

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in The People's Hall, Sedbergh on Thursday 12th November 2015

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

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 8 – Planning – Cllr Atkins in relation to Protected Trees and Trees within the Conservation Area.
Item 10b – Grant Applications – Cllr Longlands in relation to People's Hall Application
Item 17 – Proposed BMX/Skate Park – Cllr Allan also, Cllr Ian McPherson (as this proposal might progress to planning stages in the future).

It was agreed to move Item 17 – Proposed Skate Park to follow directly Item 11 – Public Participation.

4. Police Report

The PCSOs who had sent their apologies and there was no report to present this month due to recent events/constraints on time.

5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 8th October 2015

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

6. Matters arising from the Minutes of 8th October 2015

Item 7 – Report/update County/District Councillor, Cllr Lancaster advised that SLDC were continuing to resolve the recent teething problems experienced in regard to the new waste collection dates/times in Sedbergh and hopefully these would now settle.

Item 8 – Planning – It was noted that the unauthorized sign on Main Street remained at this time.

Item 18 – Town Twinning – It was noted that SPC still need to nominate a second representative to the Town Twinning Group.

7. Report from District/County Council

It was proposed and agreed that SPC would write to Cllr Nick Cotton wishing him a continued and speedy recovery.

Councillor Mel Mackie wished to echo the comments by Cllr Lancaster in relation to the waste collections. He also requested permission to speak at Item 10a – Grants and this was agreed by Members.

Councillor Lancaster wished to note that the Annual General Meeting of Fibre GarDen was due to take place next week and requested that the outcome of this be an Agenda item for December.

8. Planning

A written report was adopted by the meeting. Points to note were the recent planning application at Spedding House where the previous view of the Council had been re-stated, and the proposed Information Boards at the Pepperpot, where a reduction in number had been recommended.

9. Finance

The meeting received the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resource Committee held on the 10th November 2015.

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

Item 6 i) – Market SLA – Further discussions were required regarding an agreement with Sedbergh CIC and the outcome would be reported at a future meeting.

Item 7 – Budget, a draft budget has been circulated to Members and final agreement would be discussed in December in preparation for setting the Precept.

Item 9 i) – Delegation to the Clerk – the amendment to Financial Regulation 4.1 in regard to authorisation being granted to the Clerk was noted and agreed.

Item 9 ii) – The recommended protocol for identifying contractors in minutes was noted and agreed.

b) The Council agreed a list of payments submitted to the meeting and the small additional cost incurred in relation to the Garden enhancement works at 72 Main Street was noted.

10. Grants

a) Donation request (£1000) toward brown ‘Western Dales’ signage – SLDC. Following the deferment of this item from October it was noted that the proposed Yorkshire Dales National Park boundary changes had now been approved by the Secretary of State (with a small amendment) and would come into effect on 1st August 2016. Members discussed the relative merits of the proposed name change and noted the representations submitted by a resident, Maureen Lamb. Cllr Mackie expressed his view that ‘Yorkshire Dales’ was universally recognized and thereby supported the marketing of the area.

Cllr Lancaster proposed that SPC should agree the donation of £1000 but received no seconder and the motion fell.

Cllr Mary Macpherson proposed that SPC decline the request in view of it being an inappropriate use of SPC Funds and that such a change would be premature having regard to the continuing debate on the name of the enlarged National Park. This was seconded by Cllrs Allan and Arnold and was agreed by a majority of 8/3.

b) People’s Hall Grant application – (Cllr Longlands left the meeting for the duration of this Item)

A Grant application for the sum of £1000 had been received in relation to overspends/additional works required on the recent extension at the People’s Hall to incorporate the new Gym. No recommendation had been received from the P&R Committee but Members had expressed some reservations as SPC had previously agreed in January 2014 that no further grants would be awarded in relation to any shortfalls in building redevelopment costs. It was also noted that SPC’s current guidelines for Grants should be for planned works and not for money already spent. It was agreed by the meeting that Dr Gina Barney, who was present for this Item should be invited to speak at this juncture rather than wait for Item 11, Public Participation. Dr Barney was able to give an overview relating to the overspend and the requirement for a foul water drain to be re-laid, works (costing £3,256) which included land outside the area leased to the People’s Hall Committee. Members expressed their wish to support the People’s Hall Committee in this venture to house the relocated Gym. Cllr Lancaster proposed that the strict application of guidelines was not necessary in this instance and that SPC should support the application submitted. Cllr Ian McPherson seconded this proposal and it was agreed by a majority of 9/2.

c) Town Twinning – Student Trip, February 2016. An application had been received for £1500 from the Town Twinning Group and it was agreed to support the recommendation for approval by the P&R Committee and approve the request.

11. Public Participation

Mr John Metcalfe – Mr Metcalfe wished to ask where the monies recently awarded to The Western Dales bus by various charities/groups/The Lottery had been utilized and that there should be increased knowledge of expenditure/income available to Sedbergh. It was recommended that Mr Metcalfe make a formal request directly to the Western Dales Bus committee asking for sight of their most recent Audited Accounts.

Prof. Keith Johnson – Prof. Johnson attended as representative of all the residents of Highfield Road, Sedbergh. He wished to express the strong opposition to the southern site, which was one of the two possible locations which had been identified for the proposed BMX/Skate Park on the Playing Field. He expressed his view that the Public Consultation meeting arranged by Sedbergh Community Trust was improper as not all members of the public were allowed to speak that evening. He said there was no doubt that there was support for the facility, but that its location on the south side had been strongly opposed on the evening and that all vocalized opinions stated a preference to the north side. He noted that the YDNPA pre planning response referred to the need for a ‘proven local community need’. Prof. Johnson also expressed concerns about drainage issues at the site.

12. Amenities Committee

A report was received and accepted. In relation to the proposal by Sedbergh School to provide increased bins for dog fouling waste, the Clerk had now ascertained from SLDC that there were no specific bins for dog waste anymore and that all SLDC litter bins were able to accommodate the waste. It was, therefore, agreed by members that Sedbergh School should approach SLDC directly in connection with the procedures and costs of providing bins alongside the footpath running from Finkle Street to Busk Lane, but that this initiative should be supported by the Council. Cllr Ian McPherson further noted that he was writing an article for the Lookaround in connection with the current concerns over dog mess in the town.

13. Sedbergh Townscape Project

An updating report was received by the Council and accepted, the following points being noted - the recently relined road markings (including Joss Lane ‘turn left’), the completion of the garden enhancement project and the submission of a grant application to SLDC in respect of the proposed remedial works to the Jubilee Fountain.

Further noted was the boundary wall/access project at the People’s Hall. Now works had been substantially completed at the Gym, thoughts could progress to the enhancement scheme and, as a first step, the requirement for professionally drawn plans. It was agreed by members that such costs should be funded in part by the Council and that details be reported to a future meeting for agreement.

14. Queen’s Garden

There was no updating report for this Month.

15. Parish Council Award Scheme

The need for a Training budget was further discussed and it was agreed that an allowance for this should be made in the forthcoming budget. This would be for both Councillor training and training for the Clerk.

16. Parish Council Website

Cllr Mary Macpherson had attended a meeting for the newly developed Town website and wished to progress the notion of Sedbergh Parish Council website coming into line with this. This would involve a redesign, including mobile friendly software. This would also allow the Clerk and members to do much of the ongoing work themselves in the future, so any potential initial outlay could be recouped in the longer term. It was agreed to progress a meeting with the Website Group and their designer initially, and that Cllrs Mary Macpherson, Arnold and Atkins would attend this meeting along with the Clerk.

17. Proposed BMX/Skate Park – update

Cllr Allan left the meeting for the duration of this Item and Cllr Ian McPherson remained but took no part in discussions or voting.

The Chair noted the recently circulated request from Sedbergh Community Trust in regard to a potential lease on the Playing field to accommodate the proposed BMX/Skate Park. There was a requirement from SPC to give a written confirmation of the Council's willingness to enter into such a lease arrangement in order that the Trust might reapply to Sport England for grant assistance by January 2016 (the recent application being unsuccessful). Members considered the advice received from the YDNPA and SLDC's Environmental Health Officer, which indicated potential problems with the sites identified, together with letters of objection from residents. Members also discussed practical difficulties that might arise should closure of the facility be necessary as a last resort in the event of serious unneighbourliness. Cllr Arnold questioned if the Playing field was, in reality, an appropriate location due to the space constraints at the site. Cllr Lancaster also stated his concerns, expressing the view that if the Playing Field was bigger there would be no doubt that SPC would give its full support to a location at the site. There was also concern about ongoing maintenance and the possibility that the site might appear ugly after a period of time. After much detailed discussions it was proposed by Cllr Arnold that the Council should accept 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 was seconded by Cllr Mary Macpherson and agreed by all Members other than Cllrs Ian McPherson and Atkins who did not vote).

18. Local Area Partnership – to consider draft letters.

Following draft letters being received from the LAP in relation to both Post 16 Transport and the boundary fence at Settlebeck members agreed that the Chair and the Clerk should make recommendations/observations to amend the Post 16 Transport letter in light of the various correspondences SPC had already issued in this regard. The proposed letter to Settlebeck required no further input.

19. Correspondence

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

- a. Post 16 Transport – some 340 signatures had been collected in town and forwarded to the Get us to School Campaign.
- b. Cumbria County Council – the budget consultation papers were available for comment.
- c. Sedbergh School had invited representation from SPC at their event on 20th November at the newly rebuilt Peppercot facility at Akay

20. Date and Time of next meeting –Monthly meeting – 7.30pm Thursday 10th December 2015 in the Committee Room of the People's Hall.