

Whitwell and Selside Parish Meeting

7.30 pm 5 March 2018 at the Memorial Hall

Minutes

1. **Welcome.**

The chairman welcomed all present, mentioning in particular Tony Cousins and Peter Thornton for both kindly having offered to attend.

Others present were Tony and June Dixon, Margaret Dixon, Carolyn Potter, Will Duxbury, Dan Robinson, Gerry and Jen O'Donovan, Terry and Anne Armitstead, Andrew Armitstead, Norman and Cathy Winter, Lenore Knowles, Craig Procter and S. Elliott.

2. **Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Angela Ridding, Claire Dixon and Jen Armitstead.

3. **Approval of minutes of meeting of 18 September 2017.**

Lenore asked for the minutes to be read out and this was done. It was noted that of those present at that meeting only Carolyn was present at this one. However, the minutes were confirmed to be accurate, and signed by the chairman.

4. **Presentation by Tony Cousins on Proposed Commemoration of 1918 in parishes of Skelsmergh, Longsleddale and Selside**

Tony referred to the exhibition he had mounted in Skelsmergh Community Hall in 1914 and showed us one or two of the excellent panels that had been used. He reminded us that the exhibition had been about the 25 men of the parishes of Skelsmergh, Scalthwaiterigg and Patton who had been killed. His current proposal was for the parishes of Skelsmergh, Longsleddale and Selside. However he had in mind to extend the material to cover the wider picture of life at the front and also at home. He would especially need volunteers (perhaps 2 or 3) for a steering group, for home baking and the serving of tea. He would welcome any suitable artifacts or other relevant items e.g. photographs. He said the 2014 exhibition had cost £1600. From the proceeds it had been possible to restore the church lych gate. He expected a comparable figure would be needed. He had already received offers up to £500. Peter said he might be able to find £1000. There was general support to Tony's project and Simon thanked him warmly for his presentation.

5. **Update from Peter Thornton, District Councillor.**

Peter said that SLDC's Council Tax for 2018 would be an increase of only £5 over the previous year. He said the possible amalgamation of the parish meetings of Selside and Fawcett Forest would need to be postponed for the time being. He referred to the upcoming election in May of the entire District. The wards had been considerably extended and voters would be required to choose three candidates. Lenore asked whether the Minutes

book of Fawcett Forest had been found and Peter confirmed this was with SLDC. Simon thanked him for his helpful update.

5. **Matters arising.**

i) **“No access for HGV” signs.**

Carolyn had asked whether these signs could be put up at the foot of Otter Bank and at Patton Bridge at the turning into the Watchgate road. Simon mentioned that neither of these locations was within the parish. It was also observed that there once had been such a sign at Otter Bank. At the entry at Watchgate to the road to Patton Bridge, which does lie within our parish, a sign was now in place.

On this and any highways matter Norman suggested that individuals would be likely to have an equal if not greater influence, as compared to a parish, especially now that the former Highways Stewards system had been discontinued. He recommended everyone to use either the highways hotline or the online HIMS system, accessible through the CCC website, or both. He had had mixed results but found the HIMS system had useful advantages. Peter said he found the HIMS effective regarding blocked gullies, potholes and damaged road signs. Dan said he had had positive results from HIMS in regard to overhanging branches and blocked gullies.

ii) **Extension of fibre optic cable beyond Watchgate.**

Peter said no early action was expected. He referred to the B4RN initiative undertaken by Grayrigg, the Huttons and Docker etc. Norman gave an update on this. Those parishes were very pleased with their achievement. However it had required considerable volunteering to dig paths for cables, and securing adequate take-up in advance in the form of advance sales. No specific information on the extension of BT’s fibre reach in our own parish had been given, but some people were now pinning their hopes on implementation in the future of a universal service obligation on broadband providers to provide a minimum of 10Mbps to all homes by 2020.

Dan expressed strong interest in promoting a Selside B4RN initiative. General discussion followed. Peter recommended asking Martin Welch if he would give us a presentation. This was agreed, as also that we should liaise with adjoining parishes so that there could be a larger audience for him. Norman expressed the view that the problem of poor provision did not correspond with parish boundaries, but rather in remoteness from main roads where BT had installed fibre cabinets. Consequently the task if B4RN were to be extended to include Selside would be to find motivated and competent residents to carry this forward. It was agreed that Norman would speak to Martin about this.

Action: Norman

6. **Highways matters.**

i) **Management of Longsleddale road verges**

Peter said that CCC paid to Longsleddale the amount they would have to have paid their own contractor, the figure being agreed annually. Longsleddale is then free to employ its own contractor (David Wilson). The advantage was that David could come immediately the “window” opened ie the earliest date specified by CCC for cutting the verges. The question arose as to whether Selside would be responsible for the A6 – it was agreed Peter would investigate this and report back. The parish would need to have made a decision by the early autumn.

ii) Damaged road sign at Four Lane Ends

It was agreed Anne would report this via HIMS

Action: Anne

ii) Gully at the foot of Swanlands

Tony reported he believed this temporary arrangement was highly likely to collapse imminently and that a proper job needed to be done. In discussion it was agreed an email be sent to Stan Collins, emphasising the danger to road users .

Action: Norman

7. AOB

There was none.

8. Date and place of next meeting.

7.30 p m Monday 17 September 2018 at the Memorial Hall.