

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in The People's Hall, Sedbergh on 12th September 2013

Present: Councillors Hodge, Longlands, Atkins, Macpherson, Allan, Jameson and Capstick,

1. Apologies:

Councillors Pearson, Lancaster, Thomson and Sedgwick.
District Councillors Westwood, Cotton & McPherson.

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations

3. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Capstick declared an interest in agenda item 6 and withdrew from the meeting when planning application S/03/518A was discussed.

4. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council held on 8th August 2013

These were agreed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

Item 5 to read 'Matters arising from the Minutes of 11 July 2013'.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes of 8th August 2013

Item 5(10a). The meeting was advised that a response was still awaited from the YDNPA regarding confirmation that the proposed works to extend the People's Hall car park amounted to permitted development and resolved that the Clerk should write again urging that the issue be dealt with as soon as possible.

Item 14. The meeting considered an email from Cllr Thomson advising that a meeting had taken place with the Area Ranger of the YDNPA regarding the proposed picnic benches and related work at New Bridge and that alternative sources of funding were being investigated. The meeting noted the position.

Item 15(a). The Chairman advised of further correspondence with Sedbergh School regarding the community use of the swimming pool and the meeting supported the representations made which seek to ensure that the Council and community groups were involved in the formulation of any community use agreement. The meeting also agreed that Dent Primary school should be consulted and that the Chairman should contact the school.

Item 15(b). The meeting agreed that the Council's wish to participate in the Community Payback scheme should be considered again at the next meeting.

Item 15(e). In relation to health/social care issues, it was agreed that the LAP be advised that issues of concern focused on (1) the absence of a residential care or nursing home in the area and (2) difficulties relating to transport for hospital visiting.

6. Planning

- a. A written report was adopted by the meeting, including the Planning Committee's comments on planning applications.
- b. The meeting agreed the following response to application S/03/518A:
No objections subject to satisfactory provision for surface water drainage so as to prevent any contamination of watercourses
- c. The meeting agreed the following response to application S/03/455E:

The Council welcomes the continuing investment in the School and supports the proposal in principle. The Council also accepts that there should be opportunity within the town for the development of buildings of contemporary design.

However whilst this particular design is similar to that of the new music centre at Guldrey Lodge (and which the Council supported), the nature of the surrounding townscape is somewhat different on the

application site at Back Lane. Here the building would be more apparent from public vantage points (including Back Lane and Winder drive) and would be seen in the context of the older buildings of the town's Conservation Area. The Council is concerned that the design, particularly by reason of the unrelieved roofline and the extent of glazing to the prominent south elevation, may appear discordant in relation to the neighbouring traditional buildings which are characterised by predominantly stone walls, relatively small window openings and slate roofs and which display considerable variation in form, massing and eaves/ ridge lines.

In addition there are related concerns that light reflected off both wall and roof glazing (and possibly the many pv panels) would appear incongruous – as would be the very considerable escape of artificial light from within the building.

The Council wonders if the proposed building could be better 'knitted' into the fabric of the host townscape if the southern projecting wings could present a more solid appearance by being constructed substantially in stone with more restrained fenestration (possibly being partly roofed in slate).

The Council considers that modest amendments to the scheme could be achieved without any detrimental consequences for the functioning and internal arrangement of the building and without compromising the applicant's wish to develop a bold contemporary design.

However, should your Authority approve the design as submitted, the Council requests that conditions be imposed requiring approval of the type of glazing, the colour and finish of the pv panels and all external lighting installations as well as conditions requiring the implementation of an extensive landscaping scheme to soften the appearance of the building. Such landscaping should include additional tree planting adjacent to the southern boundary. The existing stone boundary wall to Back Lane should be retained without any openings and, if requiring reconstruction, should be re-built to a height equivalent to the existing wall.

It is understood that your Authority's Planning Officer has requested that the applicant considers the introduction of a colonnade between the projecting wings on the south elevation. The Council has reservations on such an amendment as this would emphasise the horizontal roof line of the building (which would be very evident seen above the boundary wall) although it is accepted that a colonnade would also filter views of the glazed elevation and may assist in reducing light escape.

Finally, the Council would wish to be reassured that any improvements undertaken to the surface water drainage system within the site do not exacerbate the known flooding problem associated with surface water frequently discharging from the site onto the adjoining public roads and paths. It is understood that a further drainage report will be submitted by the applicant and it is hoped that this issue will be addressed.

7. Consultation by the Baugh Fell Commoners Association

The meeting agreed the following response:

No objections subject to all public rights of access being safeguarded by the provision of gates as necessary.

8. Finance

- a. The meeting received a report of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 10th September 2013 and agreed the details of payments made and the award of a grant to 61 Main Street, Sedbergh under the Shop Fronts Improvements Scheme.
- b. The meeting noted that the lease for Loftus Hill car park had been renewed for a further 5 year period and the Chairman welcomed the constructive approach of Sedbergh School in safeguarding this important community asset.

- c. It was reported that 2 tenders had been received on 10 September for the proposed replacement shelter but that one of these was lacking in detail making comparisons difficult. It was agreed that a decision be deferred and that, in respect of the tender containing insufficient information, a breakdown of costs be requested.

9. Grants

There were no other grant applications to consider.

10. Public Participation

- a. The meeting received a presentation from Sandra Gold-Wood regarding the Pulse Gym and agreed that the Council should support the principle of the Gym being accommodated at the People's Hall site and encourage local participation in the survey being undertaken and the requests for membership.
- b. Sandra Gold-Wood also reported the request from the British Legion that the Council should support poppy seed planting as part of next year's commemorations of the Great War.

11. Amenities Committee

A written report of the meeting of 4th September was adopted. The Chairman of the Amenities Committee updated the meeting on the items in the report.

12. Sedbergh Townscape Project

- a. The meeting received a written report detailing progress to date.
- b. It was reported that Cumbria Highways had commenced work on the signs de-cluttering project.
- c. It was reported that a meeting of the Project Board will be held on 13 September.
- d. Discussions had taken place with the consultant commissioned by the Council to prepare a report on the Jubilee Fountain, which should be received within a few weeks.

13. Queens Gardens

It was reported that an application was soon to be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for 'Start-up Grant' funding to enable the preparation of a conservation & management plan.

14. Correspondence

The attached Clerk's Report was considered by the meeting.

- a. It was agreed that no action be taken in respect of the emails from Messrs Sollitt and Pulford regarding links to the former County of Yorkshire and Yorkshire Day.
- b. It was agreed that no action be taken regarding the promotion of a 'Rural Fair Share' petition.
- c. In relation to the request for advance directional signs for Ghyllas lay-by, it was agreed that further representations be made to the Highway Authority, including the proposal that the Parish Council itself should proceed to acquire suitable signs and erect them in appropriate locations.
- a. In relation to the footpath by the Church, the assistance of the YDNPA's Area Ranger was welcomed. The meeting also considered a letter received from Cumbria in Bloom regarding weed control and maintenance of land for which the Council is responsible. It was agreed that the Amenities Committee be asked to consider the practicalities of the Council establishing a working arrangement with an individual who might be able to undertake such maintenance work as particular needs arise. The meeting also agreed that enquiries should be made of the YDNPA regarding ownership of certain footways within the town.
- d. In relation to overgrown hedges on Highfield Road, it was reported that letters had been delivered to the properties in question.
- e. In response to the letter from the British Legion, it was agreed that the Council's wreath should contain the town logo.
- f. Councillors Macpherson, Capstick and Longlands agreed to attend the Parish Forum arranged by the YDNPA for 21 October.

15. Date and Time of next meeting

7.30 pm on Thursday 10th October 2013 at the People's Hall.