

# **THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in The People's Hall, Sedbergh on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2015**

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

### **PART I**

#### **1. Apologies**

Cllr Dawson

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

There were no requests for dispensations

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

Item 9 – Consultation by SLDC ‘Empty Homes Strategy 2015-2025’ – Cllr Lancaster

#### **4. Police Report**

The Police Report was presented to the meeting in the absence of the PCSO's. Members thanked them for the new format, but asked if a separate heading could also be considered for the future, giving updates to more serious crimes reported/investigated along with outcomes.

#### **5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

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

#### **6. Matters arising from the Minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

Item 6 – Community Resilience – Cllr Lancaster is still to liaise directly with Debbie Binch from the Environment Agency. The clerk is also in communication with Cumbria Police and CCC to gather information already established in the event of an emergency in the area.

Item 16 – Skate Park – It was noted that the Skate Park group have an article in the Lookaround advertising their forthcoming public consultation events. Members were asked to attend the public meeting in the People's Hall on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September to hear the views of those in attendance.

Item 17 – Parish Council Award Scheme – Training for Members is set for 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015. If Members have any questions to ask CALC, this is an ideal opportunity to liaise. Dent and Garsdale PC have also been invited, however, Garsdale are unable to attend as it is their PC Meeting night.

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

Cllr Mel Mackie and Cllr Nick Cotton both sent apologies.

Cllr Kevin Lancaster reported there were continuing discussions over the proposed redistribution of seats at SLDC and a potential restructure in the future. It was noted that Cllr Peter Thornon, Leader of SLDC, will be attending Sedbergh on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August to hold a surgery at the Business Hub.

#### **8. Planning**

A written report was adopted by the meeting. Points to note were as follows:

Proposed Recycling facilities at SPAR – following a site visit with YDNPA, a slightly amended plan will now be submitted, incorporating a change to the proposed fencing. It was also noted, that SPC should approach SPAR to ask for the possibility of a contribution to the cost of the landscaping in due course.

Yorkshire Dales Local Plan – following the consultation on the draft document, a final invite to comment on the submission version of the Plan has been received and will be considered at the next meeting.

S/03/563A Old Spout Barn, Dowbiggin – Following a site visit by YDNPA, the application has now been approved.

### **9. Consultation by SLDC ‘Empty Homes Strategy 2015-2025’**

Cllr Lancaster left the room for this item.

A summary report from Cllr Atkins (attached) was considered by the meeting and it was agreed that no further action was required. Points to note, SLDC considered that Sedbergh had 39 empty homes at this time.

### **10. Finance**

The meeting received the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resource Committee held on the 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015. Arising from those minutes, points to note were as follows.

- a) Item 5 – Financial Summary - Car Parking Meters, it was agreed that both the Policy and Resource Committee and the Amenities Committee should consider replacement machines at some point. The Clerk is to establish approximate costs and report back.
- b) Item 6 – Income and Expenditure - It was resolved that Residents’ Parking Permit fees should be reviewed annually.
- c) Item 7 – Tender Updates – Following the receipt of no Tenders for the two wall collapses at Queen’s Gardens, it was agreed to recommend and approve the use of a local contractor directly, in accordance with the Council’s Financial Regulations. The tenders in relation to Jubilee Fountain were discussed in Part II of the meeting.

The Council agreed a list of payments submitted to the meeting. Cllr Longlands highlighted the costs incurred to SLDC in relation to the Car Park and Toilets on at Joss Lane and Main Street. It was agreed that SPC should investigate further the recent initiative highlighted in the media regarding Rates on Public Toilets and noted by Cllr Lancaster.

### **11. Grants**

No applications received.

### **12. Public Participation**

Andy Cobb – Sedbergh and District Chamber of Trade and Business – The Chamber has, for some time, been trying to make efforts to amend the ‘brown’ signs that indicate ‘Western Dales’ from the M6 at Junction 37, to read ‘Yorkshire Dales’. In their opinion this would be more indicative. They have spoken with YDNPA over the potential boundary changes and also to SLDC (who have promised funding of £3000 towards costs). In previous correspondence the Highways Agency have indicated that the cost of amending the signs would be £12000, however, The Chamber are going to request a further breakdown of these costs. SLDC has been in touch with SPC to ask if Members are in agreement with the notion and it was recommended and agreed that SPC gave agreement ‘in principle’ to the changes but to make no decisions on contributions to funding at this time.

Keith Wilberforce – Following a question to members, Cllr Atkins was able to advise that SPC hope for eight containers to be moved to the proposed site at SPAR from Joss Lane. Four cardboard and four plastic, therefore, giving two locations to recycle these items within the town.

In relation to the Skate Park, Mr Wilberforce asked SPC if there were any specific guidance or criteria Members were looking for in connection with the proposed Park. Cllr Atkins advised that there was not a specific requirement, however, the Council was looking forward to the upcoming public consultation events in order to gain clarity on establishing a need for the park.

### **13. Amenities Committee**

A report was received and it was noted that Cllr Longlands has been elected as Chair. It was also noted that there has been further damage to the shelter on the playing fields, it was agreed that work to repair this would be tendered in due course. Also consider repair/repaint of some equipment. Also noted, highlighting strips have now been painted onto the steps at the toilets on Main Street.

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

An updating report was received by the Council and accepted and the following points noted. Cllr Atkins is meeting with a representative from CCC Highways, again, to highlight the previously reported defects throughout the town. To be discussed the recent footway widening, various signs throughout town, road markings, the defective works to Main Street pavements and various other items.

In relation to the proposal to lower the boundary wall at the Gardens at Number 72 Main Street, planning permission has been granted. Tenders for this work will be sought in due course. An application for a grant towards the work will be made to the YDNPA Sustainable Development Fund.

### **15. Queens Garden**

The Queens Gardens committee have not met. However, there are ongoing considerations to the future of the Gardens, including requests to Media for possible support and a meeting is scheduled with Mr S Roy in September to discuss another possible future bid to HLF. (Repairs to the boundary wall were discussed under item 10).

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

Training has been arranged for Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September here in Sedbergh. In order to obtain Foundation Status, there are still various aspects to consider and the Clerk is to upload various Policies etc to the SPC Website in due course, to assist with the process.

### **17. Correspondence**

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

- a. Post 16 Transport – following a recent meeting by the Overview and Scrutiny Board at CCC in relation to the Post 16 Transport Policy, they agreed that SPC could submit a statement for their consideration, this has subsequently been submitted. CCC will discuss the outcome of the review at their Cabinet Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Thanks were expressed to the Clerk.
- b. Yorkshire Day – Cllr Ian McPherson gave a brief overview of a possible Yorkshire Day in 2016, it was agreed that the Parish Council as a body should not be involved in the promotion of the event. It was noted that Cllr Ian McPherson would pursue the idea further on an individual basis.
- c. YDNPA Parish Forums – an invitation has been received in relation to the first Parish Forum in Leyburn, unfortunately, no member is able to attend. It was agreed however that SPC should submit any issues, in writing, prior to the meeting for inclusion.
- d. Sheepfest – two requests have been made to SPC in relation to the event scheduled for September. Q1 Would SPC ascertain if the event is covered under SPC insurance. It was noted that it would not be covered as SPC was not the lead organisation. Members thought it would be prudent, therefore, that the promoters of the event should seek Public Liability insurance from their current insurers.  
Q2 Would SPC consider allowing a 'sheep pen' on Joss Lane car park on the 13<sup>th</sup> and possibly 14<sup>th</sup> of September? Members discussed this and concluded that they would be in agreement to a sheep/cattle trailer being parked on the car park, but that is was not appropriate to have an open pen. The trailer would give a secure area and pose less risk.

**18. Date and Time of next meeting –Monthly meeting – 7.30pm Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015 in the Committee Room of the People's Hall.**

## **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.

### **19. Sedbergh Townscape Project**

It was reported that the invitation to tender exercise had failed to secure three tenders, as required by the Council's Financial Regulations. The Policy & Resource Committee have, therefore, recommended that SPC tender again in order to obtain comparative quotes. This was agreed by Members.