

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 8th October 2020

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

Part I

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Arnold 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

It was noted that the Covid Support Group had ceased (31 August 2020). Cllr Welti reported that no calls had been made to the help phone line (as he continues to monitor), the Facebook page was staying available for view on Social Media but no contact had been made recently. Members were mindful of potential stricter restrictions in the coming weeks and Members resolved delegated authority to the Chair and Cllr Welti (with Clerk support) to take any appropriate emergency actions if required. Members were also reminded of the Hardship Fund available via Sedbergh United Charities.

6. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council 10th September 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2020 were adopted and will be signed by the Chairman, Cllr Lancaster, when reasonable.

7. Matters noted from the Minutes of 10th September 2020

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

8. Report from District/County Council

County Cllr Cotton gave apologies. Cllr Lancaster was able to give a brief update on progress being made in respect of a potential Unitary Authority (after all areas had recently voted to progress the notion), highlighting particularly any future impact on Parish Councils. Also noting the likely potential changes to future Parliamentary boundaries.

9. Planning

The Planning Committee had not met since their September meeting. It was noted however that formal comments in respect of S/03/696A 17 New Street - Full planning permission for siting of two mobile camping huts and one tent for short term self-catering holiday accommodation, had now been submitted (objection attached). It was further noted that the Clerk had been advised that plans were being amended and will, therefore, check directly with YDNPA to ensure any updated plans come to Sedbergh Parish Council for further comment where appropriate.

- i) **Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Local Plan 2023-2040 Consultation No2** – there was no update from Cllr Arnold.

10. Finance

Members received and resolved to adopt the minutes of the Finance meeting held on 5th October 2020 and resolved to authorise the list of payments also (attached). The Chair also wished to note thanks to the Clerk in respect of Item 5, securing a Discretionary Grant from SLDC for the sum of £10,000.

11. Grants

There have been no grant applications in September

12. Amenities Committee

Members had not met since their last meeting on Wednesday 2nd September 2020. The next scheduled meeting is 4th November 2020.

13. Sedbergh and Dent Football Club

Members noted the attached notes from the meeting held 14th September 2020, confirming that the point of contact for Sedbergh Parish Council would be the Chair of Amenities (currently Cllr Brooks) with Cllr Longlands and the Clerk copied for reference in the future. It was noted that 10tn of sand had recently been spread, and a further 10tn was due to be spread in the coming weeks – with a view to continuing with the outstanding works over the coming 12/18 months.

14. Update on Projects

Maryfell Street sign, an update had just been received from South Lakes Housing and will be discussed further at a future meeting. It was hoped the Let's Chat bench at Maryfell, could also be progressed with South Lakes Housing and an update is awaited.

Electric Vehicle Charging points at Loftus Hill were discussed following further information received from Sedbergh School, Cllr McPherson was asked to clarify one or two points in relation to electricity costs incurred during the night when the School would have sole use of the charging points and that authority was delegated to the Chair (Cllr Lancaster) to progress matters following information obtained by Cllr McPherson. Cllr McPherson was also able to confirm that a further meeting with www.ChargeMyStreet.co.uk was scheduled (with Cllr Longlands) to discuss what options may be available for additional charge points (and their viability) at Joss Lane and/or the People's Hall car park in the future.

Festive lights – Standing Orders were suspended given the timescales involved for ordering the appropriate lighting for Sedbergh in December. Members resolved to approve the purchase of Christmas lights up to the value of £1,500. These would be purchased and owned by Sedbergh Parish Council and would be the infrastructure of future festive lighting for the town. The Clerk was asked to advise Sedbergh Chamber of Trade, so that they may pursue additional funding for labour costs involved in erecting the lights etc. Members further noted that it was regrettable that a Late-Night Opening event could not be supported this year, but hoped that the lights would at least be an attractive addition to the town during the festive season.

Millthrop – former BT phonebox, Correspondence had been received from a resident at Millthrop in regard to potential refurbishment. The Clerk was asked to respond directly, advising that when they had finalized their plans, they would be welcome to submit to SPC for confirmation and, perhaps, the addition of a modest sum of money to support a project.

There were no updates available for Jubilee Fountain or B4RN routes.

15. Queen's Garden

Members had not met; however, it was noted that a section of wall (west boundary of Queen's Drive) required attention. Cllr Capstick had been to take an initial look and Members resolved that a dry stone waller should be approached with a view to repair as soon as practicable. Further details/information would be reported at a future meeting.

16. Highways Matters

Update on Safer Roads project A684 – Members noted that further items of correspondence had been received in respect of plans for the project and that some had additionally been sent to Tim Farron MP, notably in regard to the additional street lighting proposed at Toll Bar/Station Road and the narrowing close to Queen’s Garden on Station Road. Members confirmed their previous comments in respect of the proposed street lighting, believing that it will help to enhance the idea that vehicles are approaching the town and will give further security to pedestrians walking to Toll Bar. Whilst the latter correspondence had also highlighted potential future problems if housing was developed opposite the petrol station – Members were confident that if the land was developed for housing that Highways would be consulted in respect of any additional safety measures required in the area. The Clerk was asked to write to the Safer Roads project team to support any additional measures that could be put in place at Station Road to encourage vehicles to slow down – either improved signage or rumble strips, for example, whilst also confirming that Members actively do not support the proposed footway at New Bridge (see 10th September 2020 Full Council minutes – Item 16ii). Also incorporating the concern for the level of vehicles parking on Station Road (close to Highfield Road) and vehicles parking close to Settlebeck/Castlegarth junctions along the A684 route. Additionally, Cllr Sedgwick wished to highlight the Council’s thanks to the whole community, for voicing their concerns previously in respect of the traffic lights proposed at Lincoln’s Inn Bridge – which had now been revoked by CCC Highways.

Finally, Members noted that police bollards had been placed opposite Cross Keys at Cautley Spout to discourage dangerous parking, with thanks expressed to the PCSO’s.

17. Correspondence

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

- i) Footpath closure, Sedbergh School. Members noted the continued request for members of the public to refrain from using the footpath between the groundsman’s hut and Busk Lane and the Clerk was asked to follow up a response from Sedbergh School.
- ii) Royal British Legion – Remembrance Sunday – Members noted plans by the Royal British Legion to hold a small service (outside) at the cenotaph on Sunday 8th November 2020. Notices would be erected by the RBL nearer the time with specific guidelines (acknowledging any restrictions due to Covid19 at the time) and a Risk Assessment was being completed and submitted to Cumbria Police for information.
- iii) Row Lane – Members noted a report (attached) in respect of ongoing improvements at Row Lane (including an urgent weight restriction on the bridge at Farfield Cottages, which would eventually help solve the problem of vehicles trying to use the lane as a short cut. It was understood that the process was lengthy and that amended Traffic Regulation Orders would be available, over the coming months, for reference.
- iv) Parish Online – B4RN, the Clerk noted that progress was awaited from B4RN in respect of removal of their data from the Parish Online account.

18. Date and Time of next meeting – normal monthly meeting on Thursday 12th November 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 noted the resignation of the car park contractor (Finance Minutes 5th October 2020 - Item 11). Thanks, were expressed to Cllr Brooks, who had advised that she would carry out these duties for the foreseeable future, with the support of Cllr Capstick and the Clerk.