

MORLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Morland Parish Council held on Thursday 8th January 2024 at 7.30pm at Morland Village Hall.

Present: Parish Councillors; Gillian Garratt, Phillip Hancock, Lesley Robson, Peter Taylor, Paul Vines, Steve Wilson

Five members of the Public were also present.

- 01/24/1** **Apologies for absence: RESOLVED** that the following absences be noted:
a) Councillor Dan Fitton, due to illness;
b) Westmorland and Furness Councillor Neil MacCall.
- 01/24/2** **Declarations of Interest: RESOLVED** that no interests were declared.
- 01/24/3** **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th November 2023 were agreed, as a true record and were signed by the Chair.
- 01/24/4** **Public Participation: RESOLVED** that the following issues were raised;
- Halmshaws Garage. A resident raised concerns about the condition of Halmshaws Garage, and whether it may be a public health risk. Clerk to make enquiries as to ownership and status.
- 01/24/5** **Progress Reports: RESOLVED** that the following updates were received;
a) **Neighbourhood Development Plan** – Councillor Robson informed the meeting that one action was required to the plan, and then it would be put forward to statutory consultees.
b) **Signage at Morland Ford** - Councillor Wilson had spoken with Highways who confirmed that they would now be assessing the size of gauges for each Ford individually. Councillors agreed to arrange a site meeting to finalise plans for the railings. The Clerk was requested to enquire to Highways about signage at the top of Lower Gate to advise drivers, and the potential for grit piles.
c) **Play area** – Councillor Wilson updated the meeting that the refurbishment was progressing, with Councillor Fitton looking at options for replacing the bridge.
- 01/24/6** **Street Lighting: RESOLVED** that Councillor Wilson confirmed that the new light had been put up at the Mill Yard Café, with the wayleaves agreement signed. The Clerk confirmed that no decision had yet been made at Westmorland and Furness Council with regard to footway lighting. Councillors agreed to investigate alternative options for the light at Hilltop, to alleviate a potential dark spot.
- 01/24/7** **Planning: RESOLVED** that Councillor Wilson had obtained contact details for the manager of the building project on land behind Tanglewood, and would contact to discuss concerns with drainage.
- 01/24/8** **Trees: RESOLVED** that the Clerk was instructed to apply for an urban tree pack from the Woodland Trust.
- 01/24/9** **Allotments: RESOLVED** that an allotment holder had volunteered to co-ordinate management of the allotments. Councillors Wilson and Taylor to meet with allotment holder to discuss. The Clerk was instructed to wait to issue annual invoices.
- 01/24/10** **Clerk Salary: RESOLVED** that Councillors agreed to award the annual increase as recommended by NALC, backdated to April 2023.
- 01/24/11** **Parish Precept: RESOLVED** to increase the annual Parish Precept by 5%, in line with Westmorland and Furness Council, to £7,486 for 2024/2025.
- 01/24/12** **Bank Account: RESOLVED** that the Clerk was authorised to apply for internet banking, with two Councillors to be required to authorise all online payments.

- 01/24/13** **Accounts; RESOLVED** that payments as listed in the payment schedule were approved.
- 01/24/14** **Highways and Maintenance: RESOLVED** that the following was discussed;
- a) **Cliburn Bridge** – Councillor Wilson is currently dealing with this matter.
 - b) **Issues with river meander** - Councillor Wilson is waiting for a response from the Environment Agency.
 - c) **Outside Morland House** - that this repair has been made, with a new grid installed, however water is now flowing past this. Councillor Wilson to raise with highways.
- 01/24/15** **Council matters: RESOLVED** that Councillors discussed the following matters;
- Councillors agreed to consider the purchase of a new noticeboard at the village hall car park. Clerk to bring options to the March meeting.
 - Councillors requested that the agenda should be publicised with a longer lead time before meetings. Clerk to enact.
- 01/24/16** **Date of next Ordinary Meeting: Monday 11th March at 7.30pm, at Morland Village Hall.**

Meeting closed: 9:03 pm