

## Whitwell and Selside Parish Meeting

7.30 pm 19 September 2016 at the Memorial Hall

### AGENDA

1. **Welcome.**

The chairman welcomed all present, thanking in particular John Farmer, Stan Collins and Peter Thornton for kindly attending.

In addition, present were Terry and Anne Armitstead, Norman and Cathy Winter, Margaret and Claire Dixon and S. Elliott.

2. **Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Andrew and Jen Armitstead, and Tony and June Dixon.

3. **Approval of minutes of meeting of 7 March 2016.**

The minutes having been approved, were duly signed by the chairman.

4. **John Farmer: National Park and Rural Broadband issues.**

John, chairman of Longsleddale Parish Meeting and a member of the Lake District National Park, gave an update on installation of superfast **broadband**. There is a need for adequate speed and coverage in rural parts of Cumbria. This can either be achieved by extending the reach of fibre, or provision of a cheaper version of satellite service than is presently available. B4RN is a fibre-to-the-premises alternative to BT's FTTC [fibre to the cabinet], and has been successfully introduced in some places, and is being introduced as close to us as New Hutton. CW spoke of experience using B4RN at Dolphinholme. PT said that access to superfast broadband would have an effect on property prices. NW commented that our parish is a community divided; provision presently reaches some of the parish, but not all.

JF then gave an outline of the structure of the **National Park**, which includes parts of neighbouring Whinfell and Fawcett Forest parishes in its recent extension. He referred to the various committees, in particular the planning committee. Half the annual funds comprised a grant from national government, which was diminishing yearly. He said that priorities were the cultural environment and landscape, and the wellbeing of local communities. He recommended that those with an interest should involve themselves in the Park's current public consultations on planning matters. He referred to the present policy of disposal of property surplus to requirement provided a suitable purchaser could be found – e.g. the Yewbarrow woodland in Longsleddale. SC rehearsed his own reasons for objecting to seeking World Heritage status, which JF supported, including potential adverse effects on existing tourism provision, and possible acceleration of depopulation.

5. **Matters arising.**

i) Request from the Robinson family of Goodhamscales for a 'No Through Road' sign to be placed at the junction of the Goodhamscales road with the Mealbank - Patton road and at the turning off the A6 for Edge Bank and Garnet Folds.

Norman reminded the meeting that as agreed this was being handled by Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council, as falling within that parish. He had heard nothing new on the matter.

ii) Boundary issues – possible amalgamation with Fawcett Forest to form single Parish Meeting.

Peter gave an update. He said he had written to each household in Fawcett Forest, reminding them that unless a chairman could be found their Parish Meeting was not on a footing to proceed. He had presented two options therefore - either to remain inoperative as at present, or to join with Whitwell and Selside Parish Meeting. If they chose this the decision would need to be ratified at a future meeting of the latter. He had only received one reply and accordingly had re-written suggesting a meeting of residents with a view to electing a chairman. A quorum of two would be needed. If this proposal failed he would recommend joining as outlined. In the latter case parish boundaries and parish constitutions would remain otherwise unaltered, and the decision would not be irrevocable. He now awaited further responses from the residents.

## **5. Highways matters.**

Norman said he had been reluctant to press Victoria Upton regarding agreed road markings at Four Lane Ends in view of the pressures on the Highways Department following the December floods. Stan said that a separate budget was available for this and he would be seeing her shortly and would remind her this work was outstanding.

Serious concern was expressed by Anne and Margaret at the lack of any proper cutting of road verges. Stan had sympathy with this. He said that the Highways Dept. had a plan of road verges for each parish, with recommended cutting regimes. From next financial year it was intended to offer parishes the choice of taking responsibility for their own verges in accordance with the relevant plan, for which funds would be available. He said that letters outlining this proposal would in due course be sent to parishes.

## **6. Update on December 2015 floods – grants, road closures etc.**

Norman alluded to the recent damage to the bridge at Garnett Bridge. Stan said this was in hand and in response to Simon's question said it was definitely intended to rescue the fallen coping stones. Anne mentioned the possibility of the Bouthwaite Bridge having sustained damage, to which Stan answered that all bridges had received very detailed inspections and concluded therefore that the bridge was sound. Norman said that he had inspected the two damaged footbridges in the parish in order to report the damage through the usual channels. Stan reported that it was hoped to open Sprint Bridge by the end of October. He said that Ford Bridge in Burneside was open to light traffic only and was expected to be replaced.

## **7. Parish website and email communication.**

i) Update on email list.

ii) Update on progress on website.

iii) Update on ideas for assistance in extending communication: social media, recruitment to email list.

Norman said that the website was up and running and he had nothing further to report. The chairman thanked him for his initiative and contributions in this regard.

**8. Upper Kent Local Area Partnership - update.**

Norman said that he had been elected deputy chair, but there was nothing significant to report otherwise.

**9. Litter Clearance: date of next event.**

9 October 2016, meeting at 10.00 at the Memorial Hall.

**10. Update by Stan Collins, County Councillor**

Stan said that his main preoccupation had been his involvement with the ten bridges that had been closed within his district. He referred to Gurnal Bridge, saying that the damage here was not to the bridge itself but to the banks of the river which had been undermined. He was attempting to ensure a commonsense approach could be adopted, as inflated schemes including the re-routing of the lane itself had been put forward.

**10. A O B.**

Peter said he had observed in the hall the Piston trophy, held by Selside after a contest some years ago with Longsleddale. He felt it was time for the latter to win it back, and it was agreed he would come forward with a suggested challenge for this after consulting Longsleddale residents.

**11. Date and place of next meeting.**

7.30 p m, Monday 6 March 2017, at the Memorial Hall.