

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in the Committee Room, The People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh at 7.30pm on Thursday 10th August 2017

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

Part I

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Requests for Dispensations

A further request for dispensation was received in relation to future discussions for B4RN, from Cllr Sedgwick, in addition to those previously agreed in July. This request was granted by the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 9 – Finance – Cllr Longlands

4. Public Participation

Mr D Thomson attended to discuss the recent rejection of his B4RN application in July. Members noted the additional information submitted (attached) and advised Mr Thomson that he may reapply in five months time. Members also agreed to seek further guidance on alternative means the Council could consider to financially support the B4RN project.

NCS – Sedbergh Project – see Item 10 – Grants - in relation to a project to refurbish the ‘hut’ shelter at the playing field, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.

5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 13th July 2017

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman, Cllr Atkins.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes of 13th July 2017

Item 8 – Planning – It was noted that SPC's comments in regard to SLDC's consultation on the proposal for the construction of 20 holiday retreats at Lilymere Estate, Killington, Sedbergh SL/2017/0363 were noted on the District Council's online application details.

Item 11 – Amenities – The Clerk confirmed that the concern over weeds on various pavements in Sedbergh had been noted by CCC. Further information is awaited in connection with the street light at Fell Close and Cllr Longlands advised that he had been unable to access the light at Weaver's Yard recently due to a vehicle being parked in the vicinity.

Item 15 – Culvert at Guldrey – it was reported that there had been a delay with CCC due to Mr S Taylor being on annual leave.

Item 16 – Campervan parking request – the owners had expressed their disappointment at the refusal and additionally queried the different pricing bracket for day/24 hour permits (now clarified).

7. Report from District/County Council

Apologies were received from Cllr Cotton and Cllr Mackie.

8. Planning

The attached Planning Report was considered and adopted by Members. In particular Members discussed – S/03/55EE Baliol School, noting that the application had been refused. Members resolved that an open letter be sent to both the YDNPA and the agent acting on the applications expressing the wish that the disputed planning issues might be addressed in order that a viable development proposal could be put forward for further consideration. This would ensure that Able Memorials and Farmgate Vets are retained as vital resources for the community and, in particular, give the opportunity to build state of the art premises for the Vets in Sedbergh.

Also discussed was the request from the agent acting for the owners of the former Barclays Bank building on Main Street, Sedbergh, seeking support for the proposed change of use of the property. Members agreed to decline to comment at this stage as, should a planning application be sought in the future, they would be formally consulted at that time.

9. Finance

a) The meeting received and adopted the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on the 7th August 2017. It was noted that the installation of the car park ticket machines was now complete.

b) Request for payments – payments were noted on the Financial Summary and agreed by Members. Four additional requests for payment, received on the day of the P&R meeting (noted below) were agreed by the meeting. Cllr Longlands left the meeting for the duration of discussion relating to his invoice for works completed.

Cllr S Longlands - £123.30 – works completed at Main Street toilets.

Yesss Electrical - £137.70 – replace LED light fittings at Main Street toilets

Cllr S Arnold - £287.10 – reimbursement for purchase of LED/heated mirror for ladies toilet, Main St
Abbey Distribution Ltd - £480.00 – replacement polycarbonate sheets for the shelter at the playing field

c) Gardener/Handyperson role (see Part II below)

10. Grants

The following grant application was considered by Members at Public Participation

i) **NCS – Sedbergh Project** - an application for the sum of £250 had been received from members of a group of six young people completing their NCS (National Citizenship Scheme) Award. The group had selected the ‘hut’ shelter at the playing field, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh as their project to refurbish (in view of its poor state of repair and recent criminal damage). Members were delighted that they had chosen to use this as their project and unanimously agreed to ‘grant’ them the £250 requested toward the project. They have also set up a Crowd Funding Page and completed a car wash gaining them in the region of £300 so far. Their project, which is set to a strict deadline, was being led by Cllr Arnold following a direct approach to SPC. The works would include replacing the polycarbonate ‘window’ panels, sanding, varnishing, painting and a general clean of the ‘hut’.

11. Amenities Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd August 2017 were adopted by the meeting (attached). It was noted that Sedbergh School had recently agreed to spread the sand, at the playing field, free of charge and Members expressed their thanks to the Bursar.

It was also noted (as P&R) that the car park ticket machines were now installed and operational. Cllr Atkins wished to express thanks to Cllr Arnold and Longlands, also to Mr A Allan and the Clerk, for their assistance with supervision/training etc on the day of installation with the contractors and the engineer from Parkeon.

The planned refurbishment of the toilets at Main Street was also discussed, noting the new items already purchased for this project (see P&R above). The proposed works will include improved lighting/a mirror for the ladies toilets/deep cleaning/removal of closed units in the ladies toilets and, potentially, alteration to provide a vanity/baby changing area.

Further discussed was the concern recently raised by the Bowling Club in relation to the retaining wall at the rear boundary of the Bowling Green. Members had visited the area and agreed that repairs were likely to incur significant expense and present technical challenges.

It was agreed that an approach should be made, in the first instance, to RG Parkins & Partners to seek an estimate of fees that would be payable for the preparation of an engineer's report assessing the extent of the defects and making recommendations for remedial works necessary to ensure the long term structural stability of the wall. It was further agreed that Members from the QG Committee and the Amenities Committee should meet with representation of the Bowling Club to discuss the matter as soon as practicable and perhaps an approach to the adjoining land owner.

12. Sedbergh Townscape Project

The attached updating report was received by the Council and accepted. The following items were noted and discussed further.

Maryfell playground – Cllr Atkins and the Clerk are now due to meet with SLDC on 15th August 2017 to discuss the consultation and expected next steps. Members agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk/RFO should be the signatories for the LIP Grant in due course.

Joss Lane car park – estimates received in regard to the proposed future refurbishment were discussed under Part II.

Parking area by St Andrew's Church – the tender invites had now been issued for the planned improvement works and the closing date was the 31st August 2017. It was further noted that whilst SPC would have assumed responsibility for the management of the land in order to undertake the works, this was not land owned by the Council. Cllr Lancaster opined that historical records indicated that the land was formally owned by West Ridding County Council and would now have passed to Cumbria County Council. Cllr Lancaster will report further at a future meeting.

13. Queen's Garden

The attached updating report was received by Members. The Friends of Queen's Garden have now had a walk about at the Garden and they have prioritised the central avenue as their main focus, at this time, for weed clearing etc. Cllr Lancaster was able to note that SLDC were pleased to see that a Friends group had been formed and he was hopeful there would be financial support from the District Council in the future. It was suggested that some signs be erected to address the issue of dog fouling within the Garden and members agreed that this would be beneficial here, as well as other areas in the town.

14. Maryfell Parking and Traffic Flow

Members had met with YDNPA at Maryfell on 9th August 2017 and a written response will be received for the meeting in September.

16. Correspondence

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

- a. SLDC – BT phone box adoption – following notification from SLDC with regard to the potential to now adopt individual phone boxes (following the recent decision to prevent boxes being removed) it was agreed that the Clerk should pass on this information to those residents that had been interested previously in the Millthrop area.
- b. Miss F Kenrick – correspondence had been received requesting payment for various street sign cleaning carried out by Miss Kenrick. Members noted that Miss Kenrick had acted without any prior agreement or authorisation. The Clerk will advise that no payment can be made for works that were not requested.
- c. Sedbergh Bowling Club – correspondence received in regard to improved signage for the club. Members agreed that this matter could be raised at the planned meeting to discuss the boundary wall in due course.
- d. Hebblethwaite Hall Farm – Members noted the letter received (attached) requesting the Council's support for the owner's application for funding under the YDMT Woodland Grant Programme. Members agreed to support the request which would assist with funding to plant additional trees/fencing on existing woodland.

- e. Concern over A Boards/Pavement signs/blocked pavements – it had recently been reported that mobility scooters and prams/pushchairs were finding it increasingly difficult to navigate signs/vehicles etc blocking the pavements along Main Street, Sedbergh. It was agreed that the Clerk should note this in the Lookaround report, requesting that shop/business owners should ‘manage’ the area in front of their premises to avoid obstruction of the footways and encourage free movement by pedestrians.
- f. Cumbria Constabulary – a questionnaire was available on their website for completion in regard to policing in Cumbria.
- g. King’s Yard – correspondence had been received in regard to responsibility for maintenance of the passageway adjoining the Yard and the Chairman had responded on behalf of the Council.

17. Date and Time of next meeting - Thursday 114th September 2017 at 7.30pm – Sedbergh Parish Council, monthly meeting at the People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.

Part II

It was resolved and agreed that the public should be excluded from the meeting for reason of the confidential nature of the personal and financial information to be discussed.

17. To discuss applications received for the position of Gardener/Handyperson

Members carefully considered two applications received and noted the recommendation made by the Policy & Resource Committee. The Meeting resolved that Mr J P Mitchell be appointed.

18. To discuss estimates received for undertaking design work etc, in relation to the proposed refurbishment of Joss Lane Car park.

Members discussed, at length, the estimates received from three practices, each of which included a breakdown as noted on the STP report (attached). After careful consideration by Cllr Atkins/Arnold and the Clerk prior to the meeting and following further discussions it was proposed by Cllr Mcpherson, seconded by Cllr Sedgwick and agreed by the meeting, to proceed with Fletcher Day Cummins Ltd.