

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in the former URC, Joss Lane, Sedbergh at 7.30pm on Thursday 13th December 2018

Present: Councillors Lancaster, McPherson, Brooks, Capstick, Arnold, Welti and Sedgwick
(One vacancy)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Longlands, Bromley and Cowperthwaite, and accepted by the meeting.

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. Public Participation

Item 14 – Former URC Building, representation from Sedbergh Town Band spoke with Members in relation to their hope to acquire the former URC Building for Community Use. Unfortunately, the application to have the building noted as a Community Asset was refused by SLDC and the premises would now be going on the open market. Members of the Town Band hope that a Group of Organisations/individuals in the Community may consider working together collaboratively to keep the building for use by Sedbergh (paper attached), including the current uses, there is a desire to potentially expand its use and some ideas have been put forward, including an indoor market or museum. Also noting potential additional parking space within the garden area. Members of the Band confirmed that ideas would not replicate anything currently offered by The People's Hall. Whilst thoughts are embryonic at this stage, further meetings are being planned with various organisations in the Town. Members agreed their support for the notion in principle and, therefore, agreed that Cllr McPherson become the SPC representative on any future meeting to discuss its future.

5. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council 8th November 2018 2018

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman, Cllr Lancaster.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes of 8th November 2018

Item 9 – Highways, the Clerk was able to advise that CCC were content for SPC to consider options for an advisory sign at Bainbridge Road in respect of HGV's and Members discussed a sign that could perhaps indicate that '7.5 tonne vehicles not advised, road narrows ahead'. Members agreed that Cllrs Arnold, McPherson and Bromley should consider the matter further and report at a future meeting.

Item 21 – Correspondence, Langstone Fell parking area. Members noted the ongoing and further correspondence in regard to plans to improve the informal parking area. It was agreed that Cllrs Lancaster and Sedgwick would pursue this matter and endeavor to convene a meeting with relevant parties once more, to establish a final solution. Cllr Arnold was able to advise that Sedbergh School continue to assist with the new transcript for the Sedgwick Trail and are working with YDNPA.

7. Casual Vacancy

It was noted that there had been no expressions of interest and the Vacancy would be advertised again in the February Lookaround and on the Town website and notice board.

8. Report from District/County Council

Apologies were received from CCC Cllr Cotton and Mitchell. Cllr Sheila Capstick was present.

9. Highways Matters

Thanks, were noted as Cllr Nick Cotton had recently circulated a full list of problematic drains/gullies within the Parish and that a gully clearing wagon was intended to attend the area soon. Funding for this was being utilized from the historic Parish Lengthsmen scheme directly. Additionally, Cllr Lancaster raised the continuing concern over flooding close to Scrogg Bank and the Clerk was requested to seek guidance from the Environment Agency over any works that could be done in the beck area to help alleviate the issue.

10. Planning

The attached Planning minutes were received by the meeting. In particular, comments in regard to application S/03/667 The Folly were noted by Members and S/03/655 Main Street.

11. Finance

The attached Policy and Resource minutes and finance papers were received by the meeting and all requests for payments were approved. In regard to the Draft Budget 2019/2020 it was recommended and agreed by Members to approve the budget, in principle, allowing Members further time to consider any amendments prior to the January 2019 meeting, when the Precept would be submitted.

12. Grants

There were no Grant applications received.

13. Amenities Committee

The Amenities Committee did not meet, the next meeting scheduled is 2nd January 2018. Members did discuss, however, the recent quotes received in regard to the tree at the playing field (see Part II)

14. Former URC building

See Item 4 – Public Participation

15. Update on Projects

Maryfell Parking – Members noted the recent drop in session held for residents at Maryfell and noted the feedback in regard to the proposed parking bays. Members agreed that Option A (with bays pointing in the opposite direction) seemed the most practicable solution and hoped that the planned works would help improve the situation. It was acknowledged that this would not solve the entire issue of parking on Maryfell and that perhaps Members could review the position again once the new bays had been in place for two/three months. The Clerk was asked to confirm with SLH the support for Option A (with bays facing opposite) and took the opportunity to thank SLH for their ongoing work to resolve the parking issue on Maryfell.

Maryfell play park – Members noted that confirmation of the final agreed plan was awaited from SLDC. Representation from SPC had met with SLDC to give feedback on drawings received, along with other interested parties involved from inception – including Donna Cowin. SLDC had also met with original students involved in the drawings at Primary school in 2016 and the present Student Council at Sedbergh Primary.

The Tennis Courts and parking area. Members noted that a draft sub-lease was now available for consideration by The Tennis Club and SLDC. Query over the car parking area (Correspondence) was also noted, however, it was agreed that no proposals could be considered in regard to the ancillary parking area until such time as SLDC gave their input.

Loftus Hill car park – SPC awaited contact from Sedbergh School in regard to the lease. Joss Lane car park – Cllr Lancaster and Arnold hope to meet to discuss potential plans for Joss Lane car park, and noted that SLDC are currently inviting bids to their Locally Important Projects Scheme.

16. Town Twinning

Cllr Lancaster was able to advise Members that the Town Twinning Group hoped to develop relationships between Sedbergh School and Zrece, with the hope to develop employment opportunities in the future.

17. Sedbergh Book/Bus Shelter

Following previous Parish Council meetings Sept 2018, Correspondence Item 18(i) and June 2018 Item 12(a) Grants – Members noted the request to raise the issue of the Bus/Book Shelter once more. It was noted that a petition had been completed in town in support of the Shelter and Members agreed their ongoing support of the principle of the books. However, Members did also acknowledge the concern that some residents had in regard to the signage. It was agreed that The Clerk should write to representation for the Book Shelter highlighting this point and invite them to a future meeting to discuss further.

18. Queen’s Garden and the Bowling Green Wall

It was noted that the works to the Bowling Green wall were now completed and Members expressed their satisfaction for the works carried out.

Members noted that The Friend’s of QG had met recently and hoped that representation from Sedbergh Parish Council would be available at their next meeting. The group has no Chairperson, following the recent resignation of the Chair from his position. It was agreed by Cllr Lancaster, that a meeting of the Queen’s Garden Committee be convened as soon as possible to discuss concerns raised by the Friends of QG, and additionally to discuss the recent tree inspection report.

19. Correspondence

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

- i) Langstone fell parking area – Recent communications had been received in regard to the ongoing notion of improving the unofficial car parking area at Langstone Fell viewing point. In particular, from a nearby resident that wishes for the site to remain in its current format.
- ii) SLDC – a letter had been received from SLDC offering to attend SPC’s February meeting to discuss Localism. Cllrs Philip Dixon, Leader, Giles Archibald and Deputy Jonathan Brook all hope to attend. Members agreed that the February SPC meeting should convene at 7.00pm to allow the speakers, with normal business commencing at 7.30pm.
- iii) Appleby Horse Fair – Members noted that Kirkby Stephen hope to convene a collaborative meeting in January for all parishes involved along the migration route locally. Additionally, it was noted that in the Westmorland Gazette, reference had been made to MASC which noted the expansion of the current Multi Agency Strategic Coordinating group, and was to include a District Councillor from SLDC. It was agreed that Cllr Sedgwick, Vice Chair – should write to SLDC requesting that Cllr Lancaster be nominated.
- iv) BT Phone box – it was noted from a resident at Millthrop, that there may be a renewed intention to remove the phonebox and Members were asked to consider whether their agreement to adopt in 2016 (when the decision to remove was withdrawn by BT) could still stand. Members agreed in principle, and will await further information on a consultation from BT.
- v) A letter from a resident had asked for an update from Members in regard to ongoing proposals to consider electric charging points at Joss Lane, and to pursue an earlier request to consider reinstating water to Jubilee Fountain. Cllr Arnold/Lancaster advised that the charging points would continue to be considered as part of the refurbishment proposals at Joss Lane car park. Cllr Arnold was further able to advise that he will continue to pursue possibilities for returning water to the fountain.
- vi) YDNP – Management Plan for 2019-2024 now available, a hard copy would be retained at the Parish Council office for reference.
- vii) United Utilities had responded to the query over surcharging sewage at the Allotments, and the Clerk would continue to liaise for information from their Network Engineer.
- viii) Guldrey ancillary parking area – a letter had been received from a resident in regard to the parking area at Guldrey. Members confirmed that information and clarification on the parking area, following sub lease proposals for the Tennis Court, were awaited from SLDC. It was confirmed to Cllr Arnold, therefore, that the area at Guldrey would not be included in any ongoing proposals for the ongoing parking permit review.

20. Date and Time of next meeting - Thursday 10th January 2019 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, Sedbergh 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 information to be discussed.

13. Amenities Committee

Members discussed the recent quotes received in regard to felling the sycamore at the Playing Field, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh following the inspection report. Final consent from YDNPA was still awaited, however, it was agreed to appoint Razorsharp Tree Services for the works as soon as practicable thereafter.

21. Planning – Correspondence

Members discussed correspondence recently received by Parish Council Member Cllr Arnold. The letter, from Garsdale Design, concerned the Parish's response to YDNPA on two recent planning applications (attached). Following advice received to the Chair (and Clerk), Members resolved to note that though Garsdale Design were not content with the Parish's response on these two matters, no change should be made to the relevant minute. Members also considered a draft letter prepared by the Chairman in response and resolved that it be sent to Garsdale Design without amendment.