

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 10th September 2020

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

Part I

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Saunders, Bromley, Welti and 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

Representation was made from Stephenson and Halliday (Planning & Landscape Services), Kendal in connection with the former Baliol School site (attached), which had now remained empty for eight years. Members noted that various options that had been considered by the current owners, whilst being mindful of realistic and desirable options for the future. Previously, hotel chains/youth hostel/assisted care and residential care options had all been explored, however, it was noted that the existing building (Baliol) did make the area more problematic for development. Further feedback would now be obtained from the local community about potential/future uses and who/what may be attracted onto the site to compliment Sedbergh.

Representation was also made by the Chairman of Sedbergh Economic Partnership in connection with the Marketing Project donation request (Item 11i) for Sedbergh (attached). The Marketing Consultant had now been working for Sedbergh (on a one day a month basis) since January 2020 and several national newspaper articles had been evidenced. Various contributors were noted to the project, including Sedbergh Community Trust, Sedbergh CIC (Information Centre), Farfield Mill, The Black Bull, Sedbergh School and South Lakeland District Council. Cllr McPherson asked if there was any physical evidence to measure the role, however, it was agreed that largely this was to be anecdotal.

Members thanks both speakers for their time and their update to Sedbergh Parish Council.

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

It was noted that the Covid Support Group had now ceased (31 August 2020) though Cllr Welti will still be monitoring the phonenumber from time to time to catch anyone that is unaware. It was also noted that if there was another lockdown/local lockdown – it was envisaged that help would be sought again from the many volunteers that rallied during the original crisis. The new Rule of Six was also noted by Members, due to come into effect on 14th September 2020.

6. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council 13th August 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th August 2020 were adopted and will be signed by the Chairman, Cllr Lancaster, when reasonable.

7. Matters noted from the Minutes of 13th August 2020

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

8. Report from District/County Council

County Cllr Cotton had attended for Item 16 Highways, taken as first substantive item on the Agenda. District Cllrs Pye and Mitchell gave their apologies.

9. Planning

The Planning Committee had met on Wednesday 2nd September 2020. In the absence of Cllr Arnold, further information was not available for Members. However, Members were aware of recent correspondence in regard to 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. Members had received concerns that at least one tent (tepee/bell tent) had already been visible on site for some weeks. Members were also concerned in respect of the location being highlighted within a flood risk area – as identified on Cumbria County Council's report in 2016/2017, following Storm Desmond 5-6 December 2015. Members wished to reflect back to the Planning Committee that they were minded to regard this as an application that should be objected to in view of the public concerns that have been expressed, as well as possible problems which might arise with the water levels in the area of the application site. (Cllr McPherson did not vote or take part in discussion)

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Local Plan 2023-2040 Consultation No2 –. Members noted the closing day for comment, 25th September and the Clerk was asked to liaise with Cllr Arnold over whether an extension from YDNPA was required, until after the next meeting – 8th October 2020.

10. Finance

Members received and adopted the minutes of the Finance meeting held on 7th September 2020 and resolved to authorise the list of payments (attached).

11. Grants

i) Sedbergh Economic Partnership – Marketing project donation – following the previous donation request and earlier presentation by Sedbergh Economic Partnership, it was resolved to make a donation of £500 toward to the Marketing project. Members wished it to be noted that it seemed in recent articles that a handful of establishments within the town were concentrated on. Whilst it was recognised that this could have a 'knock on affect' to other business – Members were mindful that marketing should be for the benefit of the whole parish. Including farming diversification schemes/accommodation throughout the area and incorporate all business throughout Sedbergh and the local community.

12. Amenities Committee

Members had met on Wednesday 2nd September 2020; however, no minutes were available and a short verbal report was noted as follows. Overhanging branches all along Station Road, from The Spar to Palmer's Hill, signs for the warning cones placed to reserve parking on Market days, proposals to seek a white lining machine for Joss Lane car park, wet pour at the playing field (Howgill lane), reduction of bus spaces at Joss Lane car park, consideration of glass recycling at the Spar site and the continued issues at Row Lane. Various matters in regard to Highways were additionally raised, whereby the Clerk asked if photographs were available, so that matters could be reported directly online via the CCC Highways HIMS portal.

13. Sedbergh and Dent Football Club

Members were advised that a meeting was planned, with Members of the Football Club on Monday 14th September 2020. (Cllr Lancaster, McPherson, Brooks, Longlands and the Clerk).

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. The Clerk was asked to mention that some of the wooden posts on the grassed area were rotten/broken and causing a potential trip hazard.

Electric Vehicle Charging points at Loftus Hill were discussed following information received from Sedbergh School, namely two proposed charging points at the car park. Cllr McPherson was able to update members with progress, including estimated costs. Members resolved to contribute 50% toward the cost of installation (approx. £1500, after VAT) subject to clarification of minor points – including the pay back to Sedbergh Parish Council of the income received from future vehicle charging. Members hoped that having the facility of electric vehicle charging, would be a benefit for the whole town. Additionally, Cllr McPherson had recently spoken to a representative of www.ChargeMyStreet.co.uk. And Members resolved that a free site survey be carried out at Joss Lane car park and the People's Hall for potential other sites for electric vehicle charging in Sedbergh. There were no updates available for Jubilee Fountain or B4RN routes.

15. Queen's Garden

Members had not met, however, were able to confirm that the Parish Handyman had now fitted a new closing mechanism to the exit gate at Station Road. An update was awaited from Cllr Arnold in regard to cleaning the stone steps. It was noted that Cllr Sedgwick also suggested that more modest repairs to the walls of the steps might be sufficient at the present time, rather than replacing all the steps.

16. Highways Matters

i) To consider a letter to Highways in respect of the parking at Cross Keys/Cautley Spout

Members were able to raise this directly with Cllr Nick Cotton, who will feed back in due course.

ii) Safer Roads Project A684 (It had been resolved that the majority of this item was taken as the first substantive item at the beginning of the meeting) with Cllr Nick Cotton present and District Councillor Pat Bell. Recently, the Parish Council had received the press release for the project (attached) which included the introduction of traffic lights at Lincoln's Inn Bridge, Sedbergh. Members had been extremely concerned to read this, as had strongly opposed the proposal in July 2019 (and again in May 2020). Following much intervention by Parish, District and County Council and strong opposition locally – it had subsequently been noted (9th September) that CCC Highways would no longer be progressing with this part of the scheme. Members were able to discuss this directly with County Cllr Nick Cotton, highlighting other potential schemes that could be considered, including perhaps a weather station/web cam at the Black Horse (Scotch Jeans). Potential flooding risk areas along the route were also mentioned and the possibility of slowing traffic in Garsdale and additional signage at Junction 37 of the M6 motorway.

Members later discussed other elements of the scheme that had been highlighted locally, which included the proposed street lighting at Toll Bar and a 'footway' at New Bridge. Members discussed the two proposals and whilst resolving that street lighting to assist pedestrians at Toll Bar and warn road users that they were approaching the town was favourable, the proposed footway at New Bridge was considered unnecessary and opposed by the council.

17. Correspondence

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

- i) Temporary footpath closure, Sedbergh School. Members noted the requirement for the temporary close, which was complete understandable at this time. Sedbergh School anticipated being able to open the footpath again in the near future, once the school exited their Red Alert stage of their Covid Secure procedures. This followed the recent return to school by their pupils.
- ii) Volunteer assistance, Sedbergh School. Members discussed the potential for Sedbergh School to include the painting of the church railings, at Finkle Street, as a future project. Sedbergh Parish Council had previously committed to purchasing the paint following a proposal via St Andrew's Church. Members agreed to proceed with the purchase of the paint and await further update from Sedbergh School. Perhaps incorporating the project for 2021.
- iii) A resident had asked for a reduced parking permit this year, following the 'free parking' element earlier this year due to Covid. Members did not feel it appropriate to reduce the resident annual parking permit, as it was already a very low fee.

- iv) District Councillor Suzie Pye had asked for feedback in respect of potential sand bag storage in the Sedbergh area, however, Members were not aware of anywhere these could be safely stored, also noting that sandbags often deteriorate quickly and are often not fit for purpose when needed.

18. Date and Time of next meeting – normal monthly meeting on Thursday 8th October 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 that further correspondence had been received in regard to the recent offer. However, Members confirmed their original increase (7.53%), was a fair rate.