

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in The People's Hall, Sedbergh on Thursday 9th July 2015

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

1. Apologies:

None

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 9 – Planning, S/03/563A Old Spout Barn – Cllr Ian McPherson and Cllr Lancaster

Item 10 – Town Twinning – Cllr Lancaster

4. Police Report

The Police Report was presented to the meeting in the absence of the PCSO's. Members again stressed the importance of receiving feedback on those incidents previously reported and investigated.

5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 11th June 2015

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

6. Matters arising from the Minutes of 11th June 2015

Item 6 – Community Resilience – Cllr Lancaster is still to liaise directly with Debbie Binch from the Environment Agency.

Item 6 – Main Street Flagging – it was noted that some recently repaired curb stones on the corner of Joss Lane/Main Street have suffered some damage. The Amenities committee will consider the location of a bin to prevent vehicles driving over the curb at a future meeting.

Item 8 – Post 16 Transport – Cllr Lancaster reported that Dent PC have recently had a meeting in connection with their current bus to QES ceasing and their requirement to either transport themselves or travel to Sedbergh to catch the service being provided from there. It was further noted the current situation with the 502 service where pupils attending 6th Form would be charged an increased amount compared to those attending College. Cllr Atkins advised that SPC had recently been in touch with CALC regarding the notion of increasing the Precept to subsidise Post 16 Transport. A discussion took place on further steps that the Council might take in relation to the difficulties being faced by post 16 students. It was agreed that SPC should seek guidance and clarity from Debbie Storr, Monitoring Officer at SLDC, particularly with reference to the possibility of the Council seeking legal advice. Cllr McPherson agreed to progress this matter.

Item 14 – STP Report – there has been no update from Highways in relation to the Sedbergh sign on the Dent Road.

Item 18a – Advertising Board, Main Street – there has been no update from YDNPA.

7. Councillor Vacancy

Following the recent advertisement for a Co-Option to Sedbergh Parish Council to fill the vacancy, three applications had been received and were considered in alphabetical order.

Simon Arnold – Proposed – Cllr Lancaster, Seconded - Cllr Longlands

Andrew Raikes - did not receive a proposer and, therefore, was not nominated further.

Douglas Thomson – Proposed – Cllr Mary Macpherson, Seconded – Cllr Ian McPherson

As two candidates were nominated, a vote was duly taken, again in alphabetical order.

Simon Arnold – 6 Votes for and 4 abstentions

Douglas Thomson – 4 Votes for and 6 abstentions

Simon Arnold was duly selected and will be appointed subject to the formality of completing an 'Acceptance of Office' and a 'Declaration of Interest' form.

8. Report from District/County Council

Cllr Mel Mackie advised that SLDC are due to change their Waste Collection dates later this year and all householders will receive notification in due course.

Cllr Kevin Lancaster advised the meeting that there were continuing concerns relating to the arrangements for the risk assessments of private water supplies.

He also reported of the proposed redistribution of seats at SLDC and a potential restructure in the future.

9. Planning

A written report was adopted by the meeting.

Cllr Lancaster and Cllr McPherson left the room in order that planning application S/03/563A Old Spout Barn, Dowbiggin could be discussed further following a request from a member of the public asking if Sedbergh PC would make representation at the forthcoming planning meeting at YDNPA. It was discussed and agreed that SPC should not make further representation on this application and would, therefore, not send a representative to the meeting.

It was also noted that the recent application by NatWest bank to install an ATM room at the vacant premises on Main Street had been withdrawn.

SLDC Housing Strategy Consultation – a summary report from Cllr Atkins (attached) was considered by the meeting and it was agreed that this be forwarded to SLDC as the Council's formal response. In addition, the following points noted.

- 1) Developing new affordable and open market homes to meet need and support economic growth – particular attention should be made to self build opportunities and Cllr Lancaster noted the possible need for greater flexibility in applying policies to support such developments. Cllr McPherson advised that there were strong feelings at YDNPA supporting the need for more social housing and that there should be caution when considering the current proposals for extending the right to buy to social housing association dwellings.
- 2) Providing specialist housing and services to improve the health and well-being of older/young and vulnerable people – it was noted that Sedbergh was highlighted by a recent YDNPA consultation as a priority location for extra care housing. Cllr Mary McPherson also emphasised the desirability of making provision for training/employment linked housing for young people.
- 3) Improving housing standards to improve the health and well-being of all residents – supported, and SPC hopes that small scale initiatives appropriate to rural areas are also supported.
- 4) Making best use of the existing housing stock to create sustainable communities – SPC comments mirror those recently submitted to YDNPA
- 5) Preventing and reducing homelessness – SPC commends the progress made in reducing homelessness with the introduction of proactive measures.

10. Finance

The meeting received the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resource Committee held on the 7th July 2015. Arising from those minutes, points to note were as follows.

- a) Item 4 – Bank Mandate- Following receipt of the blank mandate form from NatWest, it was resolved that Cllr Mary Macpherson should replace former Cllr Hodge on the bank mandate. Item 9 – Recycling at SPAR – see also STP Report, it was recommended and agreed to approve the fee of £192.50 to progress the Planning application for the proposed relocation of a number of recycling containers.

Item 9 – Town Twinning – Following recommendation, it was agreed to contribute the sum of £250 to the anniversary celebrations.

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

11. Grants

None

12. Public Participation

Anne Pierson – Sheepfest, thanked SPC for the recent Grant awarded towards Sheepfest 2015. In addition, further to item listed as correspondence, Anne sought the support of SPC in regard to proposals to develop initiatives in the town, including a Children's Gallery and Young People's Literature Festival. It was agreed that SPC would write a letter of support for her application to SLDC.

John Metcalfe – Highlighted concerns regarding an overhanging tree at the junction of Highfield Road and Station Road. The clerk will contact the landowner.

Concern over the Chair of SPC being involved in too many Committees. It was noted that during the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, members of SPC were allocated to committees and community organisations. Also noted, that all SPC meetings are public and minutes published.

13. Amenities Committee

The committee held a brief meeting on 8th July 2015 and Cllr Longlands was elected as Chair. Also discussed at the meeting were the difficulties being experienced by the Committee in providing minutes of the meeting and the suggestion that this might be undertaken by the Clerk to the Council? This matter would be discussed further but, in the absence of minutes, the decisions of the Amenities Committee would need to be endorsed by the full Council.

14. Sedbergh Townscape Project

An updating report was received by the Council and accepted and the following was noted.

Street Name Plates – following communication from Cllr Nick Cotton, the possibility of some funding to help replace/repair some street signs was discussed and it was agreed to seek further information although it was noted that street signs were the responsibility of SLDC. It was also considered that Highways signs should be a priority as many required replacement/repair

Jubilee Fountain – Cllr Atkins is meeting with a specialist restoration firm next week to seek advice. Church Wall, Finkle Street – the repair is now complete.

15. Queens Garden

The Queens Garden committee had recently met to discuss ongoing issues. It was noted that the two sections of previously collapsed wall had now been rebuilt and to a high standard. It was also noted that a tender will be issued for the repair of a further two collapsed sections reported on the eastern boundary with Queens Gardens. The wider issue remains at Queens Gardens, in that consideration needs to be given to its future maintenance and use and inevitable cost implications. It was additionally noted that the BBC might be approached to ascertain any interest in media coverage of a restoration project.

16. Proposed Skate/BMX Park

Cllr Longlands, Dawson, Capstick and Atkins had met representatives of the Sedbergh & District Community Trust on 8th July 2015 and consideration was given to an alternative location close to the south western boundary. It was reported that most present at that meeting considered that this was a better location. Cllr Ian McPherson wished to highlight again whether there was a clearly identified need for the proposal. This concern was shared by other Councillors but it was agreed that the proposed public consultation might provide more clarity on the extent of such need.

17. Parish Council Award Scheme

Cllr Ian McPherson will make arrangements for the training in September, following the election of a new member.

18. Dementia Awareness

Cllr Mary Macpherson wished to advise the SPC of a recent meeting she had attended in connection with 'Dementia friendly communities' and asked for the support of members in inviting Alison Hudson, Dementia Action Alliance Coordinator for Cumbria to a future meeting and it was agreed that the Clerk should invite her to the meeting in August.

19. Correspondence

The attached Clerk's Report was considered by the meeting

- a. Western Dales Bus – following a request from Jock Cairns in relation to an amendment to the Sunday 564A service to include Cautley Spout, it was agreed that SPC should support the requested change and the Clerk would issue a letter confirming this.

20. Date and Time of next meeting –Monthly meeting – 7.30pm Thursday 13th August 2015 in the Committee Room of the People's Hall.