

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in The People's Hall, Sedbergh on 28 June 2012

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

1. Apologies:

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

The Chairman read out a letter of resignation from Cllr. McVoy. The meeting expressed its appreciation for the valued contribution of Cllr McVoy to the working of the Council over many years and agreed that the Chairman should write accordingly. The arrangements for filling the vacancy on the Council were briefly discussed and would be put in hand as soon as is practical.

2. PCSO Karen Dakin

The meeting received a report from Karen Dakin and discussed issues arising, including the problems of parking (PCSO Dakin offered to provide clarification on the law relating to parking/obstruction of footways comprising part of the public highway).

3. Declarations of Interest:

All Councillors apart from Cllr Pearson declared a personal interest in item 6 (Planning). Cllr. Longlands declared a personal interest in item 8 (Grants).

4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the monthly Meeting of the Parish Council held on 31 May 2012

These were agreed as a correct record.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Item 11c – The chairman reported on discussions with the proprietor of the Dalesman in relation to the need to maintain reasonably safe provision for pedestrians across the forecourt of the premises.

Item 8a – The meeting was informed that preliminary work had been undertaken in relation to the possible surfacing of the parking area adjacent to the tennis courts and that a paper would be brought to the Council in due course.

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6. Planning (this item was considered following item 9)

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

b. The following application was considered at the meeting:

S/03/530 - Full permission for change of use from dental surgery to dwelling and shop at the Dental Surgery, 9 Finkle Street, Sedbergh.

Following a discussion of the issues involved the meeting agreed to express the view to the YDNPA that the application should be considered as premature as the possible re-location of the dental surgery has not been resolved. However, should the Authority proceed to determine the application and be disposed to grant permission, consideration be given to the imposition of a condition limiting occupation of the proposed dwelling to persons in need of accommodation locally.

7. Finance

It was agreed that the issue of payments for June be delegated to the Audit Committee meeting to be held on 5 July 2012 but that the Chairman be authorized to settle invoices in respect of those goods and services routinely provided to the Council.

8. Grant applications

The meeting was advised that one application (for £275.00) had been received from the Sedbergh & District Toy Library. Whilst sympathetic to this request, it was agreed to defer consideration of this application and to suggest to the applicant that, in the first instance, such application should be submitted to the Sedbergh & District Community Fund.

9. Public Participation

The meeting received a presentation from Cllr. Evelyn Westwood in relation to affordable housing and discussed issues arising. It was agreed to make further representations to the YDNPA relating to the former Aqua-Engineering site.

The meeting received a presentation from Mr. Mark Westwood relating to application S/03/113B (Change of use of the Spar shop, Main Street, to a dental surgery) and discussed issues arising.

10. Amenities Committee

The minutes of the meeting dated 13 June were accepted by the meeting and issues arising were discussed, including the fencing of the western boundary of the playing fields.

11. Sedbergh Townscape Project

Cllr Atkins gave brief report explaining that further meetings had taken place with Des Metcalf to progress a possible re-design of Joss Lane Car Park. The meeting noted that the extent to which recycling facilities need to be retained on the car park continues to be uncertain as a result of the failure of the new Spar development to comply with a planning condition requiring recycling provision on the former auction mart site. The meeting with the Highway Authority to discuss road signs and other issues had yet to take place.

The Chairman reported on developments in relation to the future management/operation of the premises and functions of 72 Main Street. It was explained that the present arrangements were no longer fit for purpose and that a Community Interest Company would be established to replace the Sedbergh Book Town Trust which will cease trading at the end of September. The Directors of the Trust would represent the owners of the building, the Parish Council, the Sedbergh and District Community & Heritage Trust and the Sedbergh Book Town Company. In parallel, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation would be established (once the necessary legislation is enacted) to ensure the effective running of the premises and its various functions in the long term.

The meeting endorsed the appointment of the Chairman of the Council as a Director of the proposed Community Interest Company and that she should represent the Parish Council on that body.

12. Loftus Hill Car Park

a. The Chairman updated the meeting on progress made.

b. The meeting approved the following resolution *'The Council agrees to enter into the attached Tenancy at Will relating to the continued occupancy of Loftus Hill Car Park; to pay 50% of the legal expenses of Sedbergh School amounting to £218.75 plus VAT; and to authorize the Chairman to execute the document on behalf of Sedbergh Parish Council.'*

c. Having regard to the significant loss of income from the car park (due to inappropriate signage during the period of road works on Loftus Hill) the possibility of making representations to the Highway Authority be examined.

13. Sedbergh United Charities

It was agreed that Mrs. Margie McVoy be reappointed as a Parish Council nominated trustee of Sedbergh United Charities.

14. Correspondence

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

Item 1. To write to the Chairman of the Pennine Journey Supporter Club to confirm the Council's support for the proposed long distance footpath and its willingness to contribute to any publicity material in so far as it relates to Sedbergh Parish.

Item 2. To note the details received from the Highway Authority in relation to the cutting of highway verges.

Item 3. To write to the Secretary of the local branch of the Royal British Legion confirming that permission is granted to use part of Joss Lane car park on 28 October in connection with the The Great Cumbrian Poppy Ride.

Item 4. That no Councillor would attend the Yorkshire Day Celebrations to be held at Scarborough on 1 August.

Item 5. That Cobble Country, as agents for Winder Grove Management Company, be advised that the issue of fencing to the playing field was being examined by the Council's Amenity Committee.

Item 6. To note the contents of the letter from the Hub Coordinator of the Sedbergh & Kirkby Lonsdale LAP to Cllr. Mallinson.

15. Date and Time of next meeting

7.30 pm on Thursday 26 July 2012 at the People's Hall