

## **THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH**

### **Minutes of the monthly Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held virtually via Zoom at 7.30 pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

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

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Sedgwick 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**

There were no Members of the public present.

#### **5. Coronavirus Covid 19 – response and update on current crisis, including any urgent matters and signage for Sedbergh**

Members were advised that, following approval last month, the £250 tranche of funds for the food cupboard top ups was imminent. It was noted that calls for assistance to the Group had reduced significantly in recent weeks and that the Group were now talking with existing organisations about the potential long-term provision of a food cupboard in town. The Clerk had completed a set of public information signs which had now been agreed with SLDC and the Sedbergh Economic Partnership (attached). It was finally noted that SLDC and CCC would be visiting the town in the future to discuss relevant measures available in regard to social distancing/shops opening etc in continuation of the ‘reopening high streets safely’ campaign.

#### **6. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were adopted and will be signed by the Chairman, Cllr Lancaster, when reasonable.

#### **7. Matters noted from the Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

There were no matters arising, not already included on the Agenda.

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

County Cllr Cotton and District Cllrs Pye and Mitchell gave their apologies. It was noted that thanks were expressed for the quality and speed of work at Millthrop Bridge, which had now reopened ahead of schedule and the Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to the contractors directly. Cllr Mitchell advised that SLDC would update Sedbergh Parish Council with any developments in respect of potential grants to compensate for lost car park income, during the closure for Coronavirus, in due course. It was also noted that, further to correspondence received, Cllr Cotton had flagged up the ongoing issues at Row Lane, in respect of vehicle access, with CCC Highways.

#### **9. Planning**

The Planning Committee had met on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020. There were no significant matters to report, with two ‘no objections’ responses submitted. However, the correspondence received in June, in respect of Baliol School, was raised. Members discussed the notion of the site being available for housing vs the current identified use as business/commercial. Whilst Members were not ruling any development of the site out (including perhaps mixed use), they did not wish to pre-empt any future application that could be made by making an informal in principal decision on a theoretical development. Cllr Arnold will write directly to the resident that raised the question.

### **10. Finance**

Members received and adopted the minutes of the Finance meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and resolved to authorise the list of payments (attached) and those noted in the minutes.

### **11. Grants**

There were no grant applications this month.

### **12. Amenities Committee**

Members received the minutes of the Amenities meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020. See Agenda Item 16 (below and attached) in respect of the Market proposal from Sedbergh CIC. Members also discussed the recent Freedom of Information request received from Sedbergh & Dent Football Club in respect of expenditure at the playing field/pitch in recent years. The Clerk had completed the work for the initial three years requested, and would now complete a further request for 2015/2016 and 2016/2017. Once all information was complete and available, the Football Club would again be asked if they wished to convene a meeting to discuss ongoing arrangements/plans. Members also discussed the report recently completed by Cllr Longlands in respect of the culverts (attached). Cllrs Arnold and Longlands had recently attended the inspection chamber at Guldrey, following a letter received from a nearby home. It was resolved that the Clerk should seek some quotes for regular emptying of the identified pinch points, including Guldrey and the playing field (6 in total). Additionally, it was noted that the issues highlighted at Maple Close should be flagged up with United Utilities et al. In the interim Cllr Capstick advised that he was due to meet further with Cllr Longlands, on site, and attempt to empty some culverts on the playing field with farm machinery available.

### **13. Sedbergh Economic Partnership – update and action plan**

Cllr McPherson confirmed the update noted at the Finance Committee. Acknowledging the significance of various aspects being discussed by the Sedbergh Economic Partnership, including marketing and coordination of future actions plans to aid recovery of high streets following the pandemic. Particularly in the short term, but also growth in the mid and long term – including aspirations for the future, with the potential of an updated housing needs survey being completed. It was also noted that SLDC had a small budget to assist Sedbergh in the provision of ongoing ‘reopening the high street’ projects, which might include banners/additional signage etc.

### **14. Update on Projects**

It was noted that projects remained on hold at this time.

### **15. Queen’s Garden**

Members have not met. The Clerk was asked to convene a meeting later this month.

### **16. Wednesday Market**

Members discussed the latest proposal from Sedbergh CIC in respect of gazebos and equipment for use by stall holders (attached). Members noted the contents and the response by the Amenities Committee, rejecting the proposal. The Clerk would report further when a response was received. Members also noted that the Parish Handyman continued to attend the market, along side Cllrs Bromley and Cowperthwaite which had been invaluable during the take-over of the market and the increased coronavirus measures. However, it was resolved that now matters were more settled that the Council presence could now begin to withdraw. It was agreed, therefore, that the Parish Handyman should be in attendance in the morning (where possible) between the hours of 7.00am and 8.00am to assist with guiding new stalls etc, with a further check by at 1.30pm to ensure that all was packed away appropriately. It was noted that some stall holders leave before this time (low stock etc) but that stall holders should be encouraged to remain until 1.30pm, where possible, to allow ‘lunch time’ trade. Cllr Brooks will liaise directly with stall holders.

## **17. Correspondence**

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

- i) The Dalesman Inn – Members noted the recent correspondence (attached). Members resolved that the Clerk write to CCC Highways, in an attempt to facilitate a meeting with the proprietor of The Dalesman and CCC directly, to allow discussion in respect of the unresolved poor condition of the flagged area.
- ii) Stones at Settlebeck School – a resident had approached the Council to consider where perhaps they could be preserved in the future. Whilst no specific plan was discussed, locations were considered, such as the playground. It was noted that a project such as this could be taken on as part of Sedbergh School Challenge week in 2021 if required. The Clerk will liaise further.
- iii) Salvation Army clothing bank – a resident had asked if the Council could relocate the clothing bank. Members noted the concern over noise and the Clerk will write to the Salvation Army asking for any appropriate modification to reduce noise. There was no other location suitable on the car park at this time due to space constraints. Members did note that the facility was well used in the town.
- iv) A Pennine Journey – members noted a request for support to recognise A Pennine Journey as a National Trail. Cllr McPherson confirmed that the route did not pass through Sedbergh directly and that any official progression of plans would likely come to YDNPA in the future.

**18. Date and Time of next meeting – normal monthly meeting on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.30pm – confirmation of meeting (likely to be held virtually) will be issued in due course. Members noted that there was a hope to return to face to face meetings at the People's Hall in September. This would allow Members the choice of joining virtually or attending in person.**