

# **THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in The People's Hall, Sedbergh at 7.30pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

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

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Longlands and Sedgwick and were accepted by the meeting.

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

There were no requests for dispensations

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

There were no declarations of interest.

### **4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

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

### **5. Matters arising from the Minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Item 5 – Flood Resilience Meeting – Members of SPC attended the meeting and noted that information was still being collated, a further meeting is to be scheduled later in the year.

Item 5 – Refugee Crisis – an update had been received from SLDC confirming that all housing stock was currently being used by victims of the flooding in December and that the Refugee situation would be reviewed in the Summer.

Item 6 – Middleton Hall Bridge – SLDC has notified the Council of the planned improvement works to the approach ramps of the Bridge but can only advise if HGV/Long vehicles will be able to use the modified bridge once the works have been carried out.

Item 11 – Amenities – a letter had been received from Sedbergh Wanderer's Football Club (discussed under Item 11).

Item 17 (f) – Sedbergh Business Hub, it is understood that the Business Hub will now remain open until the end of May.

Item 17 (i) – Chamber of Trade, a meeting had been convened with the Chamber (discussed under Item 16).

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Nick Cotton and Cllr Mel Mackie. Cllr Lancaster had nothing to report.

### **7. Planning**

A written report was adopted by the meeting and the following points were noted. YDNPA had approved the amended plans for the development at King's Yard/Bainbridge Road (S/03/606). Also noted was Sedbergh School's response and disappointment in relation to SPC's objection to their proposed Sports Centre at Busk Lane (S/03/591) on the grounds of inadequate parking arrangements. An application has also now been submitted for a Skatepark (S/03/211E) at the playing field at Howgill Lane, Sedbergh. Due to the timing of this application, it was recommended and agreed to write to YDNPA requesting an extension on the timescale for comment. It was also agreed that the Authority be advised that, (i) contrary to the assertion in the accompanying statement, the Council had not resolved to suggest a planning application be submitted, (ii) that the dimensions should be clarified as there is conflicting measurements, (iii) that a cross section of the proposal should be made available in order that the proposed works could be properly understood.

Also discussed was a recent meeting held by the Chair with representation of the new owners of Baliol School. Finally the meeting resolved that the Third Party Right to Appeal (on-line petition) should not be signed by Sedbergh PC.

## **8. Finance**

The meeting received the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resource Committee held on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Arising from those minutes, points to note were as follows.

The Committee was mindful of the intention to resurface the car park at Joss Lane at a future date and that this would be discussed at Item 11 (Amenities). The revised Financial Regulations were noted, which included an amendment to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, which could be pertinent to the resurfacing works at Joss Lane car park.

In regard to Item 9, it was agreed that the current committee members of the Policy & Resource Committee be the signatories on the NCIS Investment Account, those members being Cllrs, Atkins, Allan, Mary Macpherson and Lancaster. It was also agreed that the address should be amended to that of the SPC Office at 72 Main Street, Sedbergh.

The Council agreed a list of payments submitted to the meeting.

## **9. Grants**

The comments from the P&R Meeting were noted in regard to the significant overspend in the grant budget during 2015-2016 and the suggestion that the grant policy should be reviewed at the Annual PC Meeting.

**Sedbergh in Bloom** - A grant application was received from Sedbergh in Bloom for the sum of £250.00 and was agreed by the meeting. Thanks again were noted for the work done by the members of the Sedbergh in Bloom Team.

**Sedbergh Area Walking and Cycling Group** – A grant application for the sum of £250.00 was received from the group in relation to the planned Cycling Festival in June 2016. Following recommendation from the P&R Committee, the application was approved.

**Sedbergh Music Festival** – A grant application for the sum of £1000.00 was received from the group in relation to their established biennial Festival. This application was discussed at some length. Whilst it was proposed and seconded that a grant of £500 be awarded, this attracted no other support and it was therefore resolved to adopt the recommendation of the P&R committee that a grant of £250.00 be made.

## **10. Public Participation**

Liz Easton – Dog Fouling in Sedbergh – a letter was read to members in regard to the increasing problem of dog fouling in and around Sedbergh. Liz Easton has been in touch with her the Housing Officer for SLH's, the PCSO and SLDC. It was noted that there was going to be an increased presence from the PCSO's and the Enforcement Officers with collaborative working to target irresponsible dog owners. Whilst it was acknowledged that increased signs would also be beneficial, the issue of providing additional bins was more problematic due to the ongoing emptying cost. Members were also of the opinion, that responsible owners would take their waste to a bin anyway and that the problem was attributable to those owners that did not generally pick up after their dogs. It was agreed that the Clerk should invite the appropriate officer of SLDC to a future meeting and include an article in the Lookaround.

Prof Andy Cobb – Sedbergh & District Community First Responders. Prof Andy Cobb gave a short presentation in respect of the group applying for funding to install a defibrillator on the external wall at 72 Main Street, Sedbergh. Members agreed that the Clerk should send a letter of support for the proposal.

## **11. Amenities Committee**

A report was received and accepted by the meeting. It was noted that, Sedbergh Wanderers JFC had now sent a letter to SPC in regard to their hopes to level and improve an area of the playing field to accommodate the Junior Teams.

The area in question is the current kick about/training area. It was noted that the site would probably overlap with the proposal from the Sedbergh Community Trust for a skate park area. However, as this request was only seeking permission for initial enquiries to be made to the relevant bodies, it was agreed by members that the Club should be permitted to proceed. It was noted that in regard to the Playground, an initial site meeting had taken place to request quotes for immediate repairs as identified on the recent Annual Inspection.

SPC had received communication from Sedbergh CIC in relation to the Market and Joss Lane Car Park. It was agreed that although any marking or alterations of bays could only be properly undertaken once the intended resurfacing work was carried out. It was also agreed that the 'layout' of the Market should be an Agenda item in the summer. It was noted that the CIC had already improved signage at the car park.

Finally, it was agreed that the Clerk should now proceed to formally request that SLDC make delivery of sandbags to the two areas previously agreed.

## **12. Sedbergh Townscape Project**

An updating report was received by the Council and accepted. It was noted that the Clerk has now received SPAR's agreement to the planned fencing works at the recycling facility.

It was further noted that the text for the Sedbergh Information/Interpretation Panel is currently being drafted by YDNPA and that the intended wording will be circulated in due course for feedback.

## **13. Queens Garden**

The minutes of the recent meeting were received by the Council and accepted. It was recommended and approved to invite tenders for the repair of the section of the wall which had collapsed (adjoining 4 Queen's Drive) but that the future of the remaining wall on this boundary be deferred until after the Annual Meeting of the Parish, where the future of Queen's Gardens is to be discussed.

## **14. Parish Council Award Scheme**

There was nothing new to report.

## **15. Emergency Plan**

Cllr Arnold has completed a draft document for further consideration and it was agreed that a working EP group be formed. Cllrs Lancaster and Dawson agreed to assist Cllr Arnold and it was acknowledged that representation from the Community would also be sought, potentially from the Health Centre and the Fire Service.

## **16. Vision Statement**

Previously Cllr Ian McPherson had volunteered to work collaboratively with S&D Chamber of Trade to produce a Vision Statement for Sedbergh. A draft Vision Statement had been circulated to Members for comment at a future meeting. It was noted that the document was intended as a desire for the Town and should be positive in nature. Prof Andy Cobb also spoke as Chairman of S&D Chamber of Trade. It was also noted that the document was fluid in nature and should, therefore, be reviewed annually. The results of the forthcoming Economic Plan being sought by SLDC could perhaps also be considered in the document. Cllr Mary Macpherson had prepared an amended plan for perusal, and this would also be circulated to Members for feedback/consideration. Thanks were noted for the work that Prof Andy Cobb and Mrs Barbara Hartley had contributed to the Vision Statement.

It was agreed that an approach should be made to YDNPA in regard to inviting David Butterworth to a future meeting; this would allow SPC and others to seek further information regarding the forthcoming YDNPA boundary extension and, perhaps, reiterate the desire for YDNPA Information Centre to be reintroduced to Sedbergh.

CLr McPherson was also able to raise the recent meeting he and CLr Mary Macpherson had held with members of S&D Chamber of Trade in relation to issues, such as parking. (Item 5 – Matters arising 17(i)). Various other issues were discussed and it was noted that collaborative working needed to continue and that perhaps an approach could be made to Sedbergh School at some point in the future for ‘overflow’ parking. The notion of a Town Coordinating Committee was discussed, also noting that The Sedbergh Townscape Project was a good overarching resource for working together.

### **17. Parish Council Website**

A new site is now in operation on the Sedbergh.org.uk site and is currently running alongside the existing site. Members were asked to look at the site and feedback their thoughts prior to the final switch.

### **18. Correspondence**

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

- a. Signs at Joss Lane – request has been made for additional signs at Joss Lane highlighting shops not along the Main Street. Members discussed the difficulties that might arise in relation to precedent.  
The recently completed a decluttering exercise in relation to signs was also considered relevant. However, it was agreed that this issue should be considered again when the resurfacing/potential remodeling of the car park was completed.
- b. Resurfacing works/improvements at Station Road/Main Street, Sedbergh – it was noted that the correction works to ‘The Narrows’ was scheduled for the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016 and that resurfacing works for Station Road and Main Street to Finkle Street were scheduled for the following week.
- c. Sedbergh CIC – a letter had been received asking if SPC would consider setting the half year parking permit fee at £20 and £30 respectively as this would allow simpler book keeping. This request was agreed by Members.
- d. Police Report – a report was received by Members.

**19. Date and Time of next meetings – The Annual Meeting of the Parish at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 in the Main Hall of the People’s Hall followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 followed immediately after by the normal monthly meeting in the Committee Room of the People’s Hall**