

## **THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH**

### **Minutes of the monthly Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held in the Committee Room, The People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh at 7.30 pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Present:** Councillors Lancaster, Brooks, Capstick, Welti, Longlands, McPherson, Arnold, Bromley, Sedgwick and Saunders

#### **1. Apologies**

There were no apologies, all Members present with one Casual Vacancy.

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

There were no requests for dispensations.

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

Item 13 – Grant Applications – Cllr Longlands.

#### **4. Millthorp Bridge – Dent Parish Council invited to attend**

Chair of Dent Parish Council – Juliet Hoggar attended to liaise with Members over the current concerns over the closure of Millthorp Bridge, following the significant damage caused on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Whilst it is appreciated that CCC Highways are currently working on the bridge to allow access to light vehicles – there is a concern for the increased traffic on ‘hospital lanes’ and Barbondale at this time. Thought also needs to be given to when the bridge will close again (anticipated spring 2020) for formal rebuilding work and what can be done to improve access through to Dent. Members will continue to also liaise with CCC Cllr Nick Cotton and CCC Highways.

#### **5. Casual Vacancy**

Members discussed an application received in regard to the current Casual Vacancy, as well as an expression of interest. Members agreed to defer the item until December.

#### **6. Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

#### **7. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were agreed as a true record and were adopted and signed by the Chairman, Cllr Lancaster.

#### **8. Matters arising from the Minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

There were no matters arising that were not already covered within the Agenda.

#### **9. CCTV – proposals for Police monitored CCTV for Sedbergh, grant update**

A decision on the applications was awaited, though it was acknowledged that purdah (due to the General Election) may cause a small delay in decisions being relayed.

Members wished to note their concern following the significant number of rural thefts in the area recently, notably quad bikes and tools. Members recognise that that the police are not always able to give full reports on proceedings, but acknowledged the current concern in regard to the perceived lack of increased policing following the level of incidents being reported. Members welcomed the fact that a liaison meeting was being held elsewhere in the town that evening.

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

CCC Cllr Nick Cotton gave his apologies, along with District Councillors Pye and Mitchell. Cllr Pye had passed Members correspondence relating to Yorkshire Devolution Movement, for their information.

## 11. Planning

The attached Planning Committee meeting minutes were received by the meeting. Particular note was made in connection with Mill House, Farfield, Sedbergh, S/03/58C following a recent appeal and Beamsmoor, Garsdale Road, Sedbergh, S/03/94E in regard to various works, part retrospective.

## 12. Finance

The attached Finance Committee meeting minutes and finance papers were received by the meeting and all requests for payments were approved. Members were asked to review the draft Budget in preparation for the December meeting and the formal precept request in January 2020. Members also noted that due to the General Election taking place on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019, the normal monthly meeting had been brought forward to Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – and therefore, due to time constraints, the Finance meeting would also take part within this meeting and not on the previously planned date (Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019).

## 13. Grants

**i) Marketing/PR Strategy for Sedbergh - financial contribution requested**, Members considered further the recent request for funds towards a Marketing/PR Strategy for Sedbergh. Following the presentation made by Gundog PR at the last meeting, and a subsequent Outline for Sedbergh being received – Members felt that further detailed information was required. Including the provision of measurable targets, sight of any available contract, confirmation of who would be line managing the post etc. as well as who would be completing the ‘ground’ work referred to in the outline.

**ii) Chamber of Trade – Late Night Opening.** The grant application for £400 had been recommended, by the Finance Committee, and was agreed by Members. Members also confirmed that they are minded to be supportive of investing in festive lights in the future.

## 14. Amenities Committee

The Amenities Committee meeting minutes were unavailable, though the committee had met on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019. It was noted that the lady’s toilets on Main Street were now almost complete, bar electrical installation of mirror and new hand dryers. Cllr Arnold confirmed he had tried to contact SLDC in regard to Joss Lane car park, however, it was acknowledged that purdah may now cause an inevitable delay. Members noted that SLDC hope to plant 10 trees at the playing field – 7 Rowan trees and 3 Silver birch. Members also noted that the Plane tree at Loftus Hill car park seems to be growing successfully – Cllr McPherson will seek advice from YDNPA over future nurturing. The Clerk was requested to source sand and bin for the salt spreaders purchased earlier this year. The bin could be kept close to Joss Lane car park, and moved in the summer months. Cllr Brooks will confirm additionally with the Parish Handyman over storage of the spreaders within town. Finally, Members discussed concern for an area of wall at the Bowling Green that had collapsed (north boundary). Cllr Capstick will seek informal quotes for rebuilding works required. Any urgent Amenities matters will be raised at full council on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

## 15. Update on Projects

**Joss Lane car park** – see item above (Amenities). **Loftus Hill car park** –The Clerk has been asked to request the Solicitor to obtain an update on the current situation. In mind is the desire to have the car park closed to the public on certain days in the year for sole use by the School, and any impact this may have on the SLDC Off Street parking order. **Maryfell play area** – the Clerk has been advised that the Parish Council will have to seek alternatives to the roundabout if desired, though they would support the notion. The Clerk was asked to liaise directly with a local resident over future ideas/locations. Additionally, if Members seek to erect goal posts at the paddock area at Maryfell– an informal consultation with neighbouring properties will have to be carried out. Cllr Brooks agreed to pursue this in the New Year along with the Clerk. **Jubilee Fountain** – the Clerk was able to confirm that UU have completed works on their side of the fountain. It was agreed that a plumber should now be approached to carry out investigative works on pipework within the fountain and will report further in due course - Cllr Arnold to pursue.

**Guldrey Tennis Courts** – Members agreed that a formal five-year maintenance agreement should be confirmed, in liaison with the Tennis Club – where the Club would reimburse 50% of the costs on each occasion. The Clerk was requested to confirm this with the Tennis Club and the contractor as soon as practicable.

#### **16. Queen’s Garden**

The Queen’s Garden Committee met on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and minutes from the meeting were circulated for information. Members were asked to consider two points i) relating to the boundary with the main road and ii) the stone steps leading up to the commemorative cross. Members were inclined to prioritise an audit of the stone steps and agreed that members of the sub committee should pursue necessary works to this area in the first instance. Potential future works to the boundary abutting the main road could be a project in the future, notably if land at the southern edge of town is developed for housing.

#### **17. Sedbergh CIC – Market Service Level Agreement**

Members received a draft SLA, however, agreed that the item should be deferred for further detail. Members agreed with the Finance Committee, that there was a particular dilemma at this time due to ongoing changes at the Information Centre (CIC). The Clerk was asked to correspond with the CIC to explain the delay. It was noted that the current SLA was due to cease at the end of March 2020.

#### **18. Western Dales Bus**

An approach had been made to Sedbergh Parish Council to consider alternative sites for parking their 2nd bus, after being advised that they could no longer keep it at its present location. Thoughts were given to other sites, including doubling up at their current location on Joss Lane, as well as Loftus Hill car park and an approach to the People’s Hall. The BT telephone exchange building was additionally noted as another potential site.

#### **19. A Vision for Sedbergh – revised draft received for comment**

The attached revised Vision for Sedbergh was circulated to Members for comment. Members acknowledged the draft revision, however, all agreed that the Parish Council could not sign up to the Vision in its current form, due to the referencing to the Precept. Some additional points were also raised and the Clerk was asked to write to the author (Prof A Cobb, Chair of Sedbergh Economic Partnership) in regard to the following. To remove all reference to the precept, remove reference to free parking and speed limits (which could be seen as political), as well as specific referencing, for example, a bmx track and contractor/developer names. Members thought that a more general interpretation would be more feasible and that the current document had become unwieldy. Members welcome sight of the revised document in due course

#### **15. Correspondence**

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

- i) PCSO – a police summary was circulated; Members noting the continuing uplift in reported crime in the area.
- ii) Resident – concern over speed/number of vehicles travelling around Maryfell. Cllr Saunders will update Members further with thoughts on signage, and The Clerk awaits feedback from CCC Highways on the matter.

**16. Date and Time of next meeting – normal monthly meeting on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 7.30pm – in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.**