

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 13th October 2016

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

1. Apologies

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

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. To appoint a Vice Chair of the Council

Cllr Lancaster was proposed by Cllr McPherson, seconded by Cllr Capstick and duly elected.

5. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

6. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 15th September 2016

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

7. Matters arising from the Minutes of 15th September 2016

Item 6 (17f) – The Sedbergh CIO have appointed a new trustee – Mr K Parry

Item 14 – Gala Committee – Members noted, with regret, that the Gala Committee had not been successful in finding new Members and would, therefore, now be held in suspense for a period of at least two years. The Sedbergh Bonfire - 2016 will be its final event as things presently stand.

8. Report from District/County Council

Cllrs Lancaster and Mackie had no specific comments to make this month. Apologies were received from Cllr Nick Cotton.

9. Planning

The attached Planning Report was adopted by Members and the following points were noted in addition.

S/03/526B & S/03/526C/LB – Mackereth Hill – Cllr Lancaster was disappointed to note that the important local history of Mackereth Hill was not referred to within the application. Additionally noted were the approval decisions for S/03/70F & S/03/70G/LB 'The Three Hares' and S/03/616 'Mad Hatters Tea Room'.

10. Finance

a) The meeting received the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on the 11th October 2016. Following the additional breakdown of costs now received, the £500 donation (previously agreed in principle) for the YDNPA Birks Bridge was approved by Members. Also, following the recommendation to approve the weekly car parking permit scheme, it was agreed by Members to set the weekly tariff at £10.00. The Clerk will liaise with the Sedbergh CIC over the administration of this scheme, noting that this would be introduced on a trial basis initially. In regard to the Pensions Regulator, the meeting resolved to delegate authority to the Chair and the Clerk to consider and complete the relevant necessary actions to comply with the Automatic Enrolment requirements of the Pensions Act 2008. Further noted were the ongoing enquiries in regard to the potential replacement of the car park ticketing machines.

Finally, in relation to budget preparations, the Clerk invited all Committees to consider their planned expenditures for 2017/2018 and to notify P&R in November.

b) The Council agreed a list of payments presented at the meeting.

11. Grants

There were no Grant applications received.

12. Amenities Committee

The minutes were received by the Council and accepted at the meeting. Various points were noted, including the recent damage to the chain walk at the playing field. It was agreed that the Amenities Committee should replace the post and then request a SLDC to complete a further inspection of the structure before it is brought back into use.

Joss Lane car park. It was noted that the draft Market Rules were being completed and would be submitted for final approval at a future meeting. Also noted was a temporary repair to the tarmac surface at the top of the Information Centre steps, a permanent repair to be undertaken in November. Cllr Brooks had also raised the possibility of free parking on Artisan Market days due to the loss of the free parking on the short stay bays along the Main Street. After full consideration members agreed that such a scheme could not be supported, having regard to the Council's lease obligations, practical difficulties, loss of revenue, the setting of a precedent, and the view that the markets encourage more visitors and promote trade within the town as a whole.

In regard to Main Street toilets, it was noted that the Committee hopes to consider future improvement/refurbishment works soon.

At Loftus Hill car park, it was reported that one of the trees was in poor health; Cllr Atkins was able to confirm this had been problematic in the past and that this was the second tree to appear to fail in the location. A third attempt with another species would be considered for spring 2017.

It was also noted that there had been fly tipping at the laybys of Straight Bridge and Settlebeck Bridge recently. The Clerk was able to confirm that SLDC had been in attendance.

Finally, Cllr Lancaster and Allan wished to raise the current state of repair of the benches at Castlegarth and Maryfell and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to SLDC and SLH to ascertain responsibility and request refurbishment.

13. Sedbergh Townscape Project

An updating report was received by the Council and accepted. It was noted that the People's Hall had recently issued their tenders for the improvement works at the People's Hall and, therefore, Sedbergh PC must now do so as soon as practicable. As SPC have a requirement to advertise the tender in the local paper (due to financial thresholds), it was hoped that both the advert and tenders would be issued together on 20th October 2016. It was also noted that the 'one way' sign at the bottom of Joss Lane/Main Street had, at last, been replaced by CCC Highways.

14. Queens Garden

The latest report was received by Members in relation to the ongoing communications with Hilary Taylor Associates and the commissioning of a digital Survey Plan. Also noted was the further consideration needed in connection with the proposal to establish a Friends of Queen's Garden Group in the future.

15. Casual Vacancy/Committee Vacancies

The period of advertisement of a Casual Vacancy closed on 12th October 2016 and the Clerk awaits confirmation from SLDC of the outcome. If no election is required, an advertisement will be placed in the Lookaround and notices posted, with a view to formally co-opting a new member at the December meeting.

The current committee vacancies were considered and it was agreed that the Policy & Resource Committee was the most pressing vacancy due to the quorum required. Cllr Capstick was nominated for this vacancy by Cllr Lancaster and seconded by Cllr McPherson and duly appointed. The P&R Committee would need to consider moving its regular monthly meeting to a different day and/or time to accommodate Members. The remaining Planning Committee vacancy would be considered at a future meeting.

16. Representation to CIO/United Charities/other outside bodies

It was noted that the CIO had now appointed a Trustee from within the Community. It was agreed that Members should consider nominations for Sedbergh United Charities at the next meeting. Vacancies on the Website Group and the Tennis Club would be considered at a future meeting.

17. Community Resilience Plan

An email had been received pressing the Council to produce the Emergency Plan. It was agreed that a concise, relevant and practical Community Resilience Plan would be finalised for consultation, based on the template Emergency Plan previously drafted by Cllr Arnold. This would be progressed by Cllrs Atkins, Arnold, Lancaster, Dawson and Longlands and a further report submitted to the meeting in November.

18. Chamber of Trade request – Saturday Free Parking

A request had been sent in several months ago in connection with the request for free parking on Saturdays throughout December. This had been discussed by the P&R Committee and following the recommendation it was resolved to decline the request, members noting the favourable parking terms that prevail in Sedbergh relative to other areas. (See item 12 also).

19. Correspondence

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

- a. Police Report – an updating report was circulated to Members.
- b. SLDC – Maryfell Park – continued correspondence with SLDC with regard to the current state of repair of the park. Also noting a Petition now being completed in the Town.
- c. Council Tax Consultation (possible extension of referendum requirements to Parish Councils) – Cllr Lancaster wished to highlight the continuing need for flexibility in Parish Councils to accommodate fluctuating costs. The principle of a cap would give cause for concern due to the possible implications of any sudden changes in circumstances, particularly within a small Parish. It was therefore agreed to support NALC's position in relation to the referendum proposals being mooted by Government.
- d. BT – a consultation had been received in relation to the proposed removal of the BT phone box at Millthrop, noting that only one call had been made from there in the past 12 months. The box at Millthrop was noted as one of many in Cumbria proposed to be removed.
- e. CIC – Wednesday Market, a request had been received that the Council should endorse the recently introduced procedure of coning off an area at the front of the Market so as to prevent parking and blocking long vehicle bays. Members agreed their support.
- f. Nick Cotton – noting the need for an area to be used for storage of street signs in the Sedbergh area.

15. Date and Time of next meeting –Thursday 10th November 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.