

# **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 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

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

### **PART I**

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Lancaster, Bromley and Brooks and accepted by the meeting.

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

There were no requests for dispensations.

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

Cllrs McPherson and Capstick– Item 8 - Planning

#### **4. Public Participation**

Al Forno – Kate Saunders attended to introduce herself and the business to Members. Al Forno (Italian Restaurant) has been open for several months now and Kate and Ivan hope to continue to grow their business and their presence within the community. They also hope to contribute to Sedbergh as a town, taking part in community activities. They have scheduled a Community Coffee Morning for Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018, where they hope to hear the views of residents (and visitors) in how their business can contribute, including perhaps future children's cooking activities as an idea for younger residents/visitors. The Clerk has also introduced them to the Chamber of Trade. Members thanked Kate for her time this evening.

Douglas Thomson – Sedbergh & District Broadband Funding Group – Item 10a – Grants. Mr Thomson had made a Grant application for the sum of £1500, previously discussed at Policy & Resource Committee. Mr Thomson gave Members an overview of his application (attached), in particular noting that this application related to local works for the SPC area and was not core funding for B4RN. Members expressed their support for the need for high speed broadband and noted the recommendation from P&R Committee that a grant of £500 be awarded. However, following a full discussion, Cllr McPherson proposed an amount of £750 to support the project which was seconded by Cllr Dawson and agreed by Members 4/1. Finally, it was noted that Mr Thomson should provide SPC with a breakdown of how the funds are spent in due course. Mr Thomson thanked Members for their support.

#### **5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

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 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

Item 4 – Langstone Fell Parking Area, following a presentation on behalf of the Frostraw Fell Commoners Assc last month, Members noted that SPC were awaiting further views from the Land Agent in connection with the options for this project.

Item 18 – Correspondence – Jubilee Fountain – Cllr Arnold has been in contact with Dr Palmer and further investigations continue in regard to the feasibility of returning drinking water to the fountain.

Item 18 – Correspondence – Croasdale Tunnel – The Clerk was able to advise Members that YDNPA and CCC are aware of the situation brought to the attention of Members last month. It is understood, via Cllr Nick Cotton, that all agencies are working together to try and resolve the hazardous condition of the tunnel.

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

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cotton and Mackie.

## **8. Planning**

The attached Planning Report was considered and adopted by the meeting. The following applications were discussed by members (Cllr Capstick left the room for application S/03/639 and Cllr McPherson took no part in discussions on either planning application).

S/03/178C – Modify Section 106 Agreement dated 18<sup>th</sup> February 2003 – Castlehaw Farm at Howgills Bunk Barn, Castlehaw Farm, Sedbergh. Members discussed the request to modify the Section 106 Agreement by removing the tied ownership and management of the bunkhouse barn to the owners of Castlehaw Farm. The following response was agreed by members:

*In considering this suggested modification, the Council has been mindful of the approach taken previously in relation to similar conversion proposals elsewhere. The Council has also had regard to Policy L2 of the Local Plan which requires that the conversion of traditional buildings to group visitor accommodation should be capable of effective supervision and management.*

*The Council accepts that the management of the bunkhouse by Cobble Country Property would be effective in terms of bookings, maintenance, dealing with queries from users etc.*

*However, the Council has concerns that such an arrangement would be less effective than that which currently prevails in terms of the supervision of the bunkhouse use. For example, there could be circumstances where disturbance from the bunkhouse causes concern to residents and prompt intervention by management is required.*

*In the longer term, there could be difficulties with such a management model should future employees of Cobble Country reside further afield or the Company itself undergoes change in terms of ownership, office location, policy etc*

S/03/639 – Change of use of land to campsite, to inc. 6 x Camping pods, creation of access and car parking area and installation of septic tank at Marthwaite Foot Farm Park, Sedbergh. Members discussed the proposed development and the following response was agreed

*Whilst some distance from local services in Sedbergh, the Council considers that the site is well located in relation to the Dales Way and that the provision of relatively basic accommodation, particularly for walkers would be a welcome addition to visitor facilities in the Sedbergh area.*

*On matters of detail, the Council considers that particular attention should be given to:*

- *arrangements for management/supervision of the development (in the absence of an on-site warden);*
- *whether or not the access track for loading/unloading (in addition to the parking area) is really necessary for a development of this nature;*
- *the likely need for advance warning signs on the A683 to minimise any highway danger resulting from the increased use of the access to the site;*
- *the need to ensure the public footpath is clearly defined in the vicinity of the site (the proposed steps are a welcome feature of the proposed development); and*
- *arrangements for the removal off-site of excavated material or its incorporation into an agreed landscaping plan*

- a) YDNPA Briefing note (report attached) – Council Tax and Second Homes – Members considered the briefing note in relation to council tax and second homes, noting that Richmondshire District Council had recently rejected the proposal that discussions should take place with Government.  
Members noted that no formal response was required and, therefore, agreed that no comment be made at this time.

## **9. Finance**

- a) The meeting received and adopted the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018. In particular, it was noted that progress was still awaited in regard to the proposed catch pit at Guldrey. Members agreed that SPC should advise CCC that, avoid further delay, the merits of installing the proposed catch pit at the original site close to the Tennis Courts should be reconsidered. The Clerk confirmed that monies previously allocated from Cllr Nick Cotton were due to be paid in preparation for the planned works. It was further noted, that in regard to Item 8 consideration be given to building a reserve for the playground at Howgill Lane, being mindful of the longevity of the equipment installed at this site. Members agreed that a future reserve should be allocated and added to annually in preparation for future works.
- b) Request for payments – payments were noted on the Financial Summary and agreed by Members. It was noted, in particular, that £3,000 had been received from SLH toward the playpark at Maryfell and £1,000 had been awarded by Craven Trust toward the playpark.

## **10. Grants**

The meeting considered the following Grant applications:

- i) Sedbergh in Bloom – a request for the sum of £250 had been received and this was agreed by Members.
- ii) Sedbergh & District Broadband Funding Group (see item 4 – Public Participation)

## **11. Amenities Committee**

Minutes had been circulated from the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018. The recent meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 had not been quorate.

## **12. Sedbergh Townscape Project**

The attached updating report was received by the Council and accepted.

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

The (attached) minutes of the meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 were received by Members. In particular it was noted, with some sadness, the recommendation not to proceed with the HLF grant application and this was agreed by Members. It was additionally noted that Cllr Lancaster was donating £1,000 toward new benches for the Gardens and that the Friends of QG hope to have a tea party in the Garden on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Finally, members discussed the recent boundary wall collapse (see attached) and agreed that a 'wall gap' repair be undertaken. The Clerk will arrange for a local contractor to give an estimate for the works.

## **14. Tennis Courts**

Members noted the attached report and the recent meeting with Mr G Dalton, McGarry's Solicitors, in connection with a proposed sub lease for the Tennis Courts. Also noting that SPC was now the applicant with Sport England and if an award was made, various conditions would need to be met.

## **15. Proposed Guldrey catch pit**

(see item 9 – Finance)

## **16. Sedbergh Economic Partnership Board**

Members noted the contents of the attached report. In particular, noting that the SEPB will effectively take over the consultative/liaison role of the STP.

## **18. Correspondence**

The attached Clerk's Report was considered by the meeting.

- i) British Toilet Association – Members noted the recent correspondence received from a neighbouring parish in regard to membership of the BTA but decided not to join the Association.

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

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018 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.

## **19. Queen's Garden – Bowling Green Wall – Tenders**

Members noted the five tenders received for the contract and discussed the quotes received. It was proposed to accept the lowest tender for the works – GJ Baines and Son, and this was agreed by Members, on the proviso that the works could be carried out this year but after September (in light of the request from the Bowling Club to wait for their end of season). It was further noted, that the Clerk should make a request to the Bowling Club for any contribution toward the works, perhaps holding a fund-raising Bowling event for the town.