

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in the Corner Stone Community Church, New Street, Sedbergh at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th March 2019

Present: Councillors Lancaster, Brooks, Capstick, Arnold, Welti, Longlands, Bromley, Cowperthwaite and Sedgwick (One vacancy)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr McPherson 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

Members welcomed PCSO M Jeffery for updates on recent reports to service. Members wished to highlight the continued problematic parking close to Castlegarth and the zigzag area of the crossing.

Members of the Friends of Queen's Garden spoke in regard to the position of two flower beds at the 'performance area' close to the Bowling Green, seeking a review of the current position. Concern being raised that the beds were positioned where performances take place. However, it was resolved by Members that the flower beds remain as they are. A temporary scaffolding band stand would be erected over them for any planned events. It was understood, that a scaffolding contractor would give their time, free of charge, for up to three events per annum as advised to the Friends prior to the meeting.

5. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council 14th February 2019

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 14th February 2019

Item 20.ii) Correspondence, Catchment Pit at Guldrey. Cllr Arnold advised that he had attended the area. However, the cover will require 2 people to lift and he will attend again as soon as practicable.

7. Casual Vacancy

Members discussed two applications received in respect of the Casual Vacancy for Sedbergh Parish Council, received from Nicholas Cross and Kate Saunders. Both candidates received the required nominations, subsequently receiving an equality of votes. Members agreed, therefore, to defer a final decision until the April meeting.

8. Report from District/County Council

Apologies were received from CCC Cllr Cotton and District Cllr Mitchell. Cllr Cotton had written to advise his continued works in regard to the planning application at Scrogg Bank field and Cllr Mitchell had written to advise he had attended his first MASC Group meeting in respect of Appleby Horse Fair. Cllr Sheila Capstick was present and updated Members on fly grazing advice posters in preparation for Appleby Horse Fair. Cllr Lancaster was able to advise that B4RN in Cautley and Dowbiggin is "now live".

9. Highways Matters

The Clerk confirmed that consent would be required from CCC for any works to the water course at Scrogg Bank field (Little Ash Beck) and Members agreed that the Chair and the Clerk should pursue an application on behalf of SPC.

Following Cllr Sedgwick's concern at the February meeting, where he raised the increasing number of vehicles parking at the bottom of Havera/Howgill Lane – forcing pedestrians further on to the road and requiring vehicles to drive on the wrong side of the road. Members agreed that the Clerk should write to CCC Highways asking if a consultation could be carried out in respect of parking restrictions in the area.

The road surface at Busk Lane (close to Birks Lane) was reported as deteriorating at the February meeting, and the Clerk was able to confirm this had been reported to CCC Highways for further investigation. Cllr Capstick was additionally able to confirm that he had spoken to local businesses in the area for their thoughts on improving the current practice for waiting heavy good vehicles.

Issues at Row Lane had been raised with the Clerk, following a vehicle becoming stuck on the lane in recent weeks. CCC Highways had advised that they had no funds for additional signage in the area at this time. The Clerk was requested to write further to CCC Highways and seek their thoughts on the condition of the road, thought to recognized as a CCC Highway maintained 'U' Class road, and therefore be maintained as such, or whether the section of lane beyond The Row should reclassified.

10. Planning

The attached Planning minutes were received by the meeting. In addition, application S/03/59B for Scrogg Bank Field was discussed at Full Council. Members subsequently resolved to object to the plans as submitted.

'It was the feeling of the council that the current arrangements on Scrogg Bank in the Appleby Fair period had not been without issues for the Parish. Both the Fair, the nature of those attending it and the means by which they travel to do so has evolved considerably over the last decade, there is no good reason to assume that change would not continue to happen.

The application is for permanent permission for 21 days of continuous occupancy. Council felt that this could leave the Parish in an intractable position with no recourse should occupation of the land in this manner still prove problematic or should issues indeed become worse. This is not just a short- or medium-term risk but one that the application enshrines into the long-term future.

The application is not supported by detailed plans to manage waste, toilets, or traffic. Nor is there any environmental impact assessment and mitigation measures proposed. Consideration of the flood risk from the nearby beck has been acknowledged but no documentation provided. The application gives no indication as to how occupancy during the actual week of the fair might be prevented (or indeed outside of the 21-day window), indeed it legitimises persons remaining on the land throughout the full 3-week period. No indication is given of the maximum occupancy in terms of pitches/persons proposed for the site.

To apply for permanent permission with such lack of detail on how the site would be managed is not acceptable to the council. We do accept that this may well be driven by the desire to obtain permission before this year's fair, and that the applicants do so with good intent to secure the facility as part of a wider management plan. This does not in itself justify permanent permission being granted without due consideration as to how it will impact members of the Parish. Indeed, permanent permission removes any incentive for those occupying or managing the facility to ensure it is done so in an appropriate manner.

Council voted and would be prepared to accept permission being granted for a 5-year period provided adherence to a suitable management plan was included in the conditions attached to any such permission.

For the avoidance of doubt no views were expressed in favour of the application being permanent, council was split between views opposing the application outright and the above compromise suggestion' (Cllr Lancaster did not vote).

11. Finance

The attached Policy and Resource minutes and finance papers were received by the meeting and all requests for payments were approved. Members noted the recommendation to adopt the updated Standing Orders and noted SPC's Financial Regulations (reviewed in full 2018) along with the Asset Register (updated) and Risk Register. GDPR policy was also noted, along with the Privacy Policy review.

12. Grants

i) Sedbergh in Bloom – a grant application for the sum of £500 was recommended and approved by Members.

ii) Sedbergh & District Chamber of Trade – Food Festival – a grant application for the sum of £400 was received, with a recommendation for £350 from the Policy & Resource committee. This was agreed by Members – being a 50% contribution to anticipated costs.

13. Amenities Committee

The attached Amenities Committee minutes were received by the meeting. In particular, it was noted that the planned works at Main Street toilets were now delayed until the new financial year. As a consequence, the sum of £2700 was requested to be preserved in the 2019/2020 Budget for the project and agreed by Members. The Clerk was, therefore, requested to review and update the 2019/2020 Budget. Members additionally noted the recent concern highlighted in respect of a tree at the playground at Havera and instructed the Clerk to pursue this matter further and seek YDNPA advice due to its locality within the Conservation area.

14. Consider/Review Resilience Plan and any updates required to salt stocks/sand bags/contact information

The Clerk was requested to liaise with SLDC over replenishing stocks of sand bags and salt, and it was agreed to review the Plan further at a future meeting (June).

15. Langstone Fell informal car parking area

This item was deferred to the April meeting.

16. Update on Projects

Maryfell parking and playpark – updates were awaited in regard to the recent planning application for the car parking spaces and work is due to commence on the play park imminently.

The Tennis Courts and parking area. SLDC have now acknowledged the draft sub lease, and hope to report further to SPC in due course. Members noted that the ancillary car parking area would also have to be considered further in due course.

Sedbergh School Challenge Week – Cllr Arnold advised that the Parish Council notice board had now been added to the list of works for Challenge week, also advising he intends to liaise with Sedbergh in Bloom over any works they may be able to assist with.

17. CCTV for Sedbergh

Members discussed the attached estimated costings in regard to the potential to pursue further the idea of policy monitored CCTV for Sedbergh. However, given the set up cost, and prevailing annual maintenance costs felt unable to commit further at this time. It was noted, that should a grant (or collaboration from other interested parties in Sedbergh) be found – SPC may be consider further in the future.

18. Queen's Garden

See also, Item 4, Public Participation. Members additionally agreed to progress matters in regard to a formal invitation to tender for the works at Queen's Garden following recommended works highlighted on the Tree Safety report completed in 2018.

19. Castlegarth residential development

There was no update from South Lakes Housing in regard to the residential development consultation at Castlegarth. However, Cllrs Lancaster and Arnold have met with SLDC Deputy Leader and Housing, People and Innovation Portfolio Holder, Cllr Jonathan Brook to discuss further. Members additionally gave their support to residents of Castlegarth over maintaining the footpath which leads towards Thornsbank. The Clerk was requested to write to CCC in respect of the definitive footpath map, asking that the path be added to the list for future generations. Members also considered and discussed the possibilities of affordable housing on other allocated sites within the town where there is already substantial community support.

20. Appleby Horse Fair

Members noted the Consultation Document from Eden District Council along with the letter from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria (attached)

21. Correspondence

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

- i) Sedbergh Sheepfest – Members discussed a request in regard to the erection of a marquee at Joss Lane car park during Sheepfest 2019. However, Members declined the request due to the potential loss of car parking space in the town.
- ii) YDNPA Spring Parish Forum – Cllr Lancaster will attend the meeting scheduled in April.

22. Date and Time of next meeting - Thursday 11th April 2019 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.