

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 10th March 2016

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

PART I

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Lancaster and accepted by the meeting.

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 7 – Planning – Sports Centre proposal, Sedbergh School, Cllr Arnold and Cllr Ian McPherson

Item 8 – Finance – Cllr Longlands

Items 15 – Skate Park – Cllr Allan

4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 11th February 2016

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

5. Matters arising from the Minutes of 11th February 2016

Item 5 – Public Participation (Item 6) – A Public Consultation meeting in respect of Flood Resilience had now been set for Wednesday 30th March, commencing at 6pm in the People's Hall, Sedbergh.

Item 12 – Townscape Project, Vision Statement – Cllr Ian McPherson advised that the proposed Vision Statement for Sedbergh is to be included on the April agenda.

Item 17 – Refugee Update – no update has been received and it was agreed that the Clerk should follow up SPC's previous correspondence in September, to SLDC, seeking a response.

Item 18 – Correspondence – Cllr Atkins advised that the article relating to YDNPA's Local Plan (barn conversions policy) had been published in the Yorkshire Post.

6. Report from District/County Council

Cllr Mel Mackie advised members that the bridge at Middleton Hall had now been condemned and that a complete rebuild would be required. This was likely to be some 12-18 months away and would necessitate the road being closed for 3-6 months during the repair.

Cllr Nick Cotton had sent his apologies.

7. Planning

A written report was adopted by the meeting, points to note included the responses sent in relation to Ingmire Caravan Site S/03/91G and Kings Yard S/03/606 discussed at the February meeting. Also noted was YDNPA's decision to refuse planning permission at Spedding House, Milthrop S/03/579A. It was also noted that a report had just been received from the Planning Inspectorate in relation to Post Office Yard S/03/316D advising that the appeal had been dismissed. This would be reported fully at the meeting in April.

S/03/591 Sports Centre proposal, Sedbergh School, the application was discussed at the meeting by Members in view of its size/nature. Cllrs Arnold and Ian McPherson left the room for the duration of these discussions.

Sports Centre proposal, Sedbergh School – S/03/591 – SPC had been informally consulted on this proposal in December 2015. At the time SPC had expressed particular concerns surrounding parking arrangements. Members discussed various aspects of the application, including, size, location, design, community use and the accompanying parking management plan. Members raised the current concern for parking in the location of Busk Lane during events and how Busk Lane/Loftus Hill often become congested due to increased parking by visitors, also noting that this route is the designated HGV route for Sedbergh. Also acknowledged was the positives the proposal could bring to Sedbergh, including increased footfall and the extension of facilities for Sedbergh School. Members had differing views on the acceptability of such a large building in this rural location but by a majority of 6/2 it was resolved not to object to this aspect of the proposal. However, Members unanimously agreed that the proposed parking arrangements were wholly inadequate and, therefore, the application should be refused on those grounds. It was also agreed that comments relating to the lighting, type of proposed stonework and how the community use element would function should be included in the Council's response. The exact wording of the response to the YDNPA would be agreed (by email) between those Members present at the meeting when this item was discussed, and submitted to YDNPA as soon as practicable. SPC had already sought a small extension to the closing date for comments, due to SPC planned meeting being on 10th March 2016.

8. Finance

The meeting received the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resource Committee held on the 8th March 2016. Arising from those minutes, points to note were as follows.

Market SLA – the Market SLA has now been signed; members were reminded that the SLA included the CIC assuming responsibility for insurance cover for the markets. Also noted was the proposal of an Economic Study by SLDC, where a request for a sum of £250 from SPC had been made. It was agreed by Members to support the study and contribute the £250 requested towards the anticipated £4500 overall cost.

The Council agreed a list of payments submitted to the meeting. It was noted that although some of these invoices were over six months old, they were of relatively small amounts. The Clerk should remind contractors/suppliers to submit invoices as soon as possible. Cllr Longlands took no part in discussions relating to payments.

9. Grants

A Grant application had been received from Sedbergh & District Chamber of Trade for the proposed post of a Project Manager for Sedbergh. The Policy & Resource Committee had agreed to defer this application as it was noted that Prof Andy Cobb, Chair of the Chamber, wished to make a short presentation to Members at the meeting. Following this presentation and questions to Prof. Cobb, the application, for £500 was discussed in detail. It was noted that the Chamber had already raised £4500 from local businesses etc and hoped to raise a further £5000 from SLDC as match funding. It was also noted that the post holder, and a planned committee formed to support the post holder, would continue to seek further funding in an attempt to secure the role for three years. Members acknowledged the value of organisations within the town working together. The Townscape Project and Vision for Sedbergh initiative were all aimed at working collaboratively and it was hoped that the new role would fit into this and help drive forward new initiatives to help market Sedbergh, drive footfall and promote Sedbergh generally. It was hoped that the Economic Study to be completed by SLDC could form part of future aspirations for the Town. Cllr Ian McPherson proposed that the Grant application be approved and this was seconded by Cllr Brooks and agreed by Members. Prof Andy Cobb was thanked for his attendance.

10. Public Participation

Anne Pierson – Farfield Mill attended to give Members an update on various matters, including the ‘Sedbergh Tweed’ initiative being developed by Alison O’Neill and Sheepfest which was planned again for September 2016 and not 2017 (unfortunately the wrong date had recently been circulated). The theme will be book titles and would again involve local schools.

Anne Pierson was also able to advise that Farfield was developing a Children’s Gallery at the Mill and was planning a Children’s Literacy Festival. They would also be joining in with the Chamber of Trade’s Food Festival in May.

11. Amenities Committee

A report was received and accepted by the meeting. It was noted that, Sedbergh Wanderers had made an initial enquiry regarding improvement works on the football field and storage areas. Members were pleased to be kept informed and would welcome a formal written letter including any improvement works that the Club was intending and a plan of the proposed works to the storage sheds. Also discussed was the requirement for various works/repairs required at the Playground and it was agreed that a tender should be drawn up for the required works. Further noted was the requirement for the white lines on the toilet steps on Main Street to be repainted as soon as possible. A more substantial permanent warning of the steps might be necessary and Cllr Longlands agreed to seek further ideas. Finally it was noted that the Clerk had received confirmation that sand bags could be stored at Dawson’s of Sedbergh and at the Fire Station in Sedbergh subject to details being agreed on location and the safeguarding of access etc. The clerk has received confirmation from SLDC that they will supply the sand bags if/when required.

12. Sedbergh Townscape Project

An updating report was received by the Council and accepted. It was noted that the Clerk is still waiting for an official response from SPAR in relation to the planned fencing works at the recycling facility. It was noted that an initial meeting regarding the new information interpretation Panel for Sedbergh had taken place and a follow up meeting with YDNPA was due shortly.

13. Queens Garden

It was noted that the Queen’s Garden’s Committee is due to meet later in March. It was discussed that perhaps the future of the Garden’s could be a topic for the Annual Meeting of the Parish in May and this was agreed. Cllr Arnold agreed to take some photographs of the Garden’s which could, perhaps, be used as part of a presentation at the Annual meeting. Local organisations and residents would be invited to give feedback/ideas for the area.

14. Parish Council Award Scheme

There was nothing new to report.

15. Skate Park

It was noted that the lease request from the Sedbergh Community Trust had been received too late to receive an official response at the February meeting hence being on the Agenda again for March. Also noted was that the Trust had sent a letter to SPC advising them of their intention to apply to YDNPA for planning permission on the playing fields. With regard to the Lease request, it was agreed to reiterate the resolution from 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’* and, therefore, that this could not usefully be discussed further in line with current Standing Orders. (The Council could not reverse a decision within six months unless certain measures were met). With regard to the Planning Application being submitted to YDNPA, it was agreed by Members that when official notice was received by SPC the Clerk should simply acknowledge the notice within the prescribed 21 day period confirming the resolution made by the Council in November 2015. Cllr Allan took no part in these discussions.

16. Condition of Buildings on Main Street

Issues regarding the condition of some buildings on Main Street had recently been highlighted to Members of the Council. It was acknowledged that it was a difficult time for Traders, however, the condition of two premises on Main Street was of particular concern (and potentially a risk to the public from falling debris) and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the owners seeking an indication of their intentions.

17. Correspondence

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

- a. Age UK, Village Agents, it was noted with regret that the role of Village Agents was due to cease on 31st March 2016. Cllr Mary Macpherson is in current communication with various organisations/councillors over what support will still be on offer in the area.
- b. Interpretation Panel for Invasive Species at New Bridge, Sedbergh– A letter had been received asking for the permission of SPC to install a small sign highlighting the potential invasive plant species known to be in the area. It was agreed by members that this sign could be installed and that the Clerk should write to SLDC requesting their authority also.
- c. The Pepperpot Visit, Sedbergh School – An invitation to attend for a viewing was noted as 21st March 2016 at 2.30 pm, Members should advise the Clerk of their intention to attend. It was further noted that an official opening was planned on the 14th May 2016 with Tim Farron MP and it was agreed that Cllr Ian McPherson would attend.
- d. The People's Gym & Fitness Centre, Sedbergh – it was noted that an invitation to the official opening had been received. This is at 3.30 to 5.00 pm on Sunday 20th March 2016.
- e. Youth Club Project – Sedbergh & District Community Trust had sent information relating to the possible need for a Youth Club in town. SPC wished to express their support for the idea in principle and would welcome further information as the project develops, particularly in relation to the location of the Club (after formally being held at Settlebeck, The People's Hall and the 'Monkey House' above the Library).
- f. The Business Hub – communication had been received into the lack of response over requests to establish rental/lease terms for the property in the future. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to SLDC for an update on the ongoing position with the building.
- g. Blocked drains/gullies – communication had been received from Cllr Nick Cotton to compile a list of known problematic areas and report back so that the clearing vehicle could attend from Highways and target these areas specifically. Members agreed to advise the Clerk.
- h. Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations – communication had been received from the Cumbria coordinator to clarify if Sedbergh intended to light a Beacon. Cllrs Sedgwick and Longlands agreed that they would assist with the idea if help was available possibly from the Sedbergh Scouts. It was agreed that the Clerk should speak to the local Scout Leader and establish any commitment.
- i. Chamber of Trade – late correspondence was received from The Chamber in connection with a potential meeting between SPC and The Chamber to discuss the growing concern by Traders of falling footfall in Town. It was agreed that Cllr Ian McPherson would convene a meeting to coincide with the next planned Vision for Sedbergh meeting (which included members of the Chamber) and Cllr Mary Macpherson offered to attend also.
- j. Crime Report – the incidents listed in a written report from PCSO Coleman were noted.

19. Date and Time of next monthly meeting – 7.30pm Thursday 14th April 2016 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 by reason of the confidential nature of the financial information to be discussed.

12. Sedbergh Townscape Project

The meeting discussed the recent Tender for fencing works at the recycling facility at SPAR. It was noted that only one tender had been received from Charlesworth Tree Care & Fencing Ltd and it was agreed to accept this Tender. It was further noted that the Clerk should notify SPAR that a contractor had been approved and that works would commence in due course.

13. Queen's Gardens

The meeting discussed the recent Tender for repair works to the Gates at Queen's Gardens. It was noted that only one tender had been received from D & SJ Wilson and that this Tender should be accepted. It was also noted that SPC had submitted an application to SLDC's Environmental Partnership Fund requesting a potential 50% contribution to costs.