

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 14th September 2017

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

Part I

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Lancaster, Allan and Sedgwick and accepted by the meeting.

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 8 – Planning – Cllr Capstick (Birks Farm, Birks Lane, Sedbergh -S/03/518C)

Item 10 – Grants – Cllr Atkins (Community Orchard Group)

4. Public Participation

There were no Members of the public present at the meeting.

5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 10th August 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 10th August 2017

Item 4 – B4RN – It was noted that alternative financial support of B4RN by way of share purchase was not a viable option at this time. B4RN may reapply for a Grant in four months time.

Item 6 – Culvert at Guldrey – A grant application has now been made to the Cumbria Community Foundation toward the works planned at Guldrey (the Clerk has sought clarification as to whether or not this urgent work might commence prior to the determination of the application).

Item 11 – Queen's Garden/Sedbergh Bowling Club – a provisional conversation has taken place in connection with the boundary wall/signs and a formal meeting is planned in due course to discuss further.

7. Report from District/County Council

Apologies were received from Cllr Cotton. Cllr Mackie had nothing to report at this meeting.

8. Planning

The attached Planning Report was considered and adopted by Members. In particular Members discussed the comments noted in relation to application S/03/611 former St John's Ambulance HQ and noted the varying opinions and response submitted.

Application S/03/518C – Full permission for erection of agricultural building for winter stock housing at Birks Farm, Birks Lane, Sedbergh (Cllr Capstick left the room for the duration of this item and Cllr McPherson did not participate in discussion or vote). Members discussed the application for the agricultural building and noted the view of the Planning Committee and it was agreed to support the proposal on the understanding that the building would not directly result in an unacceptable increase in heavy vehicle movements on Birks Lane.

S/03/44E – Baliol School – Members noted that, following the issue of the open letter to YDNPA and the agent acting for applicants, responses had been received from both parties. It was agreed that, if the applicant and YDNPA did convene a meeting to discuss the issues raised, that Members would be happy to attend. However, it was felt that there was nothing more that SPC could do at this time.

Finally, it was noted that the YDNPA Parish Forum Meeting had taken place in Sedbergh on 11th September 2017 and that the question of fees for the submission of enquiries by Parish Councils had been raised.

The meeting was advised that YDNPA members would need to take a view/respond to this query but that the current enquiry fees were consistent with other charges for pre-application advice.

9. Finance

a) The meeting received and adopted the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on the 11th September 2017. The Annual Audit return was also noted (along with the issues arising report) and Members agreed to approve the certificate issued. Additionally noted was the recommendation to transfer funds from the Free Reserve to the STP Budget to cover the shortfall resulting from the cost of carrying out the improvement works at the People's Hall, Sedbergh and this was agreed by Members.

b) Request for payments – payments were noted on the Financial Summary and agreed by Members. Mr Hinson had submitted his final invoice to SPC and Members wished to express their thanks to him for his many years working for the Council. Also noted were the continuing payments to Scottish Power for electricity at the former toilets at Loftus Hill. As the new car park machine was solar powered, it was agreed that the Clerk should investigate the possible termination of electricity at this site.

10. Grants

The following grant applications were considered

- i) **KSet (Killington Sustainable Energy Trust)** - an application for the sum of £3900 had been received to assist the funding of a new Fish Pass at Broad Raine, Killington. Members of the Policy & Resources Committee had discussed the application (including the location on the boundary of the Parish) and recommended the sum of £1500 be awarded. Members discussed the application at length, including: the nature of the funding arrangements for K-SET and RainePower; the similarities to the recent B4RN application (rejected by Members); the location of the fish pass; the funds already secured from the SDF (YDNPA) and the Middleton Hatchery group; the extent of the benefits to the Sedbergh Parish; the potential environmental benefits; and the costs of the proposed interpretation panel. Cllr Arnold proposed that the application be rejected, primarily due to concerns that grant assistance would amount to a subsidy to the companies/shareholders rather than directly benefitting the wider public. This was seconded by Cllr Longlands. No member voted in favour of the application which was therefore refused. Members agreed that K-SET should be invited to reapply (when works are completed for the fish pass) for a sum toward the proposed interpretation panel. (Cllr McPherson took no part in discussion or vote).
- ii) **Community Orchard Group** – an application for the sum of £330 had been received to assist in the completion of four new raised beds, to include fruit bushes/herbs/plants. Members noted the recommendation of the P&R Committee that the sum of £200 be awarded. Members discussed the application further, noting how the Group was working for the community, the cost of materials/plants and Cllr Brooks proposed the increased sum of £250. This was seconded by Cllr Longlands and agreed by Members. (Cllr Atkins left the room for the duration of this item and Cllr McPherson acted as Chairman).

11. Amenities Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2017 were adopted by the meeting (received 14/9/2017 and attached). In particular, points relating to the playing field and play park were noted, including the £2000 donation from SWFC and the ongoing discussions relating to maintenance of the pitch. Following the recent surveys in connection with replacement play equipment, it was noted that 'Oscar the Octopus' had been the clear favourite and Members agreed that this equipment should be ordered and installed as soon as practicable.

Cllr Arnold introduced the Sedbergh School Challenge Week initiative, planned for 2018 (information attached) that would see some 120 pupils being involved in public benefit projects.

Joss Lane Car Park – Members noted that Cllrs Arnold/Atkins had recently met with the appointed architects in regard to the planned refurbishment project and that sketch layout options would be available in October.

Main Street toilets – Members noted the continuing works in connection with the proposed improvements to the ladies toilets at Main Street, including the new mirror/lighting, artwork from Main Street Gallery, soap from the Bath House and contribution from No6 to the new vanity area. It was also noted that a quote was being sought for replacement doors to the remaining three cubicles (once the works to refurbish the old cubicles into the new vanity area were complete).

It was further noted that the commemorative bench for the Queen's visit and now been restored and replaced at Main Street. Investigations into the street light at Fell Close are continuing with CCC. Cllr Longlands had managed to gain access to the light at Weaver's Yard but this had revealed internal damage which would require attention. Cllr Arnold was able to advise the meeting that the bins on footpaths around Sedbergh School had now been installed by SLDC, including the relocation of the bin from the bus shelter opposite RS Morphets.

Members noted the comments raised by the Committee in relation to expenditure thresholds and controls contained within the Council's Financial Regulations. Members agreed to consider the issues further and an item would be placed on the agenda for the P&R Committee meeting in October. Finally, it was noted that the work of the Amenities Committee represented the public face of the Council and this was very much appreciated by Members.

12. Sedbergh Townscape Project

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

Boundary wall and accesses to People's Hall – it was noted that the works were now largely complete and that road planings had been secured from a local contractor for delivery w/c 18th September. Another local contractor had been approached to spread/compact and level the planings in due course. Planting of the embankment would be progressed as soon as is practicable.

Maryfell playpark – further information was awaited from SLDC in connection with potential funders and consultation arrangements. The meeting agreed that the Clerk should investigate the possibility of applying to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Fund for grant assistance. The tenders for the proposed improvements to the parking area by St Andrew's Church were discussed in Part II.

13. Queen's Garden

The attached updating report was received by Members. The Friends of Queen's Garden have now met with Hilary Taylor to seek further guidance on maintenance/management. Also noted were the works commenced by the Gardener/Handyperson and the impact made on the seating area overlooking the bowling green. Members also discussed the retaining wall to the bowling green and agreed that RG Parkins of Kendal should be instructed to carry out a report to assess the condition of the wall and to make recommendations for its repair. Finally, Members agreed that 10 signs relating to dog fouling should be ordered, some to be located at the Gardens and others displayed at other locations around the town.

14. Maryfell Parking and Traffic Flow

Members received an updating report, including the response from YDNPA in connection with the proposal to provide additional parking spaces. It was noted that prior to any consultation with residents, a formal approach would need to be made to the land owner – South Lakes Housing. Members also discussed the recent communications with SLH in regard to the bus shelter at this location and agreed that an approach should be made to SLH in relation to the possible asset transfer of the whole of the area of land in question (to include the bus shelter).

15. Sedbergh Economic Plan 2017

The Sedbergh Economic Study had now been completed and a final report circulated (attached). The participating organisations had been asked to report back their thoughts at a meeting due to be held for stakeholders on Wednesday 20th September (Cllr Atkins and Cllr McPherson would be in attendance).

Members agreed to welcome the Study and to support its recommendation that an Economic Forum be established, but on the understanding that the Sedbergh Townscape Project sheds its role as a consultative and liaising body (but continues its role in progressing the Council's improvement projects). Members considered that SLDC would be best placed to provide the 'secretariat' for the proposed Forum.

16. Correspondence

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

- a. Motor Rally – Members noted the rally on 23/24 September, however, the Clerk was able to confirm that the route through Sedbergh was just a drive between 'stages' on the route,
- b. Police Report – there was no police report received, however, Members did note the recent theft of the ATM at Spar, Station Road, Sedbergh on Friday 8th September 2017.

17. Date and Time of next meeting - Thursday 12th October 2017 at 7.30pm – Sedbergh Parish Council, monthly meeting at the People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.

Part II

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

18. To discuss estimates received for undertaking works at St Andrew's Church parking area.

Members discussed three tenders received for the proposed works. Following careful consideration, it was agreed that J Chaplow and Sons be engaged to carry out the works. Members also agreed to submit an application for grant to the Sustainable Development Fund to assist in the funding of the project. It was noted that YDNPA would assist in supervising the project.