

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 13th August 2020

Present: Councillors Lancaster, Capstick, Welti, Brooks, McPherson, Sedgwick, and Arnold

Part I

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cowperthwaite, Saunders, Bromley and Longlands 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

Representation was made by the Sedbergh People's Hall Committee in respect of the shared flower beds at the hall. Members noted comments in respect of maintenance being required and the matter will be considered, by the Amenities Committee, at a future meeting.

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

Cllr Welti confirmed that the Covid Support Group was winding down on 31 August 2020. This followed minimal requests for support in recent weeks. The Food Cupboards will also cease at that time. Posters had been displayed on the food cupboards, advising how to request help via official referral procedures. This would include access to the Food Bank in Kendal. The Hardship Fund, via Sedbergh United Charities, also remains in place for individual requests for financial help and support. Members also considered the recent feedback request, from SLDC, in regard to 20mph zone for the Main Street/Finkle Street. This was in response to social distancing measures (ie slowing traffic while pedestrians may be using the road). Members discussed the request, and resolved that a 20mph zone this was not required in Sedbergh. It was noted that Members thought road users were already mindful of the potential for pedestrians on the road due to the nature of the narrow streets and pavements. The Clerk was requested to notify CCC/SLDC that they oppose the 20mph proposal.

- i) **Consider ongoing arrangements for Council meetings (virtual/face to face).**
Members discussed the pros and cons for returning to face to face meetings versus continuing with virtual meetings. After detailed discussion (with representation from Sedbergh People's Hall to explain their practices/safety measures) and an update on face coverings in community buildings, Members resolved to continue with virtual meetings 4/3. This position will be monitored for future meetings, being mindful of any changes in guidance/regulation.

6. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council 9th July 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2020 were adopted and will be signed by the Chairman, Cllr Lancaster, when reasonable.

7. Matters noted from the Minutes of 9th July 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. Cllr Lancaster briefly discussed the document for Local Government Reorganisation Cumbria, along with communication from Cumbria Association for Local Council (CALC) in response.

9. Planning

The Planning Committee had met on Wednesday 5th August 2020. Members noted that the recent development application for houses at Millthrop (opposite Derry Cottage) had been refused. It was also noted that an application for a reduced number of units, at the Former URC, had now been received following the previous withdrawal of the application. There were no other significant matters to report. The Chair (Cllr Arnold) advised Members of the Planning Committee that a meeting would be convened prior to the next scheduled date, due to timings on current applications.

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Local Plan 2023-2040 Consultation No2 – Members noted that Parish Council's did not appear to be on the official consultee list. The Clerk has asked YDNPA for confirmation. Members will discuss the Local Plan at their next meeting, the closing date for comment being 25th September 2020.

10. Finance

Members received and adopted the minutes of the Finance meeting held on 10th August 2020 and resolved to authorise the list of payments (attached), those noted in the minutes and, in addition, the following later payments were authorised. £110.00 car park, £182.95 parish lighting and £208.51 Main Street toilet supplies (auto hand sanitiser units etc). The External Audit was complete and Section 1 and 2 information was noted to be in accordance with proper practices. The Notice of conclusion of audit would now be published, along with Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

11. Grants

There were no grant applications this month.

12. Amenities Committee

Members received the minutes of the Amenities meeting held on 5th July 2020. In addition, Members discussed the recent correspondence received from Sedbergh and Dent United Football Club and the letter from Cllr Longlands (attached) in regard to pitch improvements. The Chair advised that he would draft a response (along with Cllrs McPherson, Brooks and the Clerk), for circulation to Members, and that a meeting would be requested to discuss matters raised and progress future provision. It was resolved that discussion would be around current use by the newly merged Club, ongoing donation toward costs for maintenance, thoughts on improvements, recognition of the gratis work completed in recent years etc and recognition that a formal agreement may be required for future clarity, whilst remembering that the playing field is not reserved just for use by the football club.

13. Sedbergh Economic Partnership – update and action plan

No further update (see Item 5 in regard to signage/20 mph zone)

14. Update on Projects

Maryfell Street sign, an update had just been received from CCC and will be discussed further at a future meeting. In addition, at Maryfell, the Clerk was able to confirm that SLDC hope to progress the consultation on the Public Space Protection Order at the playpark/paddock. This was welcomed by Members, as there had been a recent increase of dog fouling reported in the area – causing concern to local residents, notably in a children's play area/green space. The Clerk was additionally asked to raise concerns with SLDC Enforcement and the local PCSO. Cllr Arnold was able to update Members in respect of Jubilee Fountain, following delays through Covid. The local contractor is now hoping to meet with UU to potentially progress and restore drinking water.

However, if/when commissioned – any use would now be delayed for Health and Safety requirements relating to Covid19. Joss Lane car park – no update, Loftus Hill car park (see Item 16). No updates available in regard to B4RN routes. Tennis Club, reports of weeds at the informal parking area and the Clerk was requested to ask the Handyman to consider appropriate spraying in due course.

15. Queen’s Garden

Committee Members had met at the Garden in July (informal notes attached). Members discussed the concern over the stone steps, leading up to the monument (including the informal observations from a stone mason) and discussed what measures could be taken to slow further deterioration.

Whilst the QG Committee had hoped that some consideration could be given to some major repairs, Members were also mindful that there are other projects on hold at this time due to significantly reduced income this year. Any large ongoing and/or future project, such as this suggestion, could only be considered and prioritised alongside others. As an interim measure, Members discussed the potential to have the steps cleaned and sprayed (to prevent further moss/algae etc) and Members resolved to progress this route in the first instance. Members noted thanks to Able Memorials for their informal observations.

16. Loftus Hill car park

Members discussed the ongoing lease proposal (see Finance Committee Meeting) and will await updates from The Clerk following liaison with the Solicitors and Sedbergh School.

17. Correspondence

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

- i) Running event planned in October – Members noted the fell running event due to take place, starting at the People’s Hall.
- ii) Garsdale Parish Council – correspondence received in regard to concern over motorbikes along the route from Hawes/Garsdale/Sedbergh/Kirkby Lonsdale and desire to set up a Task Group – Cllr Lancaster will represent SPC.
- iii) Sedbergh CIC – Parking permit sales will be contactless/card payments this year and, therefore, a slightly reduced sum will be received for their sale via the Information Centre. It was also noted, that the CIC had now taken over responsibility for the Sedbergh.org.uk website that currently holds the Parish Council pages.
- iv) B4RN – Members noted the requirement for B4RN to set up their own Get Mapping account and remove data from the Parish Council account.
- v) Cllr Capstick raised concerns over parking at Cross Keys and asked for it to be included on the Agenda in September.

18. Date and Time of next meeting – normal monthly meeting on Thursday 10th September 2020 at 7.30pm – via Zoom.

Part II

It was resolved and agreed that the public should be excluded from the meeting for reason of the confidential nature of the financial information to be discussed. The Clerk confirmed that there were no Member of the Public present at the virtual meeting.

19. Contractor Review

Members received the minutes and recommendation of the Finance Committee meeting (10th August 2020) and resolved to adopt the 7.53% per hour increase for the ticket machine/car park contractor.