

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 14th May 2020

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

1. Apologies

There were no apologies, all Members present.

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr McPherson – Item 9, Planning

4. Public Participation

A resident of Millthrop attended to discuss the planning application for Sedbergh (Millthrop) Bridge. They were concerned that suitable practical measures would be implemented during works. The Clerk was able to confirm that CCC Highways were hoping to commence permanent repairs in June and that final information on the works schedule will be available when the tender has been confirmed. Members discussed issues raised around traffic/congestion on Hospital Lanes, appropriate passing places and management of vehicles at west and eastern entrances. It was acknowledged that the closure would impact on the local community, however, it was also agreed that completing the work at this time (while traffic reduced) was probably the most appropriate.

5. Coronavirus Covid 19 – response and update on current crisis (including new Standing Order) and delegated powers

Members discussed the ongoing developments in regard to the Coronavirus crisis, including agreeing to adopt new Standing Orders in respect of virtual meetings. Members additionally agreed that any urgent matters would continue to be circulated in the ever-changing environment.

6. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council 12th March 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2020 were adopted and will be signed by the Chairman, Cllr Lancaster.

7. Matters noted from the Minutes of 12th March 2020

There were no matters arising, not already included on the Agenda. Also, it was acknowledged that several items were now on temporary hold, pending changes to current lockdown measures.

8. Report from District/County Council

County Cllr Cotton and District Cllr Mitchell did not attend. Cllr Pye advised that SLDC would be meeting soon to discuss economic recovery as lockdown measures lift in coming weeks/months. It was also noted that whilst Appleby Fair was officially cancelled, with the new guidance on travel, there were questions over some proceeding to travel to the area. Cllr Pye will update further in due course. Cllr Lancaster raised the question over business rates currently payable to SLDC on Loftus Hill and Joss Lane car park (currently closed), and as Chair of Sedbergh Parish Council felt that his interest prevented him from approaching officers at SLDC directly. Cllr Pye agreed, therefore, to follow this up with SLDC directly. The Clerk was also able to confirm she was attending a virtual meeting with SLDC on Monday 18th May for Parishes in the area and hoped to raise this query.

9. Planning

Members received the minutes of the Planning meeting held on 12th May 2020 and resolved to accept the minutes. Application S/03/704 land opposite Derry Cottages, Millthrop, Sedbergh full planning permission for erection of 8 No dwellings, associated accesses, parking and landscaping had been referred to Full Council for consideration. Members noted that this development was anticipated for open market provision, however, included a commuted sum payable for affordable provision. Members were not clear, however, whether these funds would only be available for use in a specific area. Cllr Arnold was asked to clarify with YDNPA for further consideration. Other points raised, related to drainage and lack of footway into Sedbergh. Cllr McPherson did not participate in discussions.

10. Finance

Members received and adopted the minutes of the Finance meeting held on 5th May 2020 and resolved to authorise the list of payments (attached). In addition, the following payments were agreed £177.05 (April Eon), urgent tree repair works £384.00, Waterplus (surface water charges) Loftus Hill £1844.53 and Joss Lane £3858.08, finally, annual Insurance policy £1306.67. It was additionally noted that Members will review the Budget in the coming months, reflecting reduced income at the car parks. Following the Internal Audit, the Annual Audit was also considered.

- i) Annual Audit – Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020 Members resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement and the Chair and the Clerk will sign as appropriate.
- ii) The Annual Accounting statement was also agreed and approved by Members and will be signed as appropriate.

11. Grants

Sedbergh in Bloom – The Clerk will liaise with members of Sedbergh in Bloom to confirm their current requirements following changes in circumstances due to the coronavirus and report back to the June meeting.

12. Amenities Committee

The Amenities Committee had not met – though Members were able to confirm that work had been undertaken on the football field in accordance with usual maintenance provision. Members also spoke about the ongoing closure of the playground, toilets and car parks. It was noted that playgrounds were to remain closed at this time, in line with current guidance, and that further clarification was required in regard to opening the car parks and public toilets. It was noted that members were in favour of re-opening the toilets and reintroducing charging on the car parks as soon as practical. The Chair and the Clerk will continue to pursue up to date information and implement appropriate measures (risk assessment/signage etc), in liaison with Members, prior to reopening.

13. Update on Projects

It was noted that all projects are currently on hold and will be reconsidered, as appropriate, in the future.

14. Queen's Garden

Members have not met.

15. Wednesday Market

Members received Cllr Bromley's paper (attached) and were pleased with how the market was being received, with strict queuing and social distancing measures in place. Thanks, were expressed to Cllr Bromley and Cowperthwaite and to the Parish Handyman for their attendance/supervision at the markets.

16. Correspondence

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

- i) Request for Members to consider supporting the sum of £250 as a contribution to paint required for railings at St Andrew's Church. It was understood that volunteers were completing the works and Members wished to express their thanks for their generosity.
- ii) Sedbergh Tennis Club – Members considered the request from the Club to reopen the courts following the new guidance effective from 13th May 2020. Members resolved to approve the request, noting that a risk assessment had been completed and appropriate signage erected.
- iii) YDNPA – Dark Skies Reserve – Members noted the previous request from YDNPA to support their Dark Skies Reserve status and resolved to support the application.
- iv) Cumbria Highways – Bollard request for Main Street, during recent repairs to the pavement at Main Street (close to the Information Centre) CCC Highways received a request from a member of the public for them to consider bollards on the pavement to prevent parking in this area. Members discussed the request, however, thought that it was not an appropriate use of monies at this time. Members did, however, consider that a planter may be introduced as a more permanent structure on the corner of Main Street and Joss Lane in the future. The Clerk will liaise with CCC and report further in due course.
- v) Cumbria Highways – Members noted that traffic lights were still being considered at Lincoln's Inn Bridge and, therefore, confirmed their position again (previously notified in July 2019) that they were, with the exception of one, strongly opposed to the notion of introducing traffic lights on the bridge.
- vi) Sedbergh People's Hall – Members noted the paper recently circulated by the People's Hall, and their ongoing hope to commence use of the hall again, when appropriate to do so.
- vii) Gedye & Sons, Solicitors – Members noted that Sedbergh Parish Council had been named as a beneficiary in a Will from a former resident. Further details will be known in due course.

18. Date and Time of next meeting – normal monthly meeting on Thursday 11th June 2020 at 7.30pm – confirmation of meeting (likely to be held virtually) will be issued in due course.