

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in the Cornerstone Community Church Meeting Room, Joss Lane, Sedbergh at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th December 2017

Present: Councillors Atkins (Chair), McPherson, Arnold, Capstick, Sedgwick and Lancaster

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Longlands, Brooks, Allan, Dawson, and Bromley and were accepted by the meeting.

Apology also from Ms. Hassam, Clerk to the Council (Members wished to record their appreciation for the Clerk's work in making all necessary preparations for the meeting in difficult circumstances.)

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 10 (Grants) - Cllr Lancaster

4. Public Participation

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

5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 9th October 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 9th October 2017

Item 10 (ii) – the Chairman reported on a meeting with the newly appointed Project Manager.

Item 13 – The meeting noted that dog fouling signs had been erected at the two entrances to Queen's Gardens.

7. Report from District/County Council

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cotton and Mackie.

Cllr Lancaster reported a number of carriageway defects in the locality (including Scotch Jeans).

8. Planning

The attached Planning Report was considered and adopted by the meeting. Members noted, in particular, an application for the change of use of the former Beamsmoor home for the elderly to an hotel and a proposed barn conversion at Foxhole Rigg Lane, Cautley. Also noted were the works of repair to the former Udales premises that the YDNPA require the owner to undertake by the end of February 2018.

9. Finance

a) The meeting received and adopted the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on the 11th December 2017. (Also noted was the need to consider, at an early meeting in the New Year, the Council's position regarding the renewal of the lease on Loftus Hill car park .)

b) Request for payments – payments were noted on the Financial Summary and agreed by Members. The receipt of a Cumbria Flood Recovery grant of £1k towards the cost of the proposed Guldrey inspection chamber was particularly noted.

c) Budget 2018-2019 – the attached budget was discussed by members, noting one variation from the draft budget considered at the November meeting – this being the allocation of a further sum (from the free reserve) to cover the anticipated costs of works to the playing field. Members noted that the budget required a 1.75% increase in the precept.

Approval of the budget was proposed by Cllr Lancaster , seconded by Cllr Capstick and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

10. Grants

The meeting considered a grant application from the Sedbergh Town Twinning group to support the student exchange visit to Zrece in February 2018. Members noted that the Council had previously awarded grant assistance of £1,500 for this trip but were mindful of increased costs associated with the visit. Members were pleased to note the full involvement of Settlebeck School in the town twinning exchange visits.

Following a full discussion, members agreed to accept the recommendation of the Policy & Resources Committee that a grant of £2,000 be awarded.

(Cllr Lancaster took no part in the discussions)

11. Amenities Committee

(There had been no meeting of the Amenities Committee.)

12. Sedbergh Townscape Project

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

Maryfell playpark – the consultation/questionnaire survey results would be analysed in the coming weeks; South Lakes Housing had offered a grant of £3k in the next financial year; and an application for grant assistance had been submitted to the Craven Trust.

Joss Lane car park – Alternative layouts for the car park are still awaited from Fletcher Day Cummings. Members agreed to progress the suggestion of a small information board affixed to a redundant post by the pay & display machine and the Clerk was requested to investigate costs.

Parking area, St Andrew's Church – Members noted that the repair and enhancement works are substantially complete. Members discussed at some length the parking limitation that should apply to the bays and, by a majority vote, the meeting decided that this should be 30 minutes (1 hour for the disabled bay) between the hours of 8am to 6pm. The Clerk will be requested to arrange for an appropriate sign (incorporating the recognised 'P' symbol) to be procured and affixed to the railings.

13. Queen's Garden

The attached minutes of the Queen's Garden Committee held on 4 December 2017 were received by the meeting. Members noted the disappointing response from the Heritage Lottery Fund Casework Manager to the Council's Project Enquiry. It was agreed that further discussions should take place with the HLF but on the understanding that the Council is not in a position to fund further consultants' reports to support a formal application for grant. The Queen's Garden Committee will consider the matter further in the light of any additional guidance received and make recommendations.

The good work being undertaken by the Council's Gardener/Handyperson and by the Friends of Queen's Garden was noted.

A report from RG Parkins of Kendal, in relation to the retaining wall at the Bowling Club, is still awaited (the Clerk has contacted the firm again).

14. Main Street road closure proposals by Sedbergh CIC

An initial response from SLDC's Economic Development Programme Manager was noted and the meeting agreed to defer consideration of the matter pending further clarification of procedures and costs.

15. Langstone Fell car parking area and Sedgwick Trail Information Centre

The attached report was received by the meeting.

Members agreed that the Clerk should approach the owner of the land and the Commoners' Association to seek their agreement, in principle, to the Council arranging for the car parking area to be re-surfaced with road planings (on the understanding that should the Council undertake such works

it would do so without assuming any responsibility for on-going maintenance of the area). It was further agreed that the Clerk should make initial enquiries of the County Council (Highways) and/or its contractors to ascertain if a supply of planings might be made available in connection with road resurfacing works scheduled to be undertaken in the area and any cost that might be incurred.

Members also discussed the poor condition of the nearby Sedgwick Geological Trail and agreed that the YDNPA be formally requested to consider undertaking improvements to the pathway and associated signage/interpretation. The possibility of some work being undertaken as part of Sedbergh School's Challenge Week would be explored.

16. Tennis Courts

The attached report was received by the meeting.

The meeting noted that the Tennis Club had submitted grant applications to Sport England to assist with the proposed resurfacing of the courts and the renewal of perimeter fencing.

Members agreed that discussions should take place between representatives of the Tennis Club and the Council to ensure that the relationship between the Club and the Council is formalised within the context of the extant lease with South Lakeland District Council. Members considered that such formal arrangements are necessary, not only to clarify the Club's management responsibilities, but also to ensure eligibility for grant purposes and to enable the awarding of contracts. (Cllrs. McPherson, Bromley and Atkins to represent the Council at the meeting).

Members also agreed that the condition of the parking area adjoining the courts (and the arrangements for its use by Club members and others) should be a matter for discussion and for further consideration at a future meeting of the Council.

17. Correspondence

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

- a report by the Police Community Support Officer (six incidents recorded in November/December)
- correspondence received from the Sedbergh CIC regarding the future organisation of the Christmas lights within the town (to be considered later in 2018)
- further correspondence with the Flood Development Manager of Cumbria County Council regarding the proposed inspection chamber/sediment trap to be provided at Guldrey (a full report to be considered at the next meeting); and
- the on-line survey being undertaken by Falmouth Town Council to support a national campaign to secure 100% business rate relief for public toilets owned or managed by Parish Councils (the Chairman was authorised to complete the survey on behalf of the Council).

18. Date and Time of next meeting

Thursday 11th January 2018 at 7.30pm – Sedbergh Parish Council, monthly meeting at the People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.