

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in The People's Hall, Sedbergh on Thursday 8th October 2015

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

1. Apologies

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

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations

3. Declarations of Interest

(It was noted that a planning application consultation had been received and that the applicant was a close relative of a member of the Council. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation this could not be considered by the Planning Committee and it was therefore agreed that this application (S/03/585) should be discussed under Item 8 – Planning).

Item 8 – Planning – Cllr Ian McPherson and Brooks

4. Police Report

The Police Report was presented to the meeting in the absence of the PCSOs who had sent their apologies. It was advised that due to the recent changes at Cumbria Police, it would not always be possible for a PCSO to attend.

5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 10th September 2015

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

6. Matters arising from the Minutes of 10th September 2015

Item 5 – Dementia Friendly Communities – Sedbergh Community Trust have nominated one of their members to represent the Trust on the Steering Group.

Item 7 – Business Rates on Public Toilets – it was noted that a survey from NALC on the subject had been circulated and that the Clerk should respond to this prior to the closing date.

Item 10 – Town Website – Cllr Longlands asked for an update on the possibility that the SPC website be taken under the responsibility of this site in the future and it was agreed to consider this further at a future meeting. It was noted that this would require the involvement of members and the Clerk.

Item 12 – Refugee letter to SLDC – it was noted that a response had been received from SLDC, but that there had been no further update.

7. Report from District/County Council

Apologies were received from Cllr Nick Cotton.

Councillor Mel Mackie reported the teething problems being experienced by SLDC in relation to the new waste collection days/times and asked for Members to be patient. However, any specific ongoing issues should be reported to District Councillors for feedback to SLDC.

8. Planning

A written report was adopted by the meeting. Application S/03/585 – Erection of garden shed at 8, Castlegarth, Sedbergh (at this point and Cllrs Ian McPherson and Brooks left the room). Following consideration of the details of the proposal it was proposed and agreed to approve the application.

It was additionally noted that following a recent report to YDNPA with regard to an unauthorized advertising sign on Main Street, YDNPA are now due to commence prosecution procedures.

9. Finance

The meeting received the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resource Committee held on the 6th September 2015. Arising from those minutes, points to note were as follows. Item 4 – Joss Lane car park, both the Amenities and P&R Committee had highlighted the need for discussions to take place in relation to Joss Lane car park and its future design and resurfacing, also considering any changes to the Market layout/parking bays etc. It was agreed to wait for the current enhancement works to be completed and for the eight recycling containers to be re-located to Spar before arranging a joint meeting between the Amenities and the P&R Committee to discuss any potential timescale.

- a) Item 9 – External Audit Annual return – It was proposed and agreed to formally accept the Annual Return and it was noted that there had been no matters that required attention.

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

10. Grants

A request had been received from SLDC for a donation towards the proposed plan to amend the current brown and white ‘Western Dales’ signs, to read ‘Yorkshire Dales’ on the M6 motorway at Junction 37. A number of opinions were expressed in support of, and in opposition to, the Parish Council making such a contribution. The meeting noted the possibility of the proposed National Park boundary changes being approved and that this might have implications for the name of the Park. It was further noted that a Ministerial decision on the changes may be announced at the National Park Conference due to take place later in October. Following further discussion it was proposed and agreed to defer a decision until the next meeting.

11. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

12. Amenities Committee

A report was received and accepted. It was noted that the repair had taken place at Joss Lane car park and that the request to include the Market layout as a future Agenda item, be incorporated within any ongoing discussions over Joss Lane’s planned resurfacing in the future. Item 018/09/15 – Other Amenities, the issue of Dog Fouling was discussed and it was agreed that if Sedbergh School wished to place signs upon their land, warning of the potential dangers of toxocarasis, this would be supported by (but would not require the involvement of) the Council. The issue of dog fouling generally was discussed and it was noted that dog waste bags were permitted in normal waste bins. It was agreed that SPC should approach SLDC in connection with waste bins in the town generally and discuss options for increasing numbers. It was further noted that Cllr Longlands was currently formatting a report for the LAP in connection with Parish Lighting, Item 017/09/15.

13. Sedbergh Townscape Project

An updating report was received by the Council and accepted, the following points being noted. The application for a grant towards the work on the garden enhancement scheme at 72 Main Street, from YDNPA Sustainable Development Fund, had been successful. Works were ongoing with this and would include the backfill on Joss Lane car park behind the new wall and re-pointing the wall adjacent to the steps. It was also agreed by the meeting that stone on edge to top the new flower border wall would be most appropriate, but incorporating two slate slabs for additional seating. Street Name plates were also discussed and it was noted that there was ongoing discussions with Cllr Nick Cotton. Cllr Atkins advised that it was hoped to arrange a meeting of the Townscape Project in the near future.

14. Queen's Garden

A meeting was held on 11th September 2015 and the minutes received. Members supported the proposal to hold a public meeting in 2016 to gauge the views of residents in relation to the Gardens.

15. Parish Council Award Scheme

Training had taken place in September for Members. The need for a future Training budget was discussed and it was agreed that an allowance for this should be made in the forthcoming budget.

16. Proposed BMX/Skate Park – update

A report had now been received from SLDC, also an updating letter from the Sedbergh Community Trust advising that their bid had been unsuccessful on this occasion. It was indicated that 'security of tenure' had been a factor in the decision from Sport England and that the Trust therefore wished to enter into a formal lease arrangement prior to making a further grant application. It was also noted that a report had been received from the YDNPA, in connection with SPC's pre-application planning enquiry. Due to the late receipt of this report, on the day of the meeting, Members had not had the opportunity to consider the details and it was agreed that further discussions should be deferred to the November meeting. It was anecdotally mentioned that the former 'barn' at Baliol School was due to be auctioned later in October and maybe there was potential for an inside venue for the proposed BMX/Skate park?

17. Respect Group

Following the Respect Group debriefing meeting in relation to Appleby Horse Fair, it was noted that there had been concerns over horses accessing the playing fields at Settlebeck, also the ongoing issue of travellers' vehicles accessing the lay-by at New Bridge. It was noted that Settlebeck were to be approached directly in securing their own boundary to the playing fields. It was further noted, that should the Respect Group/CCC wish to discuss the potential for any permanent works to the lay-by, SPC should be included. It was also observed, that there had been no mention of the grass area on the other side of the bridge, which also gave access to the riverbank.

18. Correspondence

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

- a. Explore South Lakeland – communications were ongoing between the Clerk and the Marketing subcommittee of the Chamber of Trade.
- b. Town Twinning – a request had been received from the Committee for an additional member from SPC. The meeting was unable to make such an appointment but, in the meantime, it was agreed that Cllr Atkins would attend meetings should Cllr Lancaster be unable so to do. Cllr Lancaster agreed to raise the possibility of the timing of the meetings being changed so as to make it more practicable for a second member of the PC to be appointed to the Committee.
- c. Sedbergh Gala – a request had been received requesting permission to 'set off' the fireworks from the playing field this year if necessary. The meeting resolved to agree to this request subject to Insurer's requirements being complied with in relation to Health and Safety guidelines, including the protection of members of the public watching the fireworks and the maintenance of the required distances from dwellings and roads. Also, it was agreed that the Council's permission should be conditional upon there being no damage caused to the football field when preparing the site.
- d. Weaver's Yard – SPC had received a letter in connection with broken flags at Weaver's Yard close to Lupton House. The Clerk had written to YDNPA to request advice on responsibility for this area and it was noted that although there was a public footpath through this yard, it was clear that the damage was being caused by vehicular access to properties in this area. Therefore, SPC agreed that responsibility lay with the property owners on this essentially private road.

- e. Town Centre/Events Manager – following a request from Sedbergh Community Trust, it had not been possible for SPC to give its formal opinion on the application being submitted. This was due to the deadline requirements of the bid to the Prince's Countryside Fund.
- f. Summer Produce Show – it was noted that following the cancellation of their show in August, there was a surplus and it was agreed that SPC should accept the offer of a partial return of the grant.
- g. Western Dales Bus – it was noted that the 'ribbon cutting' for the new larger bus would take place on Wednesday 14th October and members were invited.

20. Date and Time of next meeting –Monthly meeting – 7.30pm Thursday 12th November 2015 in the Committee Room of the People's Hall.