

# 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 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016

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

### 1. Apologies

There were no apologies

### 2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations

### 3. Declarations of Interest

Item 7 – Planning, Ingmire Caravan Park and Kings Yard (Bainbridge Road) – Cllr Longlands and Cllr Ian McPherson

Items 10 & 16 – Skate Park – Cllr Allan

### 4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016

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

### 5. Matters arising from the Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Item 6 – Settlebeck School – Settlebeck School's Head of PE, pre-planning enquiry for a 3G pitch is ongoing as far as SPC are aware and they are currently talking to the local football teams and looking into planning issues and possible funding.

Item 6 – Website – Following recent discussions, it was noted that SPC would become the new host for a server incorporating their new site as well as sedbergh.org.uk, this would be a substantial saving.

Item 6 – Public Participation – a multi agency meeting had taken place at Guldrey following concerns raised by residents following the flooding in December. Further investigations are taking place and it is intended that a public meeting will be held in due course. This will assist in the preparation of a flood plan which will look at both short and long term measures to prevent flooding in affected areas in the future.

Item 12 – Flooding on Joss Lane Car Park – it was noted that following local contractors input and ultimately United Utilities, the problem had now been resolved.

Item 17 – Town Notice Boards – regarding the notice board at Brown's of Sedbergh, informal discussions have taken place with Sedbergh School regarding a replacement. Members agreed that a notice board for the School, advising useful dates/promotions of their events etc would be beneficial for the local community/visitors and it is understood that Sedbergh School are progressing this idea. Cllr Atkins advised that he had now spoken with YDNPA in relation to the new interpretation sign for Sedbergh, to replace the old one from the Gardens at 72 Main Street. Cllrs Ian McPherson and Lancaster agreed to assist in sourcing the information for this along with Cllr Atkins. YDNPA now need the content for the sign and it was agreed that Sedbergh CIC and Sedbergh Chamber of Trade should also be invited to participate. Cllr Lancaster noted that YDNPA signs look professional and of good design.

### 6. Report from District/County Council

Cllr Nick Cotton – wished to advise Members that Victoria Bridge in Kendal was now open again, making access far easier for residents in Sedbergh. Also noted, the bridge at Middleton Hall may now be salvageable which will make reopening quicker than first anticipated. There are ongoing resurfacing works on the A683 Kirkby Lonsdale road. Further noted, was that CCC had calculated that flood damage had cost the county in the region of £465m.

Cllrs Mel Mackie and Kevin Lancaster had nothing further to add.

## **7. Planning**

A written report was adopted by the meeting. Two planning applications were discussed by Members in view of their size/nature. Cllrs Longlands and Ian McPherson left the room for the duration of these discussions.

Ingmire Caravan Site – S/03/91G – SPC had previously been consulted on this site and the lack of space available for touring vans/caravans had been highlighted. It was additionally noted that representation from a neighbouring residential property had been submitted and a response had been received by the agent acting for the owner of the Caravan Site. This included an amended layout plan showing the location of the facilities cabin and the touring caravan pitches moved to another area within the park to minimise any noise disturbance. Members agreed that these were welcome amendments and that concerns had been substantially addressed. Members wished it to be noted that the space for touring caravans should be available at all times (and not used for long term storage) and that adequate maintenance of drains should be continued. (Members had noted that historically there had been an issue with the drainage at the site not connected to the present owners). Members also wished to highlight the lack of facility for tents and agreed that the Council's response should request that such provision be made. Sedbergh has very little facility for tented camping and this would be a welcome addition.

Kings Yard/Bainbridge Road – S/03/606 – SPC had been informally consulted on this site in 2014. At the time SPC had expressed their concern for the number of dwellings proposed and the inadequate parking arrangements. The revised plan proposed 5 dwellings and 6 workshop/office units. It also included car parking spaces for each dwelling, together with parking provision for visitors and persons employed on the site. Members noted that representation had been received directly from a resident on Bainbridge Road, highlighting her concerns over access/parking/general appearance and whether the properties would be 'affordable'. After much discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Arnold that the plans represented an improvement over the existing arrangement of workshops/buildings and would create opportunities for local occupancy housing and workshop/office space for the community. This was seconded by Cllr Lancaster and agreed by members. It was further agreed that SPC's comments to YDNPA should include reference to local occupancy housing restrictions and controls over working hours when the site is developed to minimise the disturbance to residents.

## **8. Finance**

The meeting received the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resource Committee held on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Arising from those minutes, points to note were as follows.

Item 5 - Income and Expenditure, Market SLA – further to a meeting with Sedbergh CIC, a draft SLA had been circulated for members to consider. It was recommended and approved, that upon confirmation of agreement to the SLA by Sedbergh CIC, the clerk should sign the agreement on behalf of the Council (and that authority be delegated to the Clerk to agree any minor amendments to the working of the agreement which would have no material effect on its provisions).

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

## **9. Grants**

There were no Grant applications received.

## **10. Public Participation & Skate Park**

Cllr Atkins advised that the Skate Park was on the Agenda to consider a letter received from the Community Trust. Subsequently, a formal lease request had been submitted to SPC, but this was received too late to be added to the Agenda.

It was further noted that the Council had resolved in November 2015 (Item 17) that *'there was not a suitable site for a skate park on the playing field and that, with regret, the request to enter into a lease arrangement be rejected'* This request had, therefore, come as a surprise and the Chairman reminded the meeting that, under Standing Orders, the Council could not reverse a decision within six months unless certain measures were met. Members of Sedbergh Community Trust (Dr Gina Barney and Adam Roberts) and residents from the area made direct representation. Cllr Allan took no part in discussions. Sedbergh Community Trust made a short presentation to the meeting in connection with their application to lease an area of land at the playing field for a skate park and circulated a copy of a recent survey of young people in Sedbergh supporting the idea. Residents felt that although they were not against the idea of a skate park for Sedbergh, there was no evidence to suggest that any alternative sites had actually been considered and that several residents in the area of the playing field had concerns over the potential noise disturbance. Cllr Atkins advised that it had been suggested to Settlebeck that the school might consider an area for a skate park adjacent to the proposed 3G pitch, if this project progressed. Representatives of the Trust felt this was not a suitable location due to its isolated nature. Prof Keith Johnson asked that the Sedbergh Community Trust give a full and frank report of all their research/surveys and make this available to the public for inspection. Whilst nobody was against the notion of a skate park for Sedbergh, the concern was one of location. SPC would discuss the Lease request at the next meeting.

## **11. Amenities Committee**

A report was received and accepted. It was noted that the grey water system at Main Street toilets was progressing well. It was further noted that as part of the proposed Emergency Plan, the Clerk should contact both Dawson's of Sedbergh and the Fire Station to seek permission for the potential storage of sandbags in Sedbergh. If agreeable, the Clerk should then approach SLDC for supply.

## **12. Sedbergh Townscape Project**

An updating report was received by the Council and accepted. It was noted that works on Jubilee Fountain should commence in March and that this would involve the use of traffic lights on Finkle Street for a limited time, which was unavoidable. SLDC's Environmental Partnership Fund has awarded £1500 towards these restoration works. The tender invites for rendering works at the recycling area at Spar have been issued and it was recommended and agreed by members that following receipt of tenders, the Clerk should use delegated powers to instruct commencement of the works. Finally it was noted that there had been a meeting of the Project Board for Sedbergh Townscape and notes from this meeting had been circulated to Members. Cllr Ian McPherson and Sedbergh Chamber of Trade members are developing the Vision Statement for Sedbergh for further consideration by the Council.

## **13. Queens Garden**

Cllr Lancaster agreed to convene a meeting of the Queen's Garden Committee as soon as possible to discuss ongoing issues. It was noted that SPC had received notification that there may be grant funding available that could potentially assist in the refurbishment of the wrought iron gates at the Gardens and Members agreed that this should be pursued as soon as possible. This would include the Clerk securing tenders to accompany a grant application form in due course.

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

There was nothing new to report.

## **15. Emergency Plan**

This item was deferred to a future meeting (see also, Item 11, provision of sandbags).

## **16. Skate Park**

See item 10 – Public Participation.

## **17. Refugee Update**

Cllr Ian McPherson asked District Councillors if there had been any update with regards to refugee intake in the area. It was noted that this had not been discussed lately due to the number of people left homeless in Kendal following the floods in December, but members agreed that it was perhaps now time to raise the issue again at SLDC.

## **18. Correspondence**

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

- a. Chamber of Trade – Project Manager – A letter regarding thoughts for a Project Manager for Sedbergh was circulated for information. Currently the Chamber are seeking feedback from the community on support for sponsorship/funding for the proposed post.
- b. Shop Front Scheme – SLDC have advised that there is still a small amount of monies available under this scheme and, perhaps, potential for more funds if there was an identified need. The Chamber of Trade has been asked to circulate their members. During discussions it was noted that some buildings on Main Street were giving cause for concern by reason of the neglected nature of their appearance and it was agreed that 'Condition of Buildings on Main Street' should be a future Agenda item.
- c. Town Twinning – minutes of their recent meeting had been circulated and it was noted that clarity over the relationship between the Town Twinning Group and SPC is required prior to the annual meeting when the Council will formally review its Committee structure. Cllrs Atkins and Lancaster to progress this.
- d. YDNPA – Local Plan – it was noted that Cllr Atkins had recently been contacted by a member of the press in relation SPC's comments on the barn conversions policy proposed in the plan.

**19. Date and Time of next monthly meeting** – 7.30pm Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 in the Committee Room of the People's Hall.