

Whitwell and Selside Parish Meeting

7.30 pm 6 March 2017 at the Memorial Hall

Minutes

1. Welcome.

The chairman welcomed all present, thanking in particular Peter Thornton for kindly attending. He also welcomed Sally Percival of Whitwell Folds to this her first meeting. In addition, present were Terry and Anne Armitstead, Tony and June Dixon, Margaret and Claire Dixon, Stephen Procter, Angela Ridding, Carolyn Potter, John Tallon and S. Elliott.

2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Andrew and Jen Armitstead, and Norman and Cathy Winter. At this point the chairman mentioned that Norman was now home after his operation and making a good recovery and this news was warmly received.

3. Approval of minutes of meeting of 19 September 2016.

The minutes having been approved without amendment were duly signed by the chairman.

4. Updates on County and District matters

i) Stan Collins was not present to give an update on county matters.

ii) Peter Thornton gave a brief update. He said that there would be a rise in Council Tax in the forthcoming financial year. He said that there would shortly be an expansion to the materials currently collected at doorstep recycling e.g. cardboard. In the absence of Stan Collins he said that the County Council had introduced a new and in his view much improved reporting system for highways problems, with a new website- see:

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/highways-pavements/reporting-problem-on-highway/reportandtrackafaultonline.asp>

He urged people to report faults including especially potholes and blocked gullies. He was confident such faults would be promptly attended to.

Prompted by the chairman and in regard to the new arrangements for cutting the verges in Longsleddale parish, he said that the parish having identified an “approved contractor” (David Wilson who he said currently does the hedges) the County Council would pay the parish an annual fixed sum, presumably subject to periodic review, and hence the parish would be responsible for doing the work to a prior agreed schedule. The chairman said that he had spoken to John Farmer and that the “vehicle” for channelling the money would be the Hall Committee. He suggested that members might care to reflect on whether Whitwell and Selside would see any advantage in following the Longsleddale approach.

5. Matters arising.

i) **Boundary issues** – possible amalgamation with Fawcett Forest to form single Parish Meeting. Peter gave an update. He said that a meeting of Fawcett Forest residents, at the Memorial Hall, had been called, but that no-one had attended. He said that the District Council planned a general “Parish Review”, to take place within the next eighteen months, and that as a result the Council might propose to abolish the (now non-existent) Fawcett Forest Parish Meeting and that they also had the power to extinguish the Civil Parish of Fawcett Forest altogether, the latter much to the surprise of the chairman. He assured the meeting that no action would be taken in advance of the widest public consultation.

6. **Highways matters.**

Margaret Dixon expressed severe disappointment that Victoria Upton had not completed the agreed road markings at Four Lane Ends. However she was of the view that in any event these would not improve the situation. She considered “sleeping policemen” a better solution.

There was some general discussion around this without any further firm conclusion being reached.

7. **Parish website email communication**

Despite Norman’s absence this item was included in case any suggestions came forward – there were none and general approval of the present arrangements was the apparent feeling of the meeting.

8. **Litter clearance**

The chairman reported that Skelsmergh, having been advised there was potential danger attached to clearing litter on the A6, intended to discontinue doing the main road, save for the lay-bys. He said that it needed to be clearly understood by Selside parishioners that if individuals wished to continue litter clearance on the A6 they would do so as volunteers and not under the wing, approval (or otherwise) or encouragement of the Parish Meeting which needed to be at arm’s length – for one reason the Meeting had no insurance cover. He said that he expected to continue as a volunteer. Peter said that the Council, if requested, would continue to provide equipment as in the past, and he expected the bags would be collected in the usual way. The chairman agreed to check the latter with John Barwise. Margaret made reference to the fact that the authorities evidently collected litter on occasions and questioned the need for parishioners being involved.

9. **AOB**

Tony expressed serious concern at **the proposed £200,000 expenditure on the Market place** in Kendal. In response Peter said it was proposed to install an improved lighting system, a new power supply to replace generators, new paving where the surface is uneven, new seats and a general improvement of facilities, and that in his view this was all both needed and reasonable.

Sally said that she had been inspired by seeing an old photo of a previous family assembled in front of Whitwell Folds. She wondered whether there would be support towards a project she had in mind – namely **the photographing of all the present families in the parish and their houses** (as a “historical snapshot”), which she would be happy to organize if she felt that the Meeting supported her idea. She could also photograph other historical images such as her own one at Whitwell Folds. There was general approval towards her idea and the chairman thanked her for her initiative. No details were discussed as to how she might go about organizing the project. It was suggested that the parish website might contain a link to her photographic archive when completed.

10 Poor Dale

Stephen reminded the chairman this item was missing from the agenda. The chairman thanked him, and on being asked, he said he would be happy to take the grazing for a further year. The meeting agreed, and asked that he make a contribution of £10 to the School in regard to this.

11. Date and place of next meeting.

7.30 p m, Monday 18 September 2017, at the Memorial Hall.