

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in The People's Hall, Sedbergh on 30th August 2012

Present: Councillors Hodge, Longlands, Atkins, Capstick, Sedgwick, Thomson, Allan and Pearson

1. Apologies:

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

2. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest

3. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 26th July 2012

These were agreed as a correct record.

4. Jock Cairns – Chairman Dent Parish Council

A briefing paper regarding Western Dales Community Bus had already been circulated and a request was made that evidence of demand is fed back to the bus company. It was agreed that the Council would ask Andi Chapple to be its representative on the stakeholder group and that a message of support from the Parish council be sent.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes of 26th July

- a. It was noted that nothing further had transpired relating to the planning breach at the former Aqua Engineering site and the Clerk was asked to contact YDNPA planning dept to check on progress.
- b. It was agreed that the issue of emergency planning be carried forward to the next meeting
- c. David Ramsbottom has been advised of the Council's agreement to the scheme for maintaining the footpath between Spar and Guldrey and we await his response

6. Code of Conduct

It was resolved to delegate to the clerk authority to grant dispensations in cases where a majority of members of the council would be affected by the requirement to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest.

7. Planning

- a. A written report was adopted by the meeting including the Committee's comments on planning applications.
- b. The following applications were considered at the meeting:

S/03/531 - Full permission for erection of 2 No. three storey dwellings (2 bed), 1 No. two storey dwelling (2 bed) and 1 No. two bed maisonette over retail premises to replace existing open fronted sheds, garage and part of cart shed at 85, Main Street, (Winn's Yard), Sedbergh.

It was reported that this application has been withdrawn but it was agreed that the following observation should be made. - the premises do not appear to have been offered for sale on the open market. This is considered to be unfortunate in that there can be no certainty that (even in difficult economic times) no other business would be interested in operating from the site. The Parish Council has been concerned at the loss of

business/workshop sites within the town over the last few years and the effects this is likely to have on employment opportunity in the long term.

S/03/532 – Full permission for change of use of shop area to residential and replacement of shop window at 83, Main Street, Sedbergh.

There was lengthy discussion regarding this application with members sympathetic to the owners problems in selling. However it was agreed to oppose the application (with one abstention) in view of the precedent that would be set and the possible future damage to the commercial centre of Sedbergh.

- c. Baliol School – A paper had already been circulated and following discussion it was agreed that a speedy sale of the site was desirable, preferably for a use that would promote employment in the Town. It was agreed that NYCC and YDNPA should be contacted to ascertain the present situation and to ask that the grounds are properly maintained pending a sale.

8. Finance

- a. The meeting received reports of the meeting of the Audit Committee on 28th August 2012.
- b. The attached requests for payments were agreed.
- c. Following the conclusion of the External Audit it was resolved to approve and accept the annual return.

9. Grant applications

- a. There were no grant applications

10. Public Participation

Evelyn Westwood brought the meeting up to date with issues surrounding the awarding of a Rural Growth Network Grant to Cumbria and its possible application to either 72 Main Street or Udales former premises.

Continuing problems with the footway outside the Dalesman were highlighted and she is to contact Highways regarding this.

She also highlighted the great opportunity for Sedbergh with the hosting of the Orriginal Mountain Marathon 26th – 28th October

11. Amenities Committee

- a. The minutes of the meeting dated 1st August were accepted by the meeting and issues arising were discussed.
- b. It was reported that the water meter at Loftus Hill toilets has now been removed and the Amenities Committee were asked if a sign could be placed on the closed toilets giving directions to the toilets in Main Street
- c. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to anyone parking motor homes illegally on the car park at the People's Hall
- d. It was agreed that weed control has not been carried out and the Amenities committee is asked to contact the appropriate authority

12. Sedbergh Townscape Project

- a. A written report was circulated.

- b. It was agreed that a LAP Grant application for £3,000 for the Main Street entrance sign if funding is no longer available from YDNPA or for the refurbishment of the fountain in Finkle Street.
- c. It was agreed that the Clerk should respond to Highways proposals regarding sign decluttering.

13. Loftus Hill Car Park

Nothing to report

14. Tennis Courts

- a. YDNPA planning have confirmed that the proposals would require planning consent.
- b. Tender documents will be sent out shortly.

15. Highways

- a. The new better highways arrangements were discussed and it was agreed that the Council needed to be more engaged with the process. It was decided to defer any specific action until the next meeting when it is hoped that Cllr Lancaster can clarify the system.
- b. A request for parking restrictions in Fairholme was discussed and it was agreed that this be passed on to highways without recommendation

16. Invasive Species

A report of a meeting with a representative of the Environment Agency at the Council owned riverbank site was circulated. The EA have agreed to spray the outbreak of Japanese Knotweed. A discussion was had regarding the encouragement of volunteer groups to engage in a programme to control Himalayan Balsam.

17. Health Centre

It was agreed that Cllr Allan be nominated as the Parish Council representative on the Health Centre Patient Group.

18. Correspondence

The attached list of correspondence was considered by the meeting and the following action was agreed:

Following meetings with the SLDC parking enforcement officer it was agreed that the Amenities Committee would look at safety issues relating to the siting of the market in an active car park.

19. Casual Vacancy

The meeting considered two applications for the Councillor vacancy and by a vote of 5:2 with one abstention agreed to co-opt Mary Macpherson to fill the vacancy.

17. Date and Time of next meeting

7.30 pm on Thursday 27th September 2012 at the People's Hall