

# Sedbergh Parish Council

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## Queen's Garden Committee

### Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2018

(7.30pm at the Parish Council Room)

**Present:** Cllrs. Lancaster (Chair), Allan, Atkins and Mr David Parratt

**Apologies:** Cllr. McPherson and Mr Robin Archer

#### Heritage Lottery Fund Project Enquiry:

The meeting considered the further advice from the HLF Casework Manager received by 'phone on 9 January. Whilst this was somewhat more encouraging than the initial response in November last year, it was clear that much work would still need to be undertaken to present more precise costings of the proposed works in support of a formal bid for funding. This would include seeking estimates from contractors for various aspects of the refurbishment project.

In addition, the Council would need to be able to demonstrate that match funding (perhaps £50k) could be assured and that resources were available to manage the project over 3 or 5 years. The Casework Manager had also advised that the 'Our Heritage' programme was heavily oversubscribed.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the additional work and costs involved in progressing the application (with little certainty of a successful outcome) was difficult to justify and **that the Council should be recommended not to proceed in submitting a formal application for HLF funding.** Instead it was considered preferable for the Council to develop an incremental programme of works, based on Hilary Taylor's recommendations, with possible funding from other sources, such as the Yorkshire Dales Sustainable Development Fund and SLDC's Locally Important Project fund. Grant assistance might also be available to obtain professional advice, such as an arboricultural survey.

Support for this alternative approach was provided by the noticeable improvement in the appearance of the gardens following the appointment of the Council's Gardener/Handyperson with additional hours and the contribution of the Friends group.

#### Other items discussed:

1. Cllr Lancaster, in his capacity as District Councillor, confirmed that he has committed £1,000 of his member's allowance to be expended (through the Parish Council) on improvements to the Gardens and, specifically, on the purchase of good quality benches to replace those existing which are beyond repair.
2. David Parratt, as Chair of the Friends of Queen's Gardens, advised that it was planned to hold an event at the Gardens on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May, which would include performances by the town band and the provision of tea and cakes.

(The meeting finished at 8.10pm)