

# **THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in  
The People's Hall, Sedbergh on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Present: Councillors Hodge, Atkins, Thomson, Longlands, McVoy and Capstick.

## **1. Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Lancaster, Allan, Pearson and Jameson and were accepted by the meeting.

### **1a. Police**

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Police, Cumbria Fire & Rescue and The Police Authority. They gave a brief presentation explaining that the local Police Station is to close on 20<sup>th</sup> Sept with Police and PCSO's moving to the neighbouring fire station. The move will help to reduce costs for both organisations but will not involve any reduction in services.

The police were asked to keep the Parish Council informed about disposal plans for the former station in order that it may be saved for future community use. It was also pointed out that it would have been desirable for the press release to have been delayed until after the presentation to the Council.

### **2. Declarations of Interest:** None

**3. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council** held on 28<sup>th</sup> July were accepted as a true record.

## **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

a. Re item 8b Cllr Thomson requested that the PC write to the Community Trust to formally request that they consider taking over the operation of the Toilets in Main Street

## **5. Planning**

a. A written report was adopted by the meeting including the committee's recommendation for comments on planning applications.

b. The meeting considered a paper by Cllr Atkins on the Draft National Planning Policy Framework and it was agreed that the paper be forwarded to CALC who are co-ordinating responses to the Government's consultation.

## **6. Finance**

a. A report of the audit committee meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> August was presented to the meeting and accepted.

b. The meeting agreed to reinstate £2,000 to the Amenities Committee Budget and the £10,000 Grants Budget. The Clerk is to write to organisations with outstanding grant applications to see if they still wish them to go forward for consideration.

c. The meeting agreed the attached requests for payment.

d. The meeting resolved to adopt the External Audit Return which has been returned without any comments from the external auditors. The meeting thanked the Clerk.

## **7. Public Participation**

Andi Chapple gave a presentation regarding community transport issues and invited councillors to a meeting at the People's Hall Committee Room on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Sept with 2

Colin Speakman and the Dales & Bowland Community Interest Group regarding integrated transport solutions. Also a notice board to display community transport information has been ordered from CCC.

### **8. Amenities Committee**

- a. The August minutes of the committee were reported to the meeting.
- b. Regarding the Cemetery toilets it was reported that an offer had been made to SLDC for the Parish Council to try to arrange cleaning but at SLDC's expense. A response is awaited.
- c. It was noted that no donations have been made by the football club towards the cost of pitch maintenance and this will be taken up with them at the Amenities Committee meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept.
- d. It was pointed out that until the lease is signed, maintenance of Joss Lane Car Park is still the responsibility of SLDC
- e. The Closure of Loftus Hill Toilets for the winter was discussed and the Amenities Committee are asked to consider if the closure should be permanent. If that is the decision then arrangements will be put in hand to terminate the utility company agreements.
- f. It was noted that the tree guards had been removed from trees in the picnic area. The Clerk apologised as he had arranged this without referring back to the Amenities committee.
- g. It was agreed that if the minutes are to be put on the website before they have been agreed at a meeting then it should be done with a disclaimer.

### **9. Purchase of 72 Main Street**

- a. It was reported that the invitations to an open afternoon at the Community Centre and the TIC had gone out to Members of the YDNPA. The afternoon is being organised by the Community Trust. To date there has been a disappointing response from YDNPA members.
- b. Letters have been distributed in town and objections have been made by a number of individuals as a result.
- c. Arrangements are well in hand for representation at the September meeting of the Authority.
- d. In order to progress the idea of the absorption of the Book Town Ltd into the Community Trust some of the trustees will offer themselves to the Book Town Board as Directors.
- e. It was agreed that a letter be sent to YDNPA informing them that the Parish Council intends to apply to CCC to have the Green registered as a Town Green if YDNPA resolve to continue with its sale without putting in place measures to safeguard public access.

### **10. Acquisition of Assets From SLDC**

- a. Joss Lane Car Park – A first meeting has been held with NPS to negotiate heads of terms. The main difficulty that has arisen is that the agreement should include provision for a profit share. This idea was considered by the meeting and rejected as being impractical and not in the spirit of Localism.
- b. Station Road Bus Stop. – Arrangements are in hand for SLDC to assign the lease from Sedbergh School to the Parish Council
- c. Draft leases have been received for the tennis courts/fishing rights and are currently with our solicitor.

### **11. Loftus Hill Car Park**

Nothing to report. 3

## **12. Sedbergh Townscape Project**

The meeting agreed that draft scheme for the widening of the footway in 'The Narrows' should be submitted for consideration by Cumbria Highways and that the Parish Council would support the switching of 106 funding of £10,000 from the Station Road Bus Stop to this scheme

## **13. Queens Gardens**

- a. It is unlikely that we will now proceed with the QE2 scheme although this is still a possibility in relation to the Bowling Club as it may unlock Sport England funding.
- b. We have been consulted by English Heritage on the proposed wording for a listing of both the memorial cross and the garden which seems to indicate that they will now move to formally list them.

## **14. Council Web Site**

The meeting considered a report from Cllr Thomson and agreed that the council should cancel its website contract with the current providers and develop its site with Mr Collier and other volunteers working with him. Also that we contribute initially £100 to cost of the server and consider the possibility a further grant of less than £1,000 at our September meeting for the development of the Council's website and that of Sedbergh.org.uk.

## **15. Highways**

- a. Members were asked to forward any road maintenance requirements to the clerk so that they can be put forward for the next two Better Highways visits to the area in Sept and Nov. This will include the cutting back of overgrown hedges on Row Lane.
- b. The condition and cleanliness of footways in the town has been taken up with SLDC by Dist Cllr Evelyn Westwood.

## **16. Correspondence**

A list of correspondence was considered by the meeting

## **17. Date and Time of next meeting**

7.30 p.m. on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 2011 at the People's Hall