

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held at the United Reformed Church, Joss Lane, Sedbergh at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th June 2016

Present: Councillors Atkins (Chair), Allan, Mary Macpherson, Capstick, Arnold, Ian McPherson, Longlands, Sedgwick and Lancaster.

Part I

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Brooks and Dawson and accepted by the meeting.

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 12th May 2016

The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair Cllr Atkins.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes of 12th May 2016

Item 7 – Planning (S/03/211E) it was noted that Sedbergh Community Trust had withdrawn their Planning Application for a skate park at the playing field on Howgill Lane following correspondence from the YDNPA. Sedbergh School Sports Hall (S/03/591) it was noted that the Council will be consulted by the YDNPA when application is made to discharge those conditions relating to the parking management plan and the arrangements for community use.

Item 8b – Finance, the Clerk had received confirmation from United Utilities that the difference in water drainage fees related to the banding of the car parks, defined on surface area. Joss Lane fell into a different band due to the larger area.

Item 12 – Sedbergh Townscape Project, the clerk had received communication from South Lakes Housing advising that CCC Highways were responsible for the bus stop area at Long Lane/Maryfell and now awaits a response from CCC Highways in relation to the current state of repair.

6. Report from District/County Council

Cllr Mel Mackie advised the meeting that the former Leader of SLDC, Peter Thornton had stepped down and that Giles Archibald was the newly appointed Leader. Cllr Kevin Lancaster advised he is now a Member of the Shadow Cabinet at SLDC.

Apologies were received from Cllr Nick Cotton.

7. Planning

The Planning Committee had not met since the last meeting. A short report was circulated which included details on the recent appointment of an independent Planning Inspector to examine the Local Plan and the modifications submitted by the YDNPA. It was reported that the Council had also received a schedule of issues that the Inspector wished to examine. It was agreed by Members, following previous observations/comments made by SPC to the YDNPA in relation to the housing and building conversion policies of the Local Plan, that a further statement should be submitted. Due to time constraints, it was further agreed that a draft statement should be circulated to Members for agreement before final submission prior to the 8th July closing dates for comment.

8. Finance

a) The meeting received the annual Accounting Statement for 2015/2016 following recommendation from the Committee. It was agreed to approve the Accounting Statement for 2015/2016 and the Chair, Cllr Atkins, signed the report. This would now be submitted by the Clerk for Audit.

b) The meeting received the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on the 7th June 2016. It was noted that the Declaration for Came & Company (Insurers) had been signed by the Clerk and would be returned following the agreement of this meeting. It was also noted that the Annual Project Statement for SLDC, in relation to the income received from Joss Lane car park, had been completed and returned to SLDC in fulfilment of the Council's lease obligation.

Following recommendation from the Committee it was agreed to approve the increased residents' parking permits prices for both day and 24 hour permits (to £40 and £60 respectively). The ongoing review of policies had begun with Public Participation and Publication Scheme and drafts would be circulated for the July meeting.

c) The Council agreed a list of payments circulated at the meeting

9. Grants

There were no applications for Grants this month

10. Public Participation

Mark Westwood – gave an overview for Members on Sedbergh being England's Booktown. The initiative arose following the Foot & Mouth outbreak in 2001, taking five years to come to fruition, Sedbergh Booktown was launched in 2006. The 2nd hand book selling industry has faced difficult times, in light of electronic books and online sales over the past few years, however, there are still many enthusiasts that like to visit 2nd hand book shops. Mr Westwood highlighted that the town's Information Centre was able to thrive due to the commission/rental generated by the 2nd hand book dealers at the Centre's shop. Also that Westwood books was a profitable business that he hopes will remain for years to come and that the Town would, therefore, continue to benefit from visitors coming to browse and purchase books, seeing Sedbergh as a focal point.

11. Amenities Committee

No formal meeting of the Committee had taken place since the meeting on 4th May 2016. It was verbally reported that the emergency repairs at the playground had now been completed. Cllr Mary Macpherson suggested that the décor, lighting and facilities, of the toilets on Main Street appeared tired and dated and asked if the Committee would be considering improvements in the future.

12. Sedbergh Townscape Project

An updating report was received by the Council and accepted. It was noted that draft plans for the proposed improvement works to the boundary wall and entrance enhancement at the People's Hall had been circulated. It was hoped that SPC would be meeting with the architect and representation of The People's Hall Committee shortly and further feedback should be available for the meeting in July.

13. Queens Garden

No meeting has taken place since the Annual Meeting of the Parish and it was agreed that a meeting should be convened as soon as practicable. It was noted that the gates should be removed for repainting within the next few days. Tenders received for the repair to the wall at 4 Queen's Drive, would be reported in Part II.

14. Parish Council Award Scheme

It was agreed that a review of the current situation should be completed, which may include any training requirements for the Clerk to undertake to allow the Council to seek foundation status.

15. Market Layout/Joss Lane car park future resurfacing

It was agreed that in order to progress this the Clerk should begin to seek potential consultants/experts who might be approached for guidance. It was also agreed that some work would need to be done by Members to consider a 'wish list' for the car park, also giving thought to the operation of the market/recycling provision/drains/permeable surfacing/health and safety and landscaping requirements etc.

16. Vision Statement

An amended Vision Statement had been circulated to Members for comment following some small alterations made after the Chamber of Trade meeting in May. Members discussed some issues, including references to the condition of buildings on Main Street and suggested Town Coordinating Committee. It was agreed that, following minor amendments to be completed by Cllr Ian McPherson, the Vision Statement be forwarded by the Clerk to Sedbergh Community Trust for their final comment before being adopted.

17. Parish Council Website

It was noted that the Parish Council site was now fully operational on Sedbergh.org.uk and that training would be available for those members who would be involved in updating/amending the site. Members were invited to look at the new pages and advise of any amendments/improvements they thought necessary.

18. Correspondence

The attached Clerk's Report was considered by the meeting and the following noted.

- a. G Hinson – an initial enquiry had been made by Mr Hinson in relation to the potential to hold a music event at Queen's Garden. It was agreed, therefore, to invite Mr Hinson to attend the next committee meeting of the Queen's Garden to further outline his proposal.
- b. Flooding update – a resident at Guldrey had requested an update on the current situation and was advised that CCC is continuing their investigations in that area. It was noted at this point that there had been recent flash flooding affecting several parts of the town, including Loftus Hill and areas close to Birks Lane, resulting in sewage being discharged. Several properties on Loftus Hill had been directly affected. Members agreed that a letter should be issued to United Utilities advising of the disappointment surrounding this recurring problem in the town, apparently caused by old systems that seemed incapable of coping in severe weather conditions. It was further noted that the rain had caused a strip of tarmac to rise up on Station Road opposite the kissing gate onto March Hill. This had been reported to Highways and they were due to attend.
- c. Cumbria CVS/Kendal Mind – communication had been received in relation to the proposed closure of Kentmere Ward at Westmorland General Hospital. It was noted, that the decision to close had now been deferred. However, Members felt strongly about the closure and it was agreed that a letter should be issued.
- d. South Lakes Housing – following notification of the proposed changes to sheltered housing schemes and community lounges, it was agreed that the Clerk should continue to request that a member of SLH to attend a future meeting of SPC.
- e. Police Report – a report by the PCSO was circulated to Members. The Clerk was asked to again request for updates on previous issues.

19. Date and Time of next meetings –Thursday 14th July 2016 at 7.30pm, the monthly meeting of the Parish Council to be held in the Committee Room of the People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh

Part II

It was resolved and agreed that the public should be excluded from the meeting for reason of the confidential nature of the financial information to be discussed.

Item 13 – Queen’s Garden

Six tenders had been received for the repair to the wall at 4 Queen’s Drive and, following recommendation by the Policy & Resource Committee, it was agreed to accept the tender by Mr Gary Milburn, subject to a requirement that the Council be afforded the opportunity to inspect the foundation trench and subsequently the concrete fill, prior to the rebuilding of the wall.