

Minutes of the Sedbergh Annual Meeting of the Parish People's Hall, Sedbergh, on Tuesday 10th May 2016 at 7.30 pm

In attendance - Cllrs Atkins (Chair), Allan, Ian McPherson, Capstick, Arnold, Mary Macpherson, Longlands, Sedgwick and Brooks.

36 members of the public were also welcomed to the meeting. (Including members of Sedbergh Community Trust, The Chamber of Trade, Sedbergh CIC, Sedbergh People's Hall and Sedbergh Bowling Club

1. Apologies for absence
Received from Cllrs Lancaster and Dawson
2. Minutes of 2015 Annual Meeting of the Parish
The Minutes were agreed.
3. Chairman's Report for 2015/2016
Cllr. Atkins gave the attached address to the meeting.
4. To receive the Draft Accounts for 2015/16
The Clerk presented the attached draft accounts to the meeting. It was noted that there was a healthy surplus of funds, however, sixty percent of those funds were committed to future spending on initiatives such as the resurfacing of Joss Lane car park, the continuing Townscape Project and the ongoing maintenance and potential development of The Queen's Garden (see Item 5 below).
5. The future of Queen's Garden
Cllr Atkins gave a presentation on the history of The Queen's Garden and then discussed Sedbergh Parish Council's concerns over its current condition. Residents were then invited to give their feedback and thoughts on what they would like to see happen with the Garden. Various ideas were discussed, from former members of the last restoration in 1998, to former Members of SPC and current Members of the Bowling Club. Ideas raised included the restoration to a more formal garden, or perhaps allowing it to become managed woodland, incorporating natural wildlife areas, or a combination of the two. Whilst the latter was a clear winner (by a show of hands), it was agreed that this would still need much further thought and clarity. A step forward would, perhaps, be to engage the services of a landscape consultant and proceed once more with an application to the HLF (previously an application had been declined in 2013). Any project was likely to require substantial funds, a consultation process and a strategy for sustainability. The notion of a 'Friends of Queen's Gardens' group was also mooted.
6. Questions
Several questions were raised by members of the public and short summary is noted below.
 - Concern of the current state of repair of Jubilee Fountain. The Chair was able to answer this as Sedbergh PC already has plans in place for some restoration works, due to commence very soon, which include the replacement of the clear panel protecting the sculpture beneath.
 - Concerns over street lighting at the Toll Bar and Busk Lane were raised and noted. However, it was advised that this is a CCC Highway issue
 - An update on the proposed skateboarding park was requested. The Chair gave a brief summary and advised that the current planning application was due to be discussed at Full Council on 12/5/2016.
 - Sedbergh Speedwatch – a resident asked what the current situation was with regard to this initiative as no volunteers have been seen out recently. It was noted that some conflict between residents had arisen previously and a suggestion of swapping volunteers with another area was discussed.
7. Any other business - none

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm and the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and valued contributions.