

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in The People's Hall, Sedbergh on 28th April 2010

Present: Cllr Hopkins, Allan, Pearson, Longlands, Jameson, Atkins, McVoy, Hodge, Lancaster

1. Apologies - Cllr Blair, SLDC Cllrs McPherson & Woof.
2. Declarations of Interest – KL item 5 - 72 Main Street – personal and prejudicial. JA as a volunteer in the Community Office, and HH as a Director of the Book Town. Whole council personal but non-prejudicial on items 5 and 6. d).
3. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 25th March 2010 were accepted as a true record.
4. Matters Arising –
 - a) Queen's Gardens – DB had spoken to Mike Hinson and asked him to report directly to the Clerk.
 - b) Gypsies Meeting – VH reported on the meeting held on Monday 26 April. Cllrs are asked to report things to the police should they see things out of order, and support the police in their actions. KL advised that funding in place for all measures from CCC. Many posts and police no waiting signs have been installed around Cautley along with other preparations. The intention is to remove these items on 10 June.
 - c) Purchase of Tennis Courts – No progress. Carry forward to next meeting.
5. 72 Main Street – Letter received from YDNP confirming that they would allow further time for the community to raise the funds necessary to purchase, but also confirmed that the price is £130,000 and that they were not prepared to transfer the building as a community asset without consideration.

It was reported that an initial enquiry is being made to the Big Lottery Fund for finance. It is felt that condition of building would be important to any application.

KL made a statement following which he withdrew from the meeting having given his personal and prejudicial interest. He felt the sale was good sense from point of view of YDNP, having been a somewhat eccentric purchase and never really having worthy purpose. He felt that we needed to look independently at the proposed purchase, rather than where we are currently. i.e. should the money be invested in another building? Is there another alternative to provide same services for the town? This should be seriously considered.

Graham Dalton (YDNPA Member) stated that he'd explained the importance of the building as a community resource to the YDNP Committee. They'd like to see some reasonable progress by the end of November, and may see some pressure to vacate the building.

There was a general discussion regarding the problems with planning and the condition of the building etc and it was agreed that a letter would be sent to YDNPA asking for clarification of the planning issues and the meeting agreed a budget of £600 (Ex Vat) to commission a structural survey from R.G. Parkin.

6. Planning –

- a) Applications – JA standing in for DB. Distributed sheet showing applications and Council comments.
 - S/03/454D – extension to temporary permission for portacabins for Sedbergh School – no objections, temporary period of 2 years. MHM declared a personal interest.
 - S/03/128D – Beck House, Howgill – no objections
 - S/03/138C – Sedbergh Primary School – no objections. Wondered if this actually needed planning permission?
- b) Decisions
 - S/03/488 – 10 Queens Drive, Sedbergh – Full Planning consent for conversion of loft. Granted (Conditional)
 - S/03/487 – 28 Woodside Ave, Sedbergh – Full Planning consent for lean to conservatory – Granted (Conditional)
- c) 37-39 Main Street – The clerk was asked to write for an update from YDNP in order to keep up the pressure for the frontage to be improved.
The pigeon problem has continued with path regularly cleaned by SLDC, but within hours it returns. They could install spikes on the ledges or a net the side of the building but this is not likely to occur until building renovated and occupied.
- d) Auction Mart Site – Reasons for delay discussed – finance seemed to be the problem. Asked Clerk to write to the Doctors to check on timescale for building works.

7. Finance –

- a) Report of Audit Committee Meeting – Noted. Meeting with HMRC now arranged to register for VAT and a full provision has been made in the budget for any possible penalties.
- b) Requests for Payments – Approved.
- c) Agree Amendments to the Budget for 2010/11 – Spreadsheet circulated. Meeting with HMRC now arranged to register for VAT and a full provision has been made in

the budget for any possible penalties. Also the clerk has claimed small business relief on the business rates which will be back dated three years and amounts to over £3,000.

- d) Contribution Towards Sedbergh Townscape Initiative Consultancy Cost – It was resolved to give a donation of £5k towards consultancy – on basis that all members of group are doing so.
8. Requests for Grants – Form and guidance notes prepared by Audit Committee. The wording was discussed in detail and one minor amendment was agreed
9. Public Participation –

Folly Light – SL has tried to get hold of United Utilities to complete the installation without success. The clerk will follow up.
New Bridge lay-by – Susie Thurlby asked if this could be tarmaced, as previously agreed by CCC. The clerk will contact CCC to find out the present situation
10. Car Parks –
 - a) Joss Lane – It was reported that SLDC have implemented the new tariff incorrectly both in the Off Street Parking Order and the machines. It was agreed therefore that the Loftus Hill machine which has yet to be changed, will be the same as the Joss Lane ones i.e. there will continue to be a 70p one hour tariff until matters can be sorted out with SLDC.
 - b) Loftus Hill & Toilets – drains be done since last meeting, tidy job made of car park surface. No real progress on tree and cycle racks for the corner, but contractor not forgotten about it.
11. People’s Hall/Playing Field/Playground –
 - a) Football Field – TJ reported on progress with Football Club. Onsite meeting with FC and Martin South, Groundsman at SS. Good news is that FC is prepared to do a lot of work to wet area, fund it and do work exactly as Martin South suggested. TJ assured works will be monitored.
SL had drawn up a rough budget which excluded top dressing – looking like £3.5k, with top dressing at £2k. Agreed to put this forward as a formal document to the next meeting.
12. Fishing Rights – Clerk to ask for a map of what is being offered, and discuss at next meeting.
13. Road Gritting – A questionnaire on performance of CCC during winter period, and list of gritting bins in the town was considered. TJ to look at the questionnaire. RP felt important to feed back that present policy simply doesn’t work in rural communities, elderly people trapped in their homes, serious injuries from slipping. Put it on agenda again for next month.

14. Ghyllas Layby – TJ done some significant work to tidy up this area since last year's gypsy visit. Suggesting that it could be made into a nice picnic area – we don't have any in the area. There are already two litter bins, would need some picnic tables, signs to direct folks to there. Similarly Settlebeck layby could have similar improvements. Agreed to let TJ do some investigations into cost. Also see effectiveness of initiatives to work with gypsies, so put on June agenda rather than May. Some discussion about ownership of the land.

15. Correspondence – Noted.

Letter from Eileen Scarr, about Sedbergh United Charities. Agreed to decide on this as part of agenda of Annual Meeting.

Letter from Mr Hill about dog poo cartoon. TJ to get some stickers to put on bins to say poo bags can be disposed of in the bin. Clerk to ask SLDC to replace the little badges on the lamp posts. TJ says that SLDC have plenty of them!

Western Dales – signs on motorway, but then it doesn't say which way to turn towards the Western Dales. KL to investigate.

16. Elections

Following the election the new councillors joining the PC are John Capstick & Douglas Thomson. VH and DB are retiring and VH said how sorry he was that DB not able to be at this final meeting. Her tenacity is unrivalled and the town has greatly benefited from her long service to the parish council. He thanked her wholeheartedly.

VH thanked for all help and support over last two years in the Chair, a number of difficult things to deal with in the last few years and support appreciated. Thank you to all.

HH invited Dorothy & Vic to supper at Duo with Councillors to properly say thank you.

17. Date and Time of Next Meeting – Thursday 20 May 2010 at 7.30pm at the People's Hall Committee room.