

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 February 2015

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

1. Apologies:

Apologies received from Cllrs Hodge (Chair) and Lancaster

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest

4. Police Report

A written report was received by Members from PCSO Coleman. It was further noted that the Speed Indicator Device that had recently been in operation close to Settlebeck School had recorded an average speed of 27.5mph from 4009 vehicles between 6th and 10th of February.

5. Dr Judith Greene – Headteacher, Settlebeck School

Settlebeck has recently seen record results, with an excellent record in progress being made by individual students. As part of the South Lakes Federation of Schools, joint working and training has worked well, specifically with Kirkby Stephen School and Sedbergh Primary, also sharing knowledge of the 3D Printer technology used by the Design /Technology Team at Settlebeck.

Dr Green was then able to advise how she has previously had dealings with the 'Sparsity Factor' in conjunction with a possible reform on School funding and as a consequence was recently invited to attend a meeting with Tim Farron to see David Laws MP. This meeting was a follow up meeting to one previously attended in November 2014 by Tim Farron in relation to the problems being faced in our area due to the lack of Post 16 Transport provision. There have been various discussions over a possible Rural Pupil Premium (allowing increased funds for Transport) to assist students in rural locations however, this is unlikely to take place in the immediate future due to the forthcoming Elections. A further proposal is for CCC to purchase Minibuses for use by schools to transport Post 16 Students, these discussions are still ongoing. A further notion is a 'School Bursary' to allow extra funds to assist Post 16 Students with transport. Sedbergh PC continues to lobby Tim Farron for a satisfactory solution to these issues and it was recommended and agreed at the meeting that a further letter should be sent to Tim Farron expressing the Council's disappointment at the lack of progress currently being made. It was further noted, that Post 16 Transport Provision is an Agenda item for the LAP Meeting being held later this month.

Dr Judith Greene was thanked for attending the meeting and congratulated for the excellent results being seen at Settlebeck School.

6. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 8th January 2015

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

7. Matters arising from the Minutes of 8th January 2015

Item 5 – Bank Closures – The Community Asset Register application is ongoing and further comments have been submitted, a decision is expected at the end of the month.

Item 9 – Sedbergh School/YDNPA visit – it was noted that PC members had recently attended the meeting with Sedbergh School and Members of YDNPA, points to note were the proposed provision of accommodation for staff and a proposed sports centre. There was some concern that the new housing could have repercussions on the local housing market, rental and purchase.

8. Report from District/County Council

Cllr Evelyn Westwood was able to report on the recent Community Banking Campaign and although the dates announced in relation to the new Branch Protocol were too late to save the Banks in Sedbergh, the work could see positive outcomes elsewhere in the country. Cumbria Growth Hub, Udales, Sedbergh – a new Management Team will take responsibility from 1 March 2015 and the site should be open two days a week.

9. Planning

A written report was adopted by the meeting.

Additional points to note were the recent decisions by YDNPA to uphold the refusal for a dwelling at the Post Office Yard, but to approve the proposed works at Highfield Villas, notwithstanding the recent objection by Sedbergh PC. It was further noted, that residents should feel able to come to Sedbergh PC or the Information Centre if they ever have any concerns over planning applications but felt unable to voice their feelings personally.

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10. Finance

The meeting received the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resource Committee held on the 10th February. Arising from those minutes, points to note were as follows

Item 8 – Annual Statement for SLDC for Car Park income. Following the recommendation from the Committee, the statement was approved by the meeting and would now be submitted to SLDC.

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

11. Grants

No Grant applications received.

12. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

13. Amenities Committee

A written report of the meeting held on the 4th February 2015 was received by the meeting and the following points were noted.

Item 4 – Consideration of future projects had been discussed and the disused Street Light on Fell Close should be considered for reinstatement.

Item 5 – Playing Field – It was agreed that works needed to repair and improve the shelter on the playing field should be sent out for tender.

Item 13 – ENW Lights – An inventory of our unmetered supply has been carried out by Cllr Longlands.

14. Sedbergh Townscape Project

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

Following the recent application to SLDC for a grant towards the proposed Sedbergh entry signs, the application has been successful - £500.00. It was proposed and agreed that three signs should be ordered but that, for the time being, the existing 'Welcome to Sedbergh' sign on the Dent road should be repaired.

A meeting has recently taken place with Highway Officers from CCC in connection with various ongoing issues in the town, including defective footways and road markings.

Main Street Footway Widening – The Officers were looking into dropping the curb opposite Pippin Cottage and agreed to consider a possible minor re-alignment to allow wheelchair use. The practicality of the removal/painting out of the white line on the pavement would also be examined.

The ongoing issue of several signs in the town, including the 'one way' sign at the bottom of Joss Lane, was also noted.

Cycle Stands – It was noted that works on the reflagging of Main Street are due to commence on 2nd March 2015, with a road close for the first two weeks of the scheduled works. CCC confirmed they would install the cycle stands at the previously reported sites, as part of this work.

15. Queens Garden

Following the recent meeting an invitation to tender for the repair works on the collapsed wall has been issued. It was further noted, that this was likely to be a significant sum and further consideration may be required to the future budget.

16. Correspondence

The attached Clerk's Report was considered by the meeting

- a. The Dalesway – following further information received, it was agreed that Sedbergh PC supported the proposal in principle, provided all affected landowners were in agreement with the planned works.
- b. YDNPA – Parish Forums, it was noted that the idea of Parish Forums was supported and that the Clerk would respond directly.
- c. Cumbria Community Messaging Service – John Sibley to be invited to the March meeting of the Parish Council.
- d. Lune Rivers Trust – further information had now been received and it was agreed that this project was supported.
- e. Market layout proposal – there was general support for the proposed new layout, recognising that some traders may have questions over the new layout, as it would make the market less visible from Main Street, however, there are signs displayed around town on market days. It was suggested that a trial period of say, three or six months would be appropriate to enable feedback from traders.
- f. Coach Bays – agreed to defer decision on number of bays pending the outcome of negotiations with Spar on the possible re-location of some of the recycling bins.

18. Date and Time of next meeting - Thursday 12th March 2015 at 7.30 pm – The Meeting Room, 72 Main Street, Sedbergh.