

## **Whitwell and Selside Parish Meeting**

**7.30 pm 4 April 2022 at the Memorial Hall**

### **Minutes**

#### **1. Welcome.**

The chairman welcomed all present, in particular Jack Armitstead, who was accompanied by his grandparents. Present were: Carolyn Potter, Norman and Cathy Winter, John Tallon, Stephen Procter, Lenore Knowles, Geoff and Catriona Field, Angela Ridding, Kerry Stevens, Dan Robinson, Wendy Barlow, Terry and Anne Armitstead, and S. Elliott.

#### **2. Apologies.**

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

#### **3. Approval of minutes of meeting of 2 March 2020.**

The minutes, having been circulated shortly after the last meeting were agreed to be a correct record, and signed by the chairman.

#### **4. Matters arising.**

##### **(i) Roads - flooding**

The chairman said that he had received an email from Anne Armitstead concerning the periodic and deep flooding in the lane adjacent to Eileen Wilson's building on former Whitwell Hall land between Watchgate and Poppy Farm. He invited Anne to summarise her highly unsatisfactory experience in dealing with Cumbria Highways. In summary this comprised inefficiency and muddle, added to vague promises unfulfilled. The latter included a proposed new piped culvert beneath the lane. No action whatever had resulted, and the position was just as bad as ever. She said, supported by others, that this flooding adversely affected local farming businesses and also the school bus, which on occasion has had to turn around and choose a new route – this unavoidably involving reversing which the drivers are not permitted to do. Inconclusive discussion followed on the possible causes and the possible remedies to the flooding.

Finally it was agreed that Norman would liaise with June Lowther with the view of enlisting support from Selside School, and that Anne would ask her daughter in law Jen Armitstead to add her support to June, Also that the chairman would contact Tim Farron MP.

**Action: Norman, Anne, Simon.**

##### **(ii) Roads – potholes**

Norman referred to various dangerous potholes in our lanes and said that school parents had been complaining. He had put together report, photos and a map for Highways in January, but no action was taken despite repeating the reports. Eventually he had escalated it to a formal complaint and had just heard last Friday that action will be taken over the next 7 working days to carry out repairs. He would monitor whether the work was completed, but

was pleased to have heard from a real person who can be contacted again. June Lowther, Headteacher at Selside School, had also been involved in trying to get repairs done.

**Action: Norman**

## **5. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

Norman introduced the plan for celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in Selside, part of a national celebration 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> June. A small working group including Simon Elliott, Stephen Procter, Stephen Knowles and Steven Dixon had worked on the viability of the first two of the following three events:

1. Bonfire Beacon to be lit on Whiteside Pike at 21.45 on Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Permissions were already in place, but going ahead depends on factors including satisfactory insurances being in place. This would take place under the auspices of Selside Memorial Hall.
2. Selside Sports to be held on the afternoon/evening of Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup> as a family event coupled with BBQ and bar [based in the Hall].
3. 1950s tea, organized by Selside Church, to be held at the Memorial Hall on the afternoon of Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>.

Between them these would involve different volunteers and provide for a spread of participants. All required further detailed planning and together would be a worthy way of our community celebrating the Jubilee.

## **6. New Unitary Authority**

Norman spoke in outline about the new Unitary Authority of Westmorland and Furness, which would replace Cumbria County Council and South Lakeland District Council from April 2023. The local election this May would be for a Councillor to serve on that new Council. [Added note: Our parish falls in Upper Kent Ward]. All local government functions will be handled by the new authority.

## **7. Change of Name**

The chairman informed parishioners that he had been made aware that, without any consultation whatever, save vague suggestions by Mr Thornton some years back, the parish of Fawcett Forest had been added to our own for administrative purposes and a new name had been assigned namely Selside and Fawcett Forest Parish Meeting. He said he welcomed the joining with Fawcett Forest but was much concerned at the loss of the historic link with the Whitwell Hall portion of the parish. Parishioners had no objection to the joining of the parishes, but Stephen said he also regretted the loss of the Whitwell place name and Dan suggested the District Council or successor should be informed that the parish unanimously required the Whitwell element to be re-instated. Agreed that the chairman would ask Pat Bell in what forum and when the change had been agreed and inform her of the widespread concern at the total lack of advance consultation with our parish, and the desire for the new name to be amended.

**8. Poor Dale – letting of grazing.**

Stephen agreed to take the grazing for the coming year, for which he agreed to hand the chairman of the Memorial Hall Committee £10.

**9. Resignation of Chairman and Clerk**

Simon told the meeting that having served as Clerk for 24 years, this year would be his last. He hoped this would give time to find a successor to carry out the role.

Norman thanked him for his service to the community and for being willing to oversee the coming year and finding a successor.

**10. AOB**

There was none.

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

7.30 p m Monday 6 March 2023 at the Memorial Hall.