

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in The People's Hall, Sedbergh on Thursday 10th September 2015

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

PART I

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Sedgwick

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 17 – Proposed BMX/Skate Park – Cllr Ian McPherson

4. Police Report

The brief Police Report was presented to the meeting in the absence of the PCSO's. Members were concerned with the recent thefts of vehicles.

5. Alison Hodson – Dementia Friendly Communities

Members welcomed Alison Hodson, Coordinator for Dementia Action Alliance – Cumbria to the meeting to give a presentation in connection with becoming a Dementia Friendly Community and raising awareness. (Presentation summary attached). It was noted that Cllr Mary Macpherson is due to attend a meeting later in September to discuss the formation of a Steering Group within the Community and this was fully supported by Members. Any future ongoing meetings will be advertised in due course.

6. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 13th August 2015

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

7. Matters arising from the Minutes of 13th August 2015

Item 6 – Community Resilience – Cllr Lancaster will now collaborate with Cllr Arnold to prepare a draft plan and to liaise directly with Debbie Binch from the Environment Agency, as necessary.

Item 10 – Finance, Business Rates on Public Toilets – it was noted that a recent proposal to Government for exemption under the Sustainable communities Act, highlighted in the media, in connection with rates on Public Toilets had been unsuccessful, however, this was now being re-submitted by the National Association of Local Councils.

8. Report from District/County Council

Councillor Mel Mackie and Councillor Kevin Lancaster had nothing specific to report.

9. Planning

A written report was adopted by the meeting. Points to note were as follows:

Proposed Recycling facilities at SPAR – a site visit is scheduled for 18th September to discuss a timetable for the implantation of the scheme.

Yorkshire Dales Local Plan – following the consultation on the draft document, a final invite to comment on the submission version of the Plan has been received and it was recommended and approved to submit the report included in the Planning report, particular highlight to be given to policies relating to the conversion of traditional buildings and local occupancy restrictions.

10. Finance

The meeting received the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resource Committee held on the 8th September 2015. Arising from those minutes, points to note were as follows.

- a) Item 5 – Financial Summary – it was noted that the repair at Queen’s Gardens had been completed. Also noted, SPC’s contribution to the new Website design following the launch of the new site and payment for the Market Cones.
- b) Item 7 – Tender Updates – Tenders had been received in relation to Jubilee Fountain and the enhancement scheme to the Gardens at 72 Main Street (details were discussed in Part II of the meeting).

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

11. Grants

No applications received.

12. Public Participation and Item 17 Proposed Skate Park – Update

It was proposed to bring Item 17 forward to Item 12 for Members of the Public that were in attendance in relation to the BMX/Skate Park proposal, this was agreed by Members.

Hilary Dixon- Request to Sedbergh Parish Council to consider the current Refugee crisis across Europe and potentially consult with SLDC, advising that some residents in Sedbergh would accommodate refugees.

June Parker-To echo Hilary Dixon, would ask Sedbergh Parish Council to liaise with SLDC regarding current empty buildings in the Town, such as Baliol and Beamsmoor.

Members discussed the harrowing reports seen in the media lately and all agreed that SPC should send a letter to the Chairman of SLDC emphasizing its support for any initiative to accommodate refugees locally and how the resources of the Parish Council might assist as a facilitator on behalf of the residents of Sedbergh in regard to any plans developed by SLDC. Cllr Ian McPherson agreed to draft a letter, to be circulated to Members for agreement, prior to issue to SLDC.

Proposed BMX/Skate Park – update

Cllr Atkins gave an overview and summary of the Public Consultation that Sedbergh Community Trust had carried out the previous day within the town. This included a stall on the Market and a Meeting with presentation, question and answer session in the evening. Several Members were able to attend the consultation and wished to note their congratulations to Adam Roberts from Sedbergh Youth Organisation and the young people that attended in support of the project, for their contribution. Also noted, that letters had been distributed to all neighbouring properties to the proposed site, by the Trust, inviting them to the Consultation and requesting feedback. To summarise, it was noted that from the 15 feedback forms received by the Trust, there were no objections to the principal of a BMX/Skate Park; however, there were questions around location/noise/access/supervision and consideration to alternative sites. It was reported that some 50+ people had been in attendance at the Public Meeting.

Keith Wilberforce – Gave a personal statement in relation to the proposal (attached) outlining his thoughts on current need/future need and asking for SPC’s comments in relation to the ‘apparent’ reservation of the proposed site for projects including a Multi Use Games Area.

Keith Johnson – Wished to highlight his reservations on the proposed location on the southern boundary, given the proximity to the properties on Highfield Road. He advised that some guidelines would indicate a minimum distance of 100 yards between dwellings and BMX/Skate parks. In essence, his question to SPC is to seriously consider the location of the Park and also how he can be kept updated with plans as/when they progress.

Following the discussions that followed, it was agreed that the most practical next steps would include i) an enquiry to YDNPA in regard to planning considerations of possible site, ii) an enquiry to the Environmental Health Officer of SLDC in regard to noise considerations. Members agreed, therefore, that SPC should allow investigations to continue by Sedbergh Community Trust.

13. Amenities Committee

A report was received and accepted. It was noted that an immediate repair would be carried out to the pothole on Joss Lane car park to prevent further deterioration. Also noted, their next meeting would be held a week earlier on Wednesday 30th September, as the first Wednesday of the month would fall only the day before the next SPC meeting.

14. Sedbergh Townscape Project

An updating report was received by the Council and accepted. It was noted that an application for a grant towards the work on the garden enhancement scheme at 72 Main Street had been made to the YDNPA Sustainable Development Fund.

15. Queens Garden

The Queens Gardens committee are due to meet on 11th September 2015. It was noted that Cllrs Atkins and Lancaster had inspected the recent wall repair. The meeting noted thanks from the residents.

16. Parish Council Award Scheme

Training has been arranged for Thursday 17th September, starting at 6pm in Sedbergh. Various updates to the Council's website had now been completed, including the uploading of various Policies and Procedures.

17. Proposed BMX/Skate Park – update

See item 12 – Public Participation.

18. Appointment to Committees

It was agreed that Cllr Arnold should be appointed to the Amenities Committee following his recent Co-option.

19. Correspondence

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

- a. Post 16 Transport – following a recent meeting by the Overview and Scrutiny Board at CCC in relation to the Post 16 Transport Policy, the Council agreed that SPC could submit a statement for their consideration, this had been done. CCC have subsequently sent an apology, as in actual fact, Home to School transport had not been included in their recent review. Members expressed disappointment at this outcome. Cllr Libby Bateman has forwarded information in relation to the Get Us to School Campaign and petition and copies of this will be available to sign in Sedbergh, they have also been distributed to users of the existing buses. These will be coordinated by the Clerk and sent to the Campaign in due course.
- b. Explore South Lakeland – communications had been received in relation to an article for Explore Southlakeland, but the timescale had been too restrictive. Agreed to pass the contact information on to Sedbergh & District Chamber of Trade for possible entry.
- c. Sheepfest – A reminder to Members that Sheepfest commences on 12th September at 10.30am

20. Date and Time of next meeting –Monthly meeting – 7.30pm Thursday 8th October 2015 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 for reason of the confidential nature of the financial information to be discussed.

21. Sedbergh Townscape Project

Details of the submitted tenders and the recommendations of the Policy & Resource Committee were discussed.

Jubilee Fountain – it was proposed and agreed to engage the recommended Contractor for the remedial works – Askins & Little.

Garden enhancement scheme, 72 Main Street – it was proposed and agreed to engage the recommended Contractor for the works – GJ Baines & Son. It was also noted that the planned start date was 21st September 2015.

Cllr Atkins advised that YDNPA had recently advised that the current Sedbergh Information sign at this location was on a planned program of improvement/replacement works by the authority.