

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in The People's Hall, Sedbergh on 13th November 2014

Present: Councillors Hodge (Chair), Capstick, Dawson, Mary Macpherson, Lancaster, Brooks, Sedgwick, Ian McPherson and Atkins

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Cllrs Allan and Longlands

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 10 – Planning, Cllrs Hodge and Ian McPherson in respect of S/03/316D – Post Office Yard

Item 10 – Planning, Cllrs Sedgwick and Ian McPherson in respect of S/03/571 – Lockbank Farm

It was noted that all Councillors had an interest in Item 6 – Bank closures

4. Police Report

A written report was received by Members. It was noted that there had been an increase in crimes, however, there had also been arrests made.

5. Bank Closures

Peter Marshall (in attendance representing Sedbergh School) discussed, along with Cllr Hodge the recent announcement of both remaining Banks closing in January and February of 2015. A recent audio meeting with the Area Retail Manager of Barclays Bank plc has taken place and further meetings with Bank officials are scheduled, along with a meeting with Cllr Evelyn Westwood and Tim Farron MP. Petitions are in place in shops in Sedbergh for residents to voice their concerns as well as Social Media. Some points noted, include, lack of ATM facility, locality of nearest banks for business/personal customers to pay in/withdraw, capacity of Post Office and cash limits/impact on older people/implications on clearing times when paying in monies.

Cllr Atkins raised the potential for a request to be made to SLDC asking for both buildings to be placed on the Community Asset Register and it was agreed to progress this matter. It was also agreed that SPC should contact Lakes PC who, it is believed, had recently been successful in stopping the closure of Barclays Bank in Ambleside and that a letter could also be sent to CALC for advice. It was also agreed that SPC should write to both Natwest and Barclays expressing their concern and a copy of these letters should be copied to CCC and the Economic Development department of SLDC. Cllr Brooks and Sedgwick noted that perhaps there was some scope to share opening days with Kirkby Lonsdale.

6. Peter Marshall – Sedbergh School update

Peter Marshall gave a report on recent and current developments and at Sedbergh School, including the railings along Back Lane (Lupton Field), Brown's of Sedbergh, The Swimming Pool and Bracken's Ghyll (which is now due for completion in January 2015).

The need for capital investment and future growth by the School for students and staff moving forward requires a need for continued investment. Sedbergh School has invited YDNPA to Sedbergh to discuss their Vision for the future, allowing the opportunity for Members of YDNPA to gain an understanding of Sedbergh and allow a 'walk through' giving time to interact with the town. SPC expressed that they would also welcome the opportunity to take part in discussions. It was noted that the planning stages of any developments would be done over a 12 month period and that SPC and YDNPA would be involved at pre planning application stages to allow maximum collaboration and understanding.

It was further noted that Sedbergh School is currently going against the trend of falling numbers in private education in the North West, with the school seeing an increased intake, attracting students worldwide.

7. Sedbergh.org.uk – website update (item 19 brought forward to allow Chris Wood representative of the working group to speak). Following the recent tender process a company has now been selected and the group wishes to progress their funding. An informal request (Policy & Resource Committee – Item 4) had been recommended in principle. Some further consideration needs to be made with regard to legal and financial responsibility and this should be further discussed by the Policy & Resource Committee. It was noted that there was potential for a future saving to SPC if their website was later incorporated into the new website. Thanks were expressed for all the work carried out by the group so far.

8. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 9th October 2014

The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman Cllr Hodge.

9. Matters arising from the Minutes of 9th October 2014

Item 6 (17i) – Langston Fell car parking area – CCC Highways have agreed to do some minimal work to the access.

Item 6 (17f) – Baliol School, thanks noted to Cllr Blackie at Hawes following the recent update from NYCC.

Item 13 – Cllr Atkins attended the recent meeting arranged by LAP with Parish Council representatives and officers of CCC Highways.

Item 17 (g) – Parish Council Award Scheme and Vision for Sedbergh – date to be arranged in the new year for a workshop for all members.

10. Report from District/County Council

Cllr Westwood gave a report during Item 5 (Bank Closures). Also noted that the Business Growth Hub (former Udales site) is due to be officially opened at 12.00pm tomorrow (Friday 14th November 2014) by Tim Farron MP and will subsequently be open two days per week.

11. Planning

A written report was adopted by the meeting including the Committee's comments on planning applications, however, the following application was considered by the full Council.

Cllrs Sedgwick and Ian McPherson left the room while the application for Lockbank Farm - S/03/571 was discussed. Cllr Atkins presented the plans to the Members and it was resolved that there were no objections to the proposal.

Post Office Yard S/03/316D – a site visit has been scheduled by YDNPA for 21st November 2014. (Cllr Hodge and Ian McPherson took no part in this discussion). Cllr Atkins and Lancaster will attend the site visit.

The Pepperpot – following a request made by Sedbergh School to request a supporting letter from SPC in connection with the proposed works, it was agreed that a letter supporting the principle of restoration should be sent but that consideration of the details of design etc should await receipt of the consultation by the YDNPA on the planning application.

12. Finance

The meeting received the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resource Committee held on the 11th November 2014. Arising from those minutes, points to note were as follows

Item 4 – Sedbergh.org.uk website – Agreed in principle to support the website up to a figure of £1500, subject to a Grant Application Form being submitted for full consideration.

Item 5 Financial Summary – it was noted that the remaining Section 106 monies had now been claimed from YDNPA.

Item 8 – Budget – a draft budget has been circulated. Members are invited to comment prior to the Policy & Resource Committee meeting on the 9th December, when the Budget would need to be agreed.

Request for payments - The Council agreed a list of payments submitted to the meeting. It was noted that the payments for P Postlethwaite and D Thomson were paid from Grants already received in connection with the River Walk and Picnic Site at New Bridge.

13. Grants

Two Grant applications had been considered by the Policy and Resource Committee and the meeting agreed both payments.

Sedbergh Late Night Opening - £250

Sedbergh Wanderers Junior Football club - £460

14. Public Participation

Mr John Metcalfe – Speedwatch, Mr Metcalfe wished to raise the issue over who pays for the stamps notifying drivers they have exceeded the speed limit. He said some people believed that it was the Information Centre but was advised this was not the case. He also wished SPC to request Cumbria Police to arrange a ‘drop in’ that was outside of normal working hours, either at the weekend or during the evening.

Mr Dickie Harrison – Road Closure on Main Street, Mr Harrison wished to know why the road was due to be closed on Sunday 16th November and was advised this was due to work by United Utilities
Mr Robin McConichie – Bank Closures, has previously been involved with threatened bank closures, need to gain support from all business and the local community and lobby Bank directors at the highest level. Their town was successful in reversing the decision to close and remains open several years later.

15. Amenities Committee

A written report of the meeting held on the 5th November 2014 was received by the meeting and the following points were noted.

Item 5 – Playing Field – an update is requested for the next meeting in relation to the vermin currently occupying a tree on the park.

Item 7 – Wheelie Bins – A mixed report from residents has been received relating to the new bins. It was noted that it may now be possible to add additional parking bays in view of the smaller collection wagons now used.

Item 8 – Rain Water Harvesting – An update should be obtained for the meeting in December.

Item 13 – Street Lights – following communications with ENW a recommendation was made to retain two Street lights, one on Loftus Manor and one on Guldrey Terrace. It was agreed that a formal request should be made to CCC/SLDC in connection with actual cost of replacement of the three lights on Loftus Hill, leading down to Milthrop Bridge. An approach could then be made to Sedbergh School in connection with any potential contribution to such costs. It was also mooted that the opinion of residents of Milthrop should be sought.

Item 14 – Other – a letter has been received in connection with planting trees on the car parking area owned by SPC at Guldrey Lane. It was noted that the Amenities Committee are due to visit the site to consider further.

16. Sedbergh Townscape Project

An updating report was received by the Council.

Footway Widening - Main Street, SPC is still pursuing CCC Highways to respond to its letter previously issued to them regarding the possible modifications. Also noted, that a resident on this stretch of road has now contacted Tim Farron MP, seeking support and action by CCC.

A site visit has been requested. The invoice has now been submitted and paid. This invoice was slightly higher than anticipated and it is hoped that when CCC carry out the minor modifications requested, there will be no additional charge made.

Cycle Stand – Church Lych Gate, the installation of the stand is now almost complete. It has been noted that the remaining parking area is in poor condition and clarity now needs to be sought regarding ownership.

Church wall, Finkle Street – agreed that tenders be sought in respect of the necessary repairs.

Joss Lane Car park/garden of 72 Main Street – following the recent notification from the HLF a meeting will be convened for the STP to discuss future options. Considering the possibility that the wall could be lowered, it would be beneficial to ask SLDC about the possibility of moving some of the recycling bins to SPAR prior to making any further approach to James Hall & Co, the owners of the site.

17. Queens Gardens

A report was received by the meeting following the recent site visit.

18. Transport/Post 16 Transport – update

Following the formal question being submitted to CCC, SPC are yet to receive a formal written response.

Woofs have been approached to ask if they are considering time tabling changes, but the Company has no plans at present.

Petitions and letters continue in connection with Post 16 Transport provision and it was resolved that SPC should write a letter to David Laws MP seeking answers to specific questions over Guidelines on transport in rural areas and be copied to Graham Stuart MP, Chair of the Education Select Committee.

19. Loftus Hill Lighting (ENW removal of lights from telegraph poles)

See Item 15 – Amenities, above.

20. Yorkshire Day

Cllr Ian McPherson invited members to support him with Yorkshire Day in 2015 and future years, advising that it was a way of raising the profile of Sedbergh in Yorkshire. It was agreed that SPC should be showing their support and Ian McPherson will progress this next year.

21. Correspondence

The attached Clerk's Report was considered by the meeting

- a. B Steadman – Sheepfest – a letter had been sent to Tim Farron MP in connection with Parking Tickets issued over Sheepfest weekend and it was noted that six tickets were issued.
- b. Main Street Toilets – verbal communication had been received in connection with the slippery nature of the floor. It was noted that a warning sign will be displayed in the toilets – Amenities Committee.
- c. St Andrew's Church – footpath leading to Church Walk, a letter has been received in relation to a fall, Amenities Committee to visit the site and suggest solutions. The path has been discussed in the past and there is some question over ownership/responsibility.
- d. Parish Hand-push Bier – awaiting further contact from B Goad.
- e. Sedbergh & District Community Orchard – communication has recently been received from A Parratt in relation to a proposed Orchard. It was noted that a site had not yet been identified but it was agreed that the proposal be supported in principle.
- f. Epic Events – a letter has been received in relation to displaying a banner in the town for their fell running event on 17 May 2015. Advise that they may be able to display alongside the Gala banner on the Church railings, information to be forwarded.

18. Date and Time of next meetings Thursday 11th December 2014 at 7.30 pm - People's Hall Committee Room.