

# **THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in The People's Hall, Sedbergh on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

Present: Councillors Hodge (Chair), Atkins, Allan, Mary Macpherson, Longlands, Brooks, Ian McPherson and Dawson.

### **1. Apologies:**

Apologies received from Cllrs Sedgwick, Lancaster and Capstick

### **2. Requests for Dispensations**

There were no requests for dispensations

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Atkins – Item 10 Finance (Grants) Sedbergh Flower and Produce Show

Cllr Hodge – Item 10 Finance (Market SLA)

### **4. Police Report**

A written report was received by Members.

### **5. Sedbergh Community Trust – BMX/Skate Park Proposal**

Tony Reed Screen and Keith Wilberforce attended to present the proposal for a BMX/Skate Park on the playing fields at The People's Hall on behalf of the Trust. Following a survey and liaison with a local youth group and Settlebeck School, the Trust found an overwhelming support for a BMX/Skate Park in the Community. The Trust wished to gain agreement (in principle) to potentially lease a 250 square meter area adjacent to the shelter on the playing field before proceeding to the design stage. It was noted that some public consultation should take place, either at the official planning stage or by survey of residents in the area. Issues of Health & Safety/Insurance/ongoing maintenance/screening/access/proximity to football field and consultation with PCSO's were raised, however, it was agreed by Members to support the project in principle at this stage. Tony Reed Screen and Keith Wilberforce thanked SPC and advised that the next stage would be to look at the design of the park, Cllr Atkins requested that the Parish Council be involved in this process and this was agreed.

### **6. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

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

### **7. Matters arising from the Minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

Item 7 – Post 16 Transport – Cllr Nick Cotton has advised that Schools/CCC will be contacting parents of young people hoping to attend schools/college in Kendal and Kirkby Lonsdale to establish approximate numbers hoping to travel. Further discussions will then take place over provision of potential transport and costs involved. There is continued concern among parents over transport in September and SPC should continue to liaise with Cllr Nick Cotton to progress the issue.

Item 9 – Pinfold Caravan Site – Cllr Ian McPherson advises that he is due to meet with YDNPA's Enforcement Officer at Pinfold to discuss further the issues over occupancy conditions.

Item 13 – Sedbergh Townscape Project – Main Street flagging/bollards. Following a meeting identifying potential locations for additional bollards on Main Street, two main issues materialised. Firstly, bollards in front of the White Hard, liaison will have to take place directly with the owners with regard to this area of pavement. Also, in relation to the provision of a potential bollard opposite Marshall House, a complaint was received from the shop owner. It was agreed that these would need to be discussed further; however, there was no immediate need due to the suspension of works by CCC at present following a problem experienced prior to Easter. The Clerk read an apology received from the Operations Network Engineer responsible for the recent works on Main Street.

They confirm there was an error made when setting the flags which has resulted in the completely unsatisfactory state of the pavement in the areas completed. It was noted that there has been numerous complaints from residents/business regarding the disruption and the sporadic attendance of CCC during the works and now the complete dissatisfaction in which the pavements have been left. It was agreed that a formal response should now be issued to CCC demanding a timetable for repair and remedial work; this should be copied to Cllr Nick Cotton. A copy of this letter should also be published in the Lookaround in order to advise the wider Community of the current situation.

Item 15 – Disabled Parking Bay proposal – Maryfell – Following SPC request to hold a meeting with interested parties, it was noted that CCC did not wish to delay the provision further and declined to meet. It was agreed, therefore, to issue a letter to CCC highlighting several points, including the concern over parking in this area generally, suggesting alternatives. For example, provision of disabled parking at the rear of Settlebeck School, close to the rear playground entrance to Sedbergh Primary School. This correspondence should be copied to Cllr Nick Cotton and Cllr Evelyn Westwood.

Item 16e – Correspondence – Emergency Plan – Cllr Lancaster was not present and the matter was deferred to a future meeting.

## **8. Report from District/County Council**

Apologies received.

## **9. Planning**

A written report was adopted by the meeting and several detailed responses submitted. Full details are available from the report.

- a) **YDNPA consultation on the review of housing policy and infrastructure needs** – a summary of the review is attached to this report and the main areas highlighted for comment are as follows;
- i) the complexity of the report makes it difficult to understand and interpret and the emerging policy framework was thought to be unduly complicated
  - ii) the policies appeared to be primarily aimed at housing for sale, and the importance of good quality rented accommodation needs to be emphasized.
  - iii) difficulty and complexity of policy underlines the point that the provision of affordable housing in rural areas is not fundamentally a planning problem. Other policy initiatives should be considered, for example, possible tax incentives to encourage development and increased funding for housing associations.
  - iv) New proposals for affordable housing are a concern as any new development of fewer than 6 houses has no requirement for provision of affordable homes.
  - v) Concern over widening the criteria for local occupancy housing.
  - vi) In relation to infrastructure needs, facilities considered to be lacking in Sedbergh include, for example, BMX/Skate Park, Indoor (wet weather) provision, MUGA, facilities for Touring Caravans/Tents and Care Home provision for older people.

A draft response will be circulated to Members for feedback prior to final submission to YDNPA before the closing date for comment - 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015. Special thanks to Cllr Atkins was noted in recognition for all his work in relation to the consultation.

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## **10. Finance**

- a) The meeting received the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resource Committee held on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Arising from those minutes, points to note were as follows

Item 7 – Grants – Sedbergh First Responders - £888 – following recommendation from the Committee, it was agreed to approve the grant request to assist with their initial start up following the successful launch of the group.

Item 7 – Grants – Sedbergh Flower and Produce Show - £200 – following recommendation from the Committee, it was agreed to approve the grant request (Cllr Atkins took no part in this decision)

Item 8 – Market Service Agreement Proposal – Sedbergh & District CIC have made a request for SPC to consider a £4500 SLA for them to continue to run the market on behalf of the Council. Historically a grant has been awarded to the CIC. Discussions surrounding the market followed and it was noted that this highlights that the Market is presently run at an annual loss. The P&R Committee had recommended approval of £4500 to cover the expenses relating to the market. The Council approved the sum of £4500 but requested that a written agreement should be drawn up. Cllr Hodge took no part in this decision and the meeting Chaired by Cllr Atkins during these discussions.

Item 9 – Policies and Procedures – work is currently progressing on the update of various policies/procedures and is available upon request. This work is being undertaken in relation to the Parish Council Award Scheme.

b) Request for payments - The Council agreed a list of payments submitted to the meeting.

## **11. Grants**

See item 10 (Finance) above.

## **11. Public Participation**

Keith Wilberforce – wished to clarify what the original purpose of the works along Main Street had been for. It was noted that the SPC had made requests to CCC to improve safety of the flagging, but the specification was undertaken by CCC themselves.

Anne Pierson – attended to advise SPC that Sheepfest is due to proceed again this year in September. A Supporters Group has now been formed and part of this is to consider promotion/advertising. Sheepfest will be looking for Grants and hope that SPC will be able to give financial support upon formal application. It was noted that Sheepfest had been a successful event for the town in 2014 and the meeting thanked Anne Pierson for her work.

## **13. Amenities Committee**

A written report of the meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> April was received by the meeting and the following points were noted.

Item 7 – Joss Lane Car Park (Market) – Following recent discussions with the Market Supervisor, it was agreed that the CIC and SPC need to liaise directly to clarify the relationship. Although the CIC runs the market, SPC still has responsibility for the car park and therefore communication is important.

Item 8 – Main Street Toilets – Following a letter issued to the contractor instructed to complete The Rain Water Harvest System, a response has now been received confirming work is due to be commenced at the end of April. Also noted, the cleaning contractor has reported several lights are not presently working and Cllr Longlands is instructed to repair.

Item 13 – Street Lights - Fell Close light – ongoing liaison with ENW/CCC in relation to presently redundant light.

a) Sedbergh Entry Signs – The cost of the signs is more than anticipated as the original quote did not include posts, however, the signs have now been ordered. It was agreed to issue tender invites to a local contractor on the approved list of contractors (permitted to work on the highway), along with CCC themselves. Enquiries were being made in relation to the repair of the existing entry sign on the Dent road.

#### **14. Sedbergh Townscape Project**

An updating report was received by the Council and it was noted that the YDNPA are funding the repair work for the Church Wall at Finkle Street in full.

In relation to the proposals for the Garden area at Number 72 – SPC has been requested to pay an enquiry fee to YDNPA to formally answer their question as to whether or not planning permission will be required for the works. In the interim, there was a request for an agreement to purchase two benches to be positioned here, which would later become part of the new wall arrangement. It was recommended and agreed that the sum of £1000 be allocated to purchase two timber benches. A response to the possible relocation of a number of recycling bins to SPAR is still awaited.

#### **15. Queens Garden**

It was noted that the repair of the wall has now been completed. It was noted that the Committee should now consider arranging for the removal of Ivy on remaining parts of the wall, where possible, to avoid another collapse.

#### **16. Parish Council Award Scheme**

Please see Policy & Resource Committee minutes in relation to ongoing works on Policies and Procedures. Cllr Ian McPherson hopes to begin work on an Action Plan following the submission of information from both Cllr Atkins and the Amenities Committee and a draft would be available for the Annual Meeting of the Parish on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015. This would allow the opportunity for members of the public to made contribution. Cllr Ian McPherson has also circulated information in relation to training for Councillors and it was noted that CALC may do a session in-house if requested. He will circulate Councillors, asking them to identify their training needs and then try to organise an in-house session to meet those needs.

#### **17. Correspondence**

The attached Clerk's Report was considered by the meeting

- a. CALC – a new banking protocol has been introduced, however, it is too late for Sedbergh following the recent closure of the remaining two banks.
- b. Garsdale PC – the contents of a letter relating to Private Water Supply inspections was noted.
- c. Yorkshire Festival 2016 – Cllr Ian McPherson will liaise in relation to future plans.
- d. It was noted that no decision had yet been made on the Council's application to include the two bank premises on the Community Asset Register.

**18. Date and Time of next meetings – Annual Parish Meeting – 7.30pm Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015, also the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – 7.30pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015, immediately followed by the monthly meeting.**