

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in The People's Hall, Sedbergh on Thursday 10th December 2015

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Dawson and Sedgwick and accepted by the meeting.

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 9 – Planning – Cllr Arnold in relation to Sedbergh School Sports Centre proposal, Cllr Longlands and Cllr Ian McPherson in connection with the Post Office Yard Planning Appeal S/03/316D and Cllr McPherson in connection with the Winn's Yard amended application S/03/531A .

4. Police Report

PCSO Coleman sent her apologies and the Clerk read out a short report. It was noted that Members would like any updates on previous events, where possible, in the future.

5. Settlebeck School, Lynsey Goodyear – Head of PE

A short presentation was given to Members in relation to Settlebeck's proposals for a 3G Pitch at the School. It was hoped that this would be sited at the southern boundary, close to New Bridge. Head of PE, Mrs Goodyear, is due to complete a pre-planning application to YDNPA in the New Year and will submit further information to Sedbergh PC in due course. Sedbergh PC wished Settlebeck well and will await more formal notification. It was noted that the closest 3G Pitch is currently at Dallam School, Milnthorpe and that Mrs Goodyear is confident that the Pitch would be well utilized both by the school and the local community, also attracting various clubs from neighbouring towns.

6. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 12th November 2015

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

7. Matters arising from the Minutes of 12th November 2015

Item 6 (8) – Planning, it was noted that the unauthorized sign on Main Street had now been removed.

Item 6 (18) – Town Twinning, it was noted that SPC still need to nominate a second representative to the Town Twinning Group.

Item 12 – Amenities – Cllr Arnold hopes to continue with approaches to SLDC regarding additional litter bins, but will wait until the New Year due to recent events. Cllr Ian McPherson's article, relating to dog fouling, was in the December Lookaround.

Item 16 – Website, a meeting is schedule for 15th December 2015.

Item 19 (c) – Correspondence, the event planned by Sedbergh School at the Pepperpot was postponed until the New Year.

8. Report from District/County Council

Councillor Mel Mackie advised that he has been in communication with CCC Highways over the closure of the Sedbergh to Kirkby Lonsdale road due to the bridge closure at Middleton Hall, following the flooding. Alternative routes currently mean a diversion around Dent/Barbondale or M6. Once County wide priorities have been established, there may be potential for a temporary bridge to be put in place, but this was dependent on many factors.

9. Planning

A written report was adopted by the meeting and the following items considered:

S/03/531A – Winn’s Yard, an amended plan had been received and was considered by Members, it was noted that there had been a reduced number of dwellings and that the retail/office unit had been increased in size. It was resolved that no objections be made to the application, subject to the residential units being restricted to local occupancy (or persons employed within the site of the development). Cllr Ian McPherson left the room for the duration of this discussion.

Planning Appeal – S/03/316D – Post Office Yard, YDNPA had notified SPC that an appeal had been lodged against the refusal of planning permission for the erection of a three-bedroom property in the garden of the Post Office Yard, Sedbergh. Members discussed the contents of the Appeal and the attempt to discredit SPC in its decisions and observance of protocol at a site visit. The Council’s consistency of approach to planning applications was also criticised. Members considered these assertions to be unfounded. Cllr Atkins had prepared a draft statement for Members and appreciation was shown for the level of work undertaken to prepare this response. Cllr Lancaster moved that the draft statement should be adopted and that the minutes should record that SPC strenuously object to the assertions by the appellant concerning the conduct of the Council and to confirm that all interests were properly declared. Cllr Arnold seconded this motion and it was agreed by the remaining Members. Cllr Ian McPherson did not vote. Cllr Longlands left the room for the duration of this discussion.

Sports Centre proposal, Sedbergh School – Sedbergh School had invited Members of the Council’s Planning Committee to attend an informal presentation on the proposed new sports facility planned on a site adjacent to Busk Lane. Main issues raised by Members at this early stage, included landscape impact, scale, materials and, in particular, the implications of the proposal for the parking of additional cars and coaches as the draft plans indicated removable seating for 488 persons. It was noted that Sedbergh School hoped to submit the planning application in December 2015. Cllrs Ian McPherson and Cllr Arnold left the room for the duration of this discussion.

10. Finance

The meeting received the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resource Committee held on the 8th December 2015.

Arising from those minutes, points to note were as follows.

Item 7 – Budget, the amended Budget for 2016-2017 was considered by the meeting and Precept requirements discussed. It was agreed to defer final approval until the January meeting in order that all information had been received from SLDC concerning the Precept. It was noted that Training and Section 137 Grants had been added to the Budget.

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

11. Grants

Western Dales Bus – An application for the sum of £500 had been received from the Western Dales Bus and it was agreed to approve the recommendation from the P&R Committee to support this request, including the caveat that The Western Dales Bus should continue to give reassurance that reasonable steps are taken not to compete with the commercial sector.

12. Public Participation

A group of residents from Guldrey in Sedbergh attended to speak about the recent flooding over the weekend of 5/6 December. A spokesperson, Mr David Jermy advised their concerns stating that several properties had been affected, that there remained a deep hole above the culvert (close to SPAR and located on the footpath) and that capacity of the system continued to give cause for concern.

Their main request was to establish who was responsible for the culverts/pipes/drains in the area and what could be done in the future to safeguard their properties.

It was noted that residents had already been in touch with several agencies, including CCC, The Environment Agency, YDNPA, SLDC and United Utilities, but that each was passing on to the next and vice versa. It was agreed that SPC would also approach the various agencies, on behalf of the residents, in an endeavour to establish a way forwards, also including CCC Cllr Nick Cotton in any communications. It was noted that residents would forward some photographs of the effects suffered in the area so that they could be attached to correspondence. (See also, item 17).

13. Amenities Committee

The meeting in December had been postponed due to Sedbergh Late Night Opening. The next scheduled Amenities Committee meeting is on the 6th January 2016.

14. Sedbergh Townscape Project

An updating report was received by the Council and accepted, the following points being noted – Cllr Atkins and The Clerk had recently had an updating meeting with CCC Cllr Nick Cotton, highlighting ongoing highway issues. It was also noted that communication with SLDC and SPAR management would need to take place in January to establish the viability of the recycling containers at the site. If the facility is to remain, then tenders would need to be sought for the erection of a screening fence as required by a condition of the planning permission. Further noted was the boundary wall/access project at the People's Hall. It was agreed to commission Garsdale Design to prepare the drawings for consideration by the Council and the People's Hall Committee as the practice had undertaken all previous architectural work at the site.

It was noted that a meeting of the Project Board was scheduled for 22nd January 2016.

15. Queen's Garden

There was no updating report for this Month.

16. Parish Council Award Scheme

There was nothing to report for this month.

17. Weekend Flooding

See Item 12 – Public Participation also. It was noted that SLDC had requested details of properties that were entered by water over the weekend and that The Clerk was collating this information. Further requests relating to businesses had also been forwarded to the Chamber of Trade for circulation. It was further agreed that a progress report on the Council's proposed Emergency Plan be included on the Agenda for February for further discussion and consideration.

18. Fibre GarDen update

An emergency General Meeting was now scheduled for January 2016 and a further update would follow.

19. Town Notice Boards

It was agreed to defer this Item until January 2016

20. Correspondence

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

- a. Carparking – a request had been received from the Chamber of Trade for free parking on Saturday and Sunday throughout the rest of December. It was agreed that SPC would allow free parking on Sundays only.

20. Date and Time of next meeting –Monthly meeting – 7.30pm Thursday 14th January 2016 in the Committee Room of the People's Hall.