

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in The People's Hall, Sedbergh at 7.30pm (commencing 8.10pm following Annual Meeting of Sedbergh Parish Council) on Thursday 12th May 2016

Present: Councillors Atkins (Chair), Allan, Mary Macpherson, Brooks, Dawson, Capstick, Arnold, Ian McPherson, Longlands, Sedgwick and Lancaster.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Ian McPherson/Allan – Item 7 – Planning S/03/211E

Cllr Arnold – Item 7 – Planning S/03/591

4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 14th April 2016

The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair Cllr Atkins.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes of 14th April 2016

Item 16 – Vision Statement, following receipt of the draft Vision Statement for comment, it was agreed that the Chair and the Clerk circulate the final version/s for consideration. It was further noted that David Butterworth (Chief Executive of the YDNPA) had recently attended the LAP Meeting and that Cllr Ian McPherson was gathering various stakeholders for a meeting to establish the notion of a YDNPA Information Centre in Sedbergh.

6. Report from District/County Council

It was noted that Cllr Nick Cotton had recently been re-elected as a District Councillor.

Apologies were received from Cllr Nick Cotton and Cllr Mel Mackie. Cllr Lancaster gave a brief overview on the recent discussions taking place at SLDC in relation to the wards of the District. Further information can be found on the SLDC web site at

<http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/elections-and-voting/electoral-reviews/electoral-review-of-south-lake/>

7. Planning

The Planning Committee had not met since the last meeting. The following two applications were considered at the meeting:

Skateboarding park (S/03/211E) at the playing field at Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.

Two members of the public had expressed an interest in speaking at Public Participation for this agenda Item and it was agreed to allow them to speak at this time. Mr Joslyn advised that he was puzzled how a planning application had been accepted by YDNPA when SPC had already advised the Trust that they would not enter into a lease agreement on this area of land. The Chair explained that anyone could apply for planning permission on any area of land (with or without permission of the landowner) provided appropriate notice was served and that the authority had a duty to assess the application regardless of ownership. Mr Joslyn accepted this explanation and further asked if the applicants could appeal in the event of a refusal of permission, and was advised that, yes, they could. Mrs Hanham wished to express her objection to the skatepark at the proposed location being concerned that it was the wrong place and would saturate a field that was already very popular and simply not able to accommodate anything further. She believed the skatepark would be an eyesore for anyone travelling or walking past the park, a popular route to the Howgill Fells. Although she did support the idea of a skatepark, she believed that alternative locations should be investigated.

Following the recent request for information sent by SPC/YDNPA and the subsequent response by the S&D Community Trust (attached), Members discussed the planning application. Cllr Atkins directed members to the information contained in the notes accompanying the planning report which included a copy of the letter from the Trust and an objection letter from Sedbergh Wanderers Junior Football Club. It was noted that reference was made at the foot of the Trust's letter to YDNPA to a site meeting with a member of the JFC at which an opinion was expressed that there was space for both projects. However, the Club's original objection letter remained as far as SPC was aware.

Cllrs Lancaster, Longlands, Dawson and Mary Macpherson all expressed concerns over the limitations of this space and the potential displacement of the current football kick-about area and the annual bonfire. Cllr Sedgwick wished to remind Members that the field was left for the people of Sedbergh and not just the football club, but understood the fears over lack of space. Cllr Capstick and Arnold, both remained of the view, underlying the decision made in November, that there simply was not enough space.

Cllr Atkins explained that his main concern was that the information before the Council was insufficiently detailed or accurate to demonstrate that the skateboarding park would not result in a conflict with existing uses or compromise future planned proposals, including the creation of a formal Junior FC pitch and a footway on the inside edge of the playing field. Moreover, even if it could be so demonstrated, he expressed the view that such developments should preferably proceed jointly through the application and construction stages.

Cllrs Atkins and Lancaster noted that the planning application had been unhelpful and that SPC did not wish to be in this position of opposition to the Trust. Cllr Lancaster proposed that the Council should object to the application on the grounds that the development would conflict with existing uses of the playing field and would compromise future plans for the improvement of the playing field. This was seconded by Cllr Brooks and agreed by all members other than Cllr Atkins and Sedgwick who both abstained. (Cllrs Ian McPherson and Allan left the room for the duration of this discussion).

Sedbergh School (S/03/591) Sports Hall proposal.

It had been reported in the Westmorland Gazette that the Sports Hall proposal had been approved by YDNPA with conditions. Cllr Ian McPherson was able to offer further detailed information from the Planning Committee meeting held at YDNPA on 10th May 2016, including the opportunity to be afforded to the Council to comment on further elements of the Parking Management Plan and the proposed community use. The attached draft conditions were discussed in relation to these aspects and agreed by Members with minor amendments. The suggested conditions would be forwarded to YDNPA on 13th May 2016 for consideration. (Cllr Arnold left the room for the duration of this discussion).

8. Finance

a) The meeting received the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on the 10th May 2016. It was noted that most information identified in the minutes had been covered by the Annual Meeting, including the approval of the Annual Governance Statement.

b) The Council agreed a list of payments submitted to the meeting. It was noted that there was a substantial difference between the United Utilities bills for the car parks and the Clerk would query these.

9. Grants

There were no applications for Grants this month

10. Public Participation

Members of the Public that wished to speak had spoken at Item 7 – Planning.

11. Amenities Committee

A report was received and accepted by the meeting. It was noted that works were now due to commence on the urgent repairs at the Playing Field and that remaining works would be considered further and tender documents drawn up.

It was noted that the Committee had placed honesty boxes in the Public Toilets on Main Street recently and some monies had been collected, however, further information and clarity of procedure was now needed.

12. Sedbergh Townscape Project

An updating report was received by the Council and accepted.

It was noted that the discussions had recently taken place in connection with the boundary wall and entrances at the People's Hall but that SPC had not been invited to attend and it was agreed that an update should be sought. It was further noted that following the recent resurfacing works, the area in front of St Andrew's Church should be addressed. Cllr Atkins had spoken with Highways and it was agreed that an official request should be made to Highways to resurface this area, details of any resurfacing ideas to be discussed at a future meeting. Finally, it was noted that the Bus Stop lay-by at Long Lane was in a particularly bad state of repair at present and that the Clerk be requested to identify who is responsible for this area of land.

13. Queens Garden

The Queen's Garden had been the subject of this year's Annual Parish Meeting and it was agreed that a meeting of the Queen's Garden Committee would be convened in the near future to discuss the thoughts/findings of the recent public meeting.

14. Parish Council Award Scheme

There was nothing new to report.

15. Emergency Plan

It was agreed to defer this Item to a future meeting.

16. Vision Statement

It was agreed to defer this Item which would give the opportunity to circulate the amended Vision Statement proposals (see Item 5 – Matters Arising).

17. Parish Council Website

Cllrs Atkins and Mary Macpherson had recently attended a meeting with the Website Group along with the Clerk. It was noted that progress was being made and that training would be available for those members who would be involved in updating/amending the site moving forward.

18. Correspondence

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

- a. Dementia Friendly Community Launch – Cllr Arnold hoped to attend on 18/5/2016.
- b. Concern over scaffolding at The Bull Hotel, Main Street – the Clerk to follow up with Highways.
- c. Sedbergh Youth Club – an initial meeting to discuss ideas/options was planned for 16/6/2016.
- d. Police Report – a report was received by Members.

It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders at this time to allow Cllr Arnold to make a personal statement of apology in regard to a recent personal comment made in relation to Westwood Books. This apology would be printed in the Lookaround.

19. Date and Time of next meetings –Thursday 9th June 2016 at 7.30pm, the monthly meeting of the Parish Council to be held in the Meeting Room of the URC, Joss Lane, Sedbergh (please note change of usual venue)