

# **THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in the Committee Room of the People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh at 7.30pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

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

### **1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

### **2. Requests for Dispensations**

There were no requests for dispensations.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **4. Public Participation**

Heather Thomas – Project Manager – Heather attended the meeting to introduce herself as the newly appointed Project Manager for Sedbergh. She took the role over in November 2017 with the post currently being funded until November 2018. Key responsibilities include events, tourism and advertising. Heather is line managed by the Chairman of the Chamber of Trade and any requests for support should be submitted via the Chamber. Cllr Atkins mentioned the forthcoming talks with YDNPA in regard to the Sedgwick Trail and hopes that SPC can work with Heather on this in the future as well as any other projects as they become identified.

### **5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 14<sup>th</sup> December 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 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

Item 6 – Dog fouling signs – the signs have now been installed at Queen's Garden, as well as the entrance to Church Walk (off Loftus Hill). The remaining signs will be installed at other key areas, including Vicarage Lane and the playing fields at Howgill Lane.

Item 15 – Langstone Fell car parking area – various communications are continuing. The land owner has agreed that he is content for SPC to carry out repairs on the informal car parking area; however, he would accept no responsibility for future maintenance. He also wished to highlight concerns over the increasing size of the parking area, as well as the increasing number of unofficial lay-bys on the road side. This, and other details, will be discussed further with YDNPA at a meeting scheduled later this month. Acknowledgement and confirmation from the Frostrow Commoners' is still awaited.

### **7. Report from District/County Council**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cotton and Mackie.

Cllr Lancaster reported the ongoing issue (and potential additional expenditure) following the introduction of the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) in May 2018. This is an ongoing issue and updating information will follow from the Clerk in due course.

By email, Cllr Cotton, asked Members to consider the issue of horses accessing the playing fields at Settlebeck when the travelling community attends on route to Appleby Fair. This followed correspondence received from Settlebeck School. Members discussed the concerns of safety during this period noting that this long-standing issue was unlikely to be resolved easily. Whilst being sympathetic to the concerns raised, Members agreed that this was essentially a matter for the School and the Police/SLDC/CCC and that there was no need for SPC involvement at this time.

### **8. Planning**

The attached Planning Report was considered and adopted by the meeting.

## **9. Finance**

- a) The meeting received and adopted the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Members noted the comments in relation to the lease for Loftus Hill car park and agreed that The Clerk should make preliminary contact with Sedbergh School in this regard. The current lease for the car park is due to expire in August 2018. Consideration of the condition of the surface and the boundary maintenance responsibilities would also require further input from Members in due course.
- b) Request for payments – payments were noted on the Financial Summary and agreed by Members. These included the purchase of a replacement laptop for SPC for use by the Clerk.
- c) Precept 2018-2019 – the attached Precept request for £35,651.73 was discussed by members. Approval of the Precept was proposed by Cllr Lancaster, seconded by Cllr Arnold and agreed by Members.

## **10. Grants**

The meeting considered the following Grant applications:

- i) Sedbergh Music Festival – an application for the sum of £250 had been received in relation to the forthcoming biennial music festival. Following the recommendation from the P&R Committee, Members agreed the grant amount requested.
- ii) Farfield Mill (Sedbergh Enterprises Ltd) – an application for the sum of £800 had been received in relation to assistance being sought for the provision of safety measures, including the erection of a screen on the lower ground floor at the Mill, such works being necessary to comply with Improvement Notices issued by SLDC. Members discussed the application at length, noting the importance of the disabled persons access via this floor. Cllr McPherson proposed to accept the recommendation of the P & R Committee that a reduced amount of £400 be awarded and this was seconded by Cllr Lancaster and agreed by a majority of Members (7/2).

## **11. Amenities Committee**

The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 were accepted by the meeting. Members particularly noted the accident that had taken place on Station Road in December which had resulted in the death of a family's pet dog whilst on the lead. Whilst it is understood that ongoing investigations into the incident are still taking place, Members noted that there had been concerns expressed regarding some overgrown hedgerows in the area. Members agreed, therefore, that a letter should be sent to residents of Station Road and Highfield Road reminding them of their responsibility with regard to any overgrown hedges impeding the safe use of the pavements. Members also expressed their sympathy for the owners of the dog.

## **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 had now been completed. Further grant applications will be pursued and a meeting will be arranged with SLDC to discuss the project moving forward.

Joss Lane car park – Alternative layouts for the car park are still awaited from Fletcher Day Cummings. Cllr Atkins noted that funding sources for any planned works were now being investigated.

## **13. Queen's Garden**

The attached report was received by the meeting. Members noted that further discussion had now taken place with HLF and that the Queen's Garden Committee hoped to convene a meeting as soon as practicable to discuss this further.

The report from RG Parkins of Kendal had now been received and Cllr Atkins is in the process of preparing a tender document in relation to the retaining wall at the Bowling Club.

#### **14. Proposed Inspection Chamber/catch pit, Guldrey**

The updating report (attached) was discussed by Members. Whilst Members agreed in principle that SPC might accept responsibility for maintenance of the proposed inspection chamber, it was agreed that further clarification of the details of responsibilities/liabilities/access would now need to be sought via CCC following the revised location to James Hall & Son's land at the Spar site off Station Road.

#### **15. Main Street road closure proposals by Sedbergh CIC**

Members noted the initial response from SLDC's Economic Development Programme Manager and the subsequent updates received. Having regard to the inconclusive information on procedures obtained thus far, Members agreed that there was little more they could discuss at this juncture. Members also wished it to be noted; that no formal view over the feasibility/viability/practicality of the possible closure of Main Street for events had been taken at this stage.

#### **16. Tennis Courts**

Following discussions in December, the meeting noted that the Tennis Club had received an early indication that their grant application to Sport England could be taken to the next stage. It was additionally noted that SPC would need to be the lead name in any application and, therefore, it was prudent to formalise the relationship with the Club at this time, also confirming any necessary requirements that SLDC may have in regard to the lease. The meeting agreed that Cllrs Atkins, McPherson and Bromley should meet with members of the Tennis Club as soon as practicable to discuss the options available. 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 continue to be a matter for discussion and for further consideration.

#### **17. Correspondence**

The attached Clerk's Report was considered by the meeting. It was agreed that correspondence from Mrs B Hartley in regard to Self Build Housing and would be included in the Planning report for February.

#### **18. Date and Time of next meeting**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 7.30pm – Sedbergh Parish Council, monthly meeting at the People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.**