

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held at the Committee Room, People's Hall, Sedbergh at 7.30pm on Thursday 10th November 2016

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Lancaster and Dawson and accepted by the meeting.

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 12 – Grants – Cllr Longlands

5. Public Participation

PCSO Mandy Coleman & Sgt Suzanne Scott O'Neill – a short presentation was given to Members in respect of seeking Police Volunteers to help target rural crime. Anyone interested should liaise directly with PCSO Mandy Coleman.

Andy Cobb/Jacky Baines – Sedbergh & District Chamber of Trade – Following the Parish Council's recent decision to refuse free parking on Saturdays during December, Andy Cobb & Jacky Baines attended to make further representation on behalf of the Chamber and the traders respectively. A petition had been signed by traders in the town asking the Parish Council to consider free parking on both Saturdays and Sundays in December. Andy Cobb advised that the Chamber was prepared to reimburse the Council a sum of £65 per day (an estimated loss of income) if free parking was allowed on Saturdays in December. He further advised that this could be seen as an experiment and that Chamber Members would be present in the car park completing surveys on the days in question to capture relevant information.

Members discussed the reasons for their original decision at length. Following consideration of Standing Orders relating to reversal of decisions already taken, a number of points were discussed. These included SLDC's arrangements to allow free parking on four Sundays (not Saturday) leading up to Christmas (27/11, 4/12, 11/12 and 18/12), the terms of SPC's lease with SLDC and concerns over setting a precedent. The option of traders refunding customers' parking fees when purchases made was also discussed. Andy Cobb stated that refunds by traders would be difficult as there would be no proof of ticket purchase. In response it was suggested-that the Chamber member present in the car parks doing the surveys could perhaps give a 'voucher'. Andy Cobb referred to one of the Council's aims to 'foster local business' and that free parking would be a way to reflect this. In response, the meeting was reminded that the Council's parking tariffs are favourable throughout the year and that permits are available to residents. A solution was finally suggested whereby the Chamber representatives could pay the fees directly to the ticket machine on the 'free days' proposed whilst undertaking their survey. Acceptance of this suggestion was proposed by Cllr Longlands and seconded by Cllr Arnold and agreed by Members.

Garth Steadman – Garth Steadman wished to highlight his concern over the vacant property (formally Udale's Butchers and latterly the Business Hub) advising that there had been interested parties in obtaining a lease on the premises, but that so far nothing could be agreed. Andy Cobb was able to advise that he thought there had been some recent encouraging developments. It was agreed by Members to seek some clarification from SLDC (Gareth Candlin) as to the current situation (and also the original conditions on the Regional Development Fund grant given for the refurbishment of the premises).

5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 13th October 2016

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

6. Matters arising from the Minutes of 13th October 2016

Item 10a – Finance, parking ticket machines for the car parks, the Clerk had now been given an estimated replacement cost of £6000 for the type of machine installed on SLDC's car parks.

Item 12 – Amenities – Draft Market rules, the CIC had asked for this to be deferred until December.

Item 15 – Committee Vacancies – The P&R Committee Meetings would now be held on Monday evenings (of the week of Parish Council meeting).

7. Co-option

Notice of the current Vacancy had been placed in the Lookaround and in the Parish Council notice board and the closing date noted as 25th November 2016. Applicants will be considered at the December meeting from the letter of application initially, with an option for interviews if deemed necessary.

8. Representation to United Charities/other outside bodies

Cllr Brooks will replace Mary Macpherson as Trustee for Sedbergh United Charities & Widows Hospital; the Clerk will notify their Clerk accordingly. The Tennis Club and Website Group vacancies will be considered in due course.

9. Report from District/County Council

Cllr Mackie had nothing to report this month. Apologies were received from Cllr Nick Cotton.

10. Planning

The attached Planning Report was adopted by Members and the following points were noted in addition. S/03/622LB – Millthrop Bridge – Members were pleased to see the application for the repair works at Millthrop Bridge, noting that some of the urgent repair/restoration work required completion in the next three months. S/03/531A – Winn's Yard – The long standing application has now been approved with 23 conditions, including a Section 106 local occupancy agreement.

The proposed further modifications to the Yorkshire Dales Local Plan were noted

11. Finance

a) The meeting received the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on the 7th November 2016. In relation to budget for 2017/2018, the Clerk had now prepared a draft Budget and the consequential precept required (attached) for formal approval in December. Significant items to note on the proposed Budget included £10,000 being taking from STP Reserves for the planned works at the People's Hall and the inclusion of a budget for the Community Resilience Plan.

b) The Council agreed a list of payments presented at the meeting, also noting that the monies received from the donation boxes at the toilets on Main Street had now reached £999.

12. Grants

An application had been received from Sedbergh and District Chamber of Trade in connection with Late Night Opening in Sedbergh on Wednesday 7th December 2016. The sum of £450 was requested to assist with the expenses and, following the recommendation by the Policy & Resource Committee, this was agreed by members. Cllr Longlands did not take part in these discussions or decision.

13. Amenities Committee

The minutes were received by the Council and accepted at the meeting. It was noted that the Sedbergh Wanderer's Football Club had not attended the meeting and the Clerk was requested to write to them asking them to attend in the New Year. The meeting noted the decision to order wooden picture frames for the signs at Main Street toilets, to order replacement slats for the benches on Church Walk and to remove the broken steering wheel at the playground (no replacement part being available). With regard to the trees close to New Bridge/Settlebeck, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to The Headteacher at Settlebeck, providing a copy of the recent report which made recommendations regarding the condition of the trees in the boundary fence.

The Clerk was also requested to contact a local contractor with a view to undertaking work on an alder tree as soon as possible and to seek cost estimates for the remaining work identified.

(This work may need to be tendered in 2017). With regard to Main Street toilets, it was agreed that the Clerk should identify if there was an accurate dimensional plan already in existence. It was also noted that the fly tipping at the laybys of Straight Bridge and Settlebeck Bridge continued but was now being investigated by SLDC. The Clerk will advise SLDC of the identified owner of some of the items.

14. Sedbergh Townscape Project

An updating report was received by the Council and accepted. It was noted that the closing date for the receipt of tenders at the People's Hall was 21st November 2016. Consideration would be given to a meeting of the Project Board in spring 2017.

15. Queens Garden

It was noted that Hilary Taylor Associates had met with Christians Measured Solutions in respect of the digital Survey Plan. It was hoped that a Member of the Committee would be present at their next meeting. Also noted was the proposal for the Music Festival postponed from this year, dates to be considered at a future meeting.

16. Community Resilience Plan

A draft Plan had been completed (attached) and would now be forwarded to statutory bodies and partners for comment and refinement. It was noted that some items may need to be purchased in connection with the recommendations of the draft Plan and could be purchased from the Amenities Committee Budget at this time.

17. Maryfell – Parking and Park

Parking – a petition had recently been completed by some residents at Maryfell expressing concerns for the restricted amount of parking/safety generally for residents and pupils attending Sedbergh Primary School. The Clerk had been in contact with SLH/SLDC and CCC. Cllr Mel Mackie advised that he would like to take this issue forward and would liaise directly with Cllr Kevin Lancaster in regard to the parking situation at Maryfell.

Play Park – a petition had recently been completed (with some 170+ signatures) regarding the current poor state of repair of the Park at Maryfell. The Clerk had been in communication with both SLH/SLDC and Nick Cotton and subsequently, Deborah Clarke, Principal Community Spaces Officer had been in touch offering the support of the District Council. Donna Cowin (originator of the petition) would now be invited to meet with Deborah Clarke and other representatives (including the CIO/SPC) in an effort to move things forward with a hope for potential refurbishment. A meeting will be scheduled for later this month.

18. Correspondence

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

- a. Police Report – the updating report was circulated to Members. Proposals for inviting volunteer assistance with surveillance operations were noted (details to be advertised in due course).
- b. Settlebeck School – SPC had been able to confirm that the path at Settlebeck (at the site of the recent accident) was the responsibility of Highways/YDNPA. The Clerk had put the parent of the child involved in the accident with Paul Wilkinson of YDNPA for ongoing communications.
- c. B4RN – Members noted that signs had been placed around the town in respect of the alternative broadband fibre solution, welcoming any additional measures that would help improve speed for those requiring it.
- d. Former Barclays Bank building – it was noted that the surrender terms of the lease between the freehold owner and the former tenant, Barclays Bank plc were apparently not concluded and that the property was therefore not available. It was agreed that the Clerk be requested to contact the owner in an effort to establish the current situation.

15. Date and Time of next meeting –Thursday 8th December 2016 at 7.30pm, the monthly meeting of the Parish Council to be held in the Committee Room of the People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.