

## **Skelton Parish Council**

**Clerk:** Mrs R E Kelly, 5 Lark Field, Penrith, CA11 7NY – clerk2skeltonparishcouncil@outlook.com; 01768 863900

**Chair:** Ms Stacey Kane, Linton Ghyll, Ivegill, Cumbria, CA11 9QF – stacey.kane@virgin.net; 016974 75710

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Skelton Parish Council held at Hutton End Village Hall, on Tuesday 8 September 2015 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Stacey Creighton chaired the meeting with Cllr Colin Atkinson, Cllr Bob Towers, Cllr William Pearson, Cllr Bernard Parker, Cllr Julie Wright, Cllr Alan Dickinson Cllr William Armstrong, and Cllr Kevin Beaty (EDC). Cllr Martin Squires was Co-opted on at the meeting.

#### Members of Public

5 Members of public (including 2 from Fraone)

Prior to commencement of the Parish Council meeting, Cllr Stacey Creighton thanked Jean Bloomfield for the help and support she has given to the Parish Council over the years. Cllr Stacey Creighton presented Jean with a card and gift, as a token of the Parish Council's appreciation. Jean thanked the Parish Council for the card and gifts.

#### **15/040 Apologies for Absence**

The chairperson asked if there were any apologies for absence.

**Resolved:** The Chair & Clerk said they had apologies from Cllr Nicky Higgins, Cllr Anita Lyons and Cllr Tom Wentworth-Waites (CCC)

#### **15/041 Declaration of Interest & Request for Dispensation.**

The Chairperson asked if there were any Declarations of Interest.

**Resolved:** The Clerk had had no Declarations of Interest.

#### **15/042 Minutes**

The Chairperson asked if she could sign the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6 July 2015 as a true record of those meetings.

**Resolved:** The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairperson.

#### **15/043 Matters Arising**

To note any matters arising from the above minutes that are not on this agenda including:

##### Grant Forms

Cllr William Armstrong commented on the dates for applications of grant application forms and about how applicants would gain a copy of the grant form. Cllr William Armstrong was informed that the forms would be available for download from the parish website, or by contacting a councillor or the Clerk. Cllr William Armstrong was reminded the motion had been passed at the previous meeting, and was not up for further discussion.

#### **15/044 Vacancies**

Cllr Alan Dickinson proposed that Mr Squires be co-opted on to Skelton Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Bernard Parker, and agreed by all.

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**Resolved** – Cllr Squires co-opted on to the council, the relevant paperwork to be completed and returned to Eden District Council by the Clerk.

### 15/045 Reports

**To hear the following reports:**

a) From Cumbria County Council.

Cllr Tom Wentworth-Waites gave his apologies for the meeting, but sent the following, which the Clerk read to the Parish Council:

*Thank you for the agenda for tonight's meeting. I'm afraid that Skelton's meeting falls on the same evening as Hesket's Parish council as well. I'm afraid I have previously agreed to attend Hesket PC. However I shall be attending Skelton PC at your next meeting. Please could you give my apologies to the council.*

*In my absence, might I ask the council to consider thinking about any local projects and causes that might warrant or deserve funding to move forward. There are several pots of money, including my Local member Scheme Grants, Community Grants and 0-19 youth grants that are available to us. I will be asking each PC to consider local projects.*

*I look forward to meeting the Skelton Parish Councillors at the next meeting, or hearing from you before then.*

b) from Eden District Council

Cllr Kevin Beaty apologised for missing the previous meeting, and gave a brief update of developments within Eden District Council, the update included:

- Key items at EDC include: Economic development, Tourism, projects to bring new companies to the area, farm and food development.
- Devolution of Service from EDC to Parish Councils, and likewise, devolution from Government to EDC.
- There are currently 368 councillors in the county.
- The Greenhollows NDO report has been accepted
- Neighbourhood Plans are encouraged
- Tour of Britain

### 15/047 Town End Solar Farm

Fraone attended the meeting to discuss the proposed solar farm at Town End. Fraone explained the solar farm, and that the solar panels will be ground mounted in rows on steel clips, generating enough energy to power up to 1300 homes, the electric will be fed back in to the grid. Fraone hope to gain planning permission in November / December 2015, with a plan to start construction early in 2016, hopefully completing in March 2016. The solar farm will be leased to Ralos for 25 years, the planning permission is for 25 years operation and 1 year to decommission the site. The solar panels have a 20 year manufactures guarantee. The solar panels will be kept clean with an operations and maintenance programme. The solar farm will be connected to the

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grid at Hutton End Sub Station. There will be sheep grazing the land. Visual impact assessments have been completed, and the screening has been planned to correspond with the assessment. The main concern which had arisen from the community meeting was screening, Fraone have said that the solar farm will be adequately screened, with 2 rows of hedges. There will be associated buildings within the solar farm. The potential other solar farms were briefly mentioned, and it was explained that as Fraone have applied first, other plans will be considered by the utility company with this solar farm taken in to consideration, as this has been applied for first. Later in the meeting Cllr Bernard Parker apologised for mentioning the other proposed solar farms, as he didn't realise planning permission had not been applied for yet.

Fraone informed the parish council that if planning permission was granted by Eden District Council the Parish Council would be given a community benefit grant of £10,000. The matter of the grant being classed as a bribe was discussed, and Fraone clarified that the Parish Council would be given the grant if planning permission from Eden District Council was granted, regardless of the Parish Councils decision on the planning application, even if the Parish Council objected to the plans and Eden District Council passed them. Cllr Kevin Beaty stated as the money didn't go to Eden District Council it couldn't be perceived as a bribe.

The Parish Council thanked Fraone for attending the meeting, and continued to discuss the planning application once Fraone and the landowner left the meeting.

The Parish Council had discussions regarding the planning application, about how the land was not visible from most dwellings, it was supporting renewable energy, there had been no comments or complaints from parishioners to the Parish or District Councillors, the solar farm was creating a sustainable business to the farm, and that the land can still be used for grazing. The Parish Council had a vote. The results of the Vote were:

**Support:** 6

**Object:** 1

**Abstain:** 1

The Parish Council to support the planning application, the Clerk to respond to Eden District Council.

### **15/048 Milestone Restoration & Finger Post Repairs**

The Clerk informed the Parish Council she had been in contact with the Milestone Society, and that Terry Moore was a member of it. Terry had advised that there were no records of a milestone in the Parish. Cllr Stacey Creighton to locate the Milestone, to enable the clerk to contact Terry Moore with its location, so further research can be carried out.

The Clerk updated the Parish Council that the Finger Post Repairs have been completed. The angle at which the Skelton sign is placed was discussed, and it was agreed for it to be slightly moved, to help prevent future damage. Cllr Alan Dickinson to arrange this.

### **15/049 NDO & Neighbourhood Plan**

The Parish Council discussed the NDO and Neighbourhood Plan, and decided to ask Hesket, Castle Sowerby and Greystoke if they were interested in creating a combined neighbourhood plan incorporating the four parishes. It was decided for Cllr Martin Squires to contact a member of the Upper Eden group who has created a Neighbourhood Plan, to invite them to the next

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Parish Council meeting, in November. The Clerk to contact the clerks of the other parishes to see if there was any interest.

### 15/050 Noticeboards

The quote for the repairs required to the Noticeboards in the Parish was discussed, and it was agreed for the Clerk to contact Cllr Tom Wentworth-Waites to see if any grants were available. If gaining a grant for the works was not possible, it was agreed to repair the three worst notice boards from this financial year, and do the remaining 6 over the next 2 years.

### 15/051 Footway lighting Update

The Chair read out the Footway Lighting Update to the Parish Council received from Eden District Council, the report was noted.

### 15/052 Skelton Parish Community Action Plan

Updating the Skelton Parish Community Action Plan was discussed, and it was agreed to hold a meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October, to which those involved in the current plan would be invited, to give their opinions on what worked well, what didn't, and to see if they would be interested in contributing to updating the Plan. Cllr Bob Towers to ask the representative from ACT to attend the meeting.

### 15/053 Footpath to Laithes via Fowrass Farm

The footpath to Laithes via Fowrass Farm was discussed, as requested by Cllr Nicky Higgins, and it was agreed for Cllr Bob Towers to contact the Cumbria County Council Rights of Way department to request that the footpath be looked in to.

### 15/054 Training

The planning training event, to be held by Lazonby Parish Council was discussed, and Cllr Stacey Creighton, Cllr Alan Dickinson, Cllr William Pearson and Cllr Bernard Parker all to attend.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the Good Councillor Training, is in progress, and an update would be distributed once available.

### 15/055 Internal Auditor

Item to be placed on the next agenda.

### 15/056 Accounts

- The Clerk provided an update on monies received and paid out since the last meeting.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>
16/07/2015	Deposit		£ 30.00
08/09/2015	R Kelly - August, September	£ 322.73	
08/09/2015	R Kelly Expenses - Telephone / Broadband	£ 16.99	
08/09/2015	HMRC	£ 80.60	
08/09/2015	Signpost Restoration	£ 325.80	
08/09/2015	R Kelly Expenses - Present	£ 25.00	

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08/09/2015	Playsafety Ltd	£	81.60	
08/09/2015	T G Moore	£	410.00	
08/09/2015	BDO	£	288.00	

- The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the Audit was now complete, and due to the Financial Risk Assessment not being minuted in the previous financial year a qualified issue has been raised, and there was a minor issue, due to the closing balance of YE 2014 and the Opening Balance of YE 2015 not balancing. Work has been completed to rectify both issues.

### **15/057 Request for Funding/Accounts to pay**

Clerk Wages – £322.73

Clerk Expenses - £16.99

HMRC - £80.60

Signpost Restoration Ltd - £325.80

Clerk Expenses - £25.00

Playsafety - £81.60

T G Moore - £410.00

BDO - £288.00 (Internal Auditors)

**Resolved:** The cheques were signed.

### **15/058 Highways**

Cllr Bob Towers reported he was chasing outstanding highways matters. Any highways issues to be reported to Cllr Bob Towers.

### **15/059 Planning**

The recent planning applications and decisions were discussed:

#### Planning Applications Received:

- 15/0727 – Variation of condition n. 2 (plans compliance) attached to planning approval 13/0874 comprising of modified design to accommodate alternative accommodation – Phoenix Hall, Ellonby Road, Skelton, Penrith
- 15/0408 – Proposed agricultural building – field between Skelton and Laithes, between Fowress Farm and Auldby Farm, Penrith

The Parish Council had no comments or objections of the above.

- 15/0658 – Proposed Solar PV farm and associated infrastructure – Town End Farm, CA11 9TZ – the planning application was discussed under item 15/047

#### Grants of Planning Permission:

- 15/0604 – Proposed agricultural livestock building – North Netherscales Farm, Hutton End, Penrith
- 15/0507 – Proposed farm shed – Arnold House, Ivegill, Carlisle

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### **15/060 Correspondence**

The correspondence was considered by the Councillors.

- Playsafety report – Cllr Colin Atkinson to report back to the Parish Council on the content.
- Email from New Energy for the World GmbH regarding a Drop in Event at Skelton Toppin Memorial Hall on 14 September 2015 from 4-8pm, regarding a proposed solar farm near to the Skelton Radio Transmitter.

**Resolved** - The correspondence received was noted.

### **15/061 Date of Next Meeting**

The Budget Meeting, followed by a Skelton Community Action Plan meeting will be held Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October, at 7.30pm, at Skelton Toppin Memorial Hall.

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Tuesday 10 November 2015, at 7.30pm, at Hutton End Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 9.45pm.