired about the Selby Lane path and Arkholme Parish Council's response.

The Clerk stated that Arkholme Parish Council was happy for the DMMO to proceed but that it did not wish to be involved with the administration.

Cllr Gibson stated that there has been a collision at Greta Bridge, resulting in missing stones and barrier which needs reporting.

34/24 Finance:

Payments approved since last meeting

May

	£
Clerk backdated pay	9.54
LALC annual subscription	55.33
Gallagher insurance renewal (Hiscox insurance)	768.31
A J Wilkie, Melling Chronicle (May edition)	167.00
Parish Magazine Printing (May edition)	140.15

June

A J Wilkie, Melling Chronicle (June edition)	167.00
Parish Magazine Printing (June edition)	140.15
Unity Trust service charge	18.00

July

A J Wilkie (July/August edition)	334.00
Parish Magazine Printing (July edition)	159.95

Standing orders

May

P Williams	360.00
Clerk	278.20

June

P Williams	360.00
Clerk (new pay grade)	282.97

July

P Williams	360.00
Clerk	282.97

Receipts

	£
HMRC VAT return	1,078.39
LCC Local delivery/biodiversity scheme	800.00
Melling Chronicle advert (May)	30.00

Current budget position

The balance at the bank currently stands at £13,760.53 including the VAT return and latest grant of £800. The balance minus all unspent grants is £11,360.53 which is a similar figure to the same period last year (£11,584).

35/24 Administration:

Lengthsman's contract

The contract needs to go out to tender as soon as possible.

Melling Chronicle

Advertising rates

It was noted that other local magazines charge far more for advertising often only in black and white format. It was resolved to write to our advertisers regarding new rates with a view to implementing the new charges in January 2025.

Distribution

Currently 38 magazines are distributed in Wennington by Sophie Ridsdale. She has reported back that only 10 households wish to continue to receive paper copies so this will save some money on printing as the rest can be emailed.

Unity Trust Bank new signatory

Cllr Stevenson has now been added to the account as a signatory.

Governance documents

No further progress has been made to date

36/24 Planning notifications:

Tree works

24/0093/TCA Barn House, Lodge Lane, Melling, LA6 2RE

T1 Willow, crown reduce by approx. 2.5m

No comments were made by councillors

Tate Holes, Selby Lane, Melling, LA6 2RA

It was noted that despite the serving of papers on the owners there was no change in the status of the site. The Clerk will contact the Planning Enforcement Officer for an update.

37/24 Parish management and maintenance:

Melling Green

The on-going maintenance and cutting regime of Melling Green was discussed. Sue Flowers met with Cllr Howson, Cllr Towers and Cllr Gibson and she proposed leaving the village green uncut which would promote pollinators and enable wildflowers to re-establish and would look more attractive than the area currently looks when mown. It was suggested that the Parish Council contact Eva Irving the new Community Conservation Officer working on behalf of the AONB to assist and advise on a cutting regime to enhance biodiversity and wildflower species and to work with Melling as a community.

It was resolved to contact Eva Irving.

The steps on the village green have also been strimmed by the resident.

It was resolved to write out a tender with maps based on the job description provided by Cllr Howson.

Moorside

This item was covered in the Open Forum section of the meeting.

Gillison Close

The verge outside 'Grey Gables' needs mowing and the fence is also in need of attention.

The conifers were planted outside the wall of Grey Gables many years ago with the proviso that everything was kept in good order. It was resolved to pay a visit to the owners of Grey Gables to discuss the issues.

Parking is a problem on Gillison Close and it was discussed whether double yellow lines, a 'do not park on this side' sign or a 'chicane' type system might be helpful. The 'do not park on this side' option was thought best.

The 'children playing sign' also needs replacing.

PROW grants/projects

The Parish Council discussed utilising some of the biodiversity grant money on the creation of an extended 'pollinator patch' at Moorside.

Selby Lane pathway

Debbie Shannon reported that the DMMO application was going ahead and needed to be in by early August; 9 residents have so far expressed interest in supporting the application by providing witness statements.

Noticeboards

It was resolved to locate a joiner to repair the noticeboards.

Vicar Lane

The issues reported by Cllr Gibson on Vicar Lane are a county council not a city council matter and the Parish Council will forward the information to Co Cllr, Matthew Maxwell-Scott.

38/24 Communication with the parish:

Communication with the general public

The most appropriate way to communicate with the general public was discussed particularly given the recent road accident on Melling Village Green. If councillors post comments on the public forum of the community Facebook page then they should make it absolutely clear they are responding as an individual resident. If the comment is official in their capacity as councillors then responses should go via the Clerk.

St Wilfrid's School

The school held a play recently and borrowed the staging from the hall.

St Wilfrid's Church

Work was recently undertaken on the church roof as a short-term measure to prevent further ingress of water; full re-roofing of the church roof at a later date will cost around £350k.

Melling Village Hall

The event on Sunday for the UEFA cup final was enjoyable with around 30 people present.

The second part of the LEF grant has now been paid to the builders and funding for the next phase of improvements is being investigated.

39/24 Communication with outside bodies:

LALC

Cllr Stevenson gave a brief resume of the recent LALC Area Committee meeting at Morecambe Town Hall. It was noted that a meeting was planned to help parish councils formulate responses regarding planning issues. The next Area Committee meeting is on Wednesday 17 July.

Sustrans meeting

This has been covered in the Open Forum section of the meeting.

40/24 Reports and correspondence

None not otherwise covered in the agenda.

41/24 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 24 September at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

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