

Minutes of the Meeting of Sedbergh Parish Council Finance Committee

Held online @ 5.00pm Monday 6th July 2020

Present:

Cllrs Lancaster, Capstick, McPherson, Brooks and the Clerk, Miss Hassam

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Declaration of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Monday 8th June 2020

The minutes were received and agreed and confirmed by the Chair – Cllr Lancaster (signing of the minutes will be processed when reasonable).

4. Urgent Business

Playground at Howgill Lane – reopened on Saturday 4th July 2020 in line with current guidance. The Clerk is currently liaising with SLDC over some low-level advisory signage in town, including at the car parks, toilets, picnic sites and the playground. Members also wished to acknowledge the reopening of Millthorpe Bridge, extending thanks to the contractors for the quality of the repair and the speed in which the works were completed.

5. Coronavirus – Impact on Income/Budget 2020/2021

The Clerk advised Members that SLDC were hoping to update further in respect of any funds/grants that may be available to Parish Councils to assist with reduced income from the closure of the car parks during April/May/June. Members will continue to consider potential budget amendments, however, were also mindful that free reserves were available at this extraordinary time. The views of all members would be heard at full council and appropriate amended budget proposals would be presented to the August meetings.

6. Financial Summary and Bank Reconciliation

The Financial Summary for June had been circulated to Members and payments were recommended (attached) for approval at Full Council, in addition, invoices had been received for parish lighting (two months) £360.00, parking permits £201.60 and amenities £33.24. The Bank Reconciliation for June was also checked and found to be correct (noting that one cheque remained outstanding from the previous financial year) and Cllrs Brooks and Capstick will confirm by email. Signatures will be obtained as and when appropriate in the future. The Chair and the Clerk will sign cheques following the Full Council online meeting on 9th July 2020.

7. Income and Expenditure 2020-2021

The Income and Expenditure report for 2020/2021 was circulated for information. Cllrs Lancaster and McPherson were also able to confirm they had recently met with Sedbergh School in relation to the outstanding lease renewal at Loftus Hill car park. Members noted that the clause relating to 'exclusive use on any day' would now be capped to 'three' days per annum in addition to the previously named days, such as Wilson Run, Speech day etc. Whilst finalising this issue, it was also agreed that the Western Dales Bus could park their second minibus at the car park. Finally, the matter of Electric Vehicle charging points was progressed and Cllr McPherson will liaise further with Sedbergh School and report further at a future meeting. It was also noted that www.chargemystreet.co.uk were looking at capacity in Sedbergh, and this would be looked at further in due course.

8. Grant Applications

There were no grant applications received in June.

9. Sedbergh Economic Partnership

Members discussed the Sedbergh Economic Partnership meeting attended by Cllr McPherson and the Clerk. It was noted that Sedbergh School had recently engaged a consultant to work on various initiatives in the town, including housing needs and it was noted that the draft reports were well received. It was understood that final reports and an action plan were being completed and would be discussed further at a later date. It was agreed that when future Agendas were available for the SEP, Cllrs Lancaster/McPherson and the Clerk would discuss who would attend the meeting on behalf of Sedbergh Parish Council, acknowledging the elected position that the Council holds within the town. Therefore, allowing a strong voice on behalf of the residents in Sedbergh Parish area when discussing economic growth for the future.

10. Date of next meeting – Monday 10th August 2020 at 5pm. Meeting to be confirmed.

There were ongoing thoughts to virtual meetings, and the possibility of returning to mixed (physical and virtual) meetings potentially commencing in September. However, appropriate guidance/regulation would be adhered to at all times and updates would be circulated in due course.