

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the monthly Meeting of the Parish Council of Sedbergh held virtually via Zoom at 7.00 pm on Thursday 12th November 2020

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Saunders and accepted by the meeting.

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 4 – land allocated for development off Station Road - Cllr McPherson

4. Public Participation – Presentation from Broadacres Housing Association/South Lakes Housing in respect of land allocated for development off Station Road. A collaborative presentation was made by the Housing Associations, outlining proposals for development of the allocated site off Station Road. A public consultation will launch on 20th November 2020, with a 14-day response period. Information will be circulated via the Westmorland Gazette, the Lookaround and appropriate social media as, unfortunately, face to face consultations are not possible under the current Covid restrictions. The development is for 50 units, with mixed open sale housing, along with low cost/shared ownership/affordable rent and social housing. Further details of the properties/development, which will include bungalows, 2/3/4/5 bed dwellings a footpath and green area, will be released at consultation. There were four Members of the public present, along with the two guest speakers. Various points were raised, including the junction of the site off the A684, the water course that runs to the west of the site, resale of shared ownership properties, criteria for eligibility and, finally, the welcoming of potential affordable family housing in Sedbergh by one of the members of the public.

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

It was noted that the Covid Support Group had reopened the telephone support line to coincide with the new Lockdown (2nd November 2020). Cllr Welti reported that few calls had been received so far, but that volunteers would continue to support the phone line at this time.

6. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council 8th October 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2020 were adopted and will be signed by the Chairman, Cllr Lancaster, when reasonable.

7. Matters noted from the Minutes of 8th October 2020

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

8. Report from District/County Council

County Cllr Cotton and District Cllr Mitchell gave apologies. District Cllr Pye will present some information on the Poverty Emergency recently declared by SLDC at the meeting in December.

9. To receive an update/appraisal on the proposed Local Government Reorganisation and consider the Parish Council's position

District Cllrs Pye and Lancaster gave an overview of the current bids and the three unitary areas being considered. Members felt that it was too early to commit to a specific bid at this time and additionally wanted to explore what neighbouring parishes thoughts were in regard to the feasibility of the three parishes exploring options that might include reverting to Yorkshire.

Cllr Lancaster will write to peers in neighbouring parishes (Dent and Garsdale) and report further at the December meeting and request feedback from Yorkshire CC in respect of the proposal. If there is merit in pursuing this option further, an article would be written for the Lookaround/Social Media for feedback.

10. Planning

The Planning Committee had not met, the Clerk was asked to schedule a meeting for Tuesday 17th November 2020 at 7.00pm to discuss current applications.

11. Finance

Members received the minutes from the meeting held on Monday 9th November 2020 and resolved to adopt, also resolving to approve the list of payments (attached) along with those included in the minutes. **i) Budget requests for 2021/2022.** Cllr Arnold asked the Clerk for clarification on the annual sum being added to the playground sinking fund for the December meeting. Members unanimously resolved that there be no increase for the Precept in 2021/2022.

12. Grants

There have been no grant applications in October 2020.

13. Amenities Committee

Members received the minutes of the Amenities committee held on 4th November 2020 and resolved to adopt them.

14. Update on Projects

Maryfell Street sign, an update is awaited from South Lakes Housing.

Electric Vehicle Charging points, an update is awaited from Sedbergh School in regard to the EV charging points proposed at Loftus Hill. Cllrs McPherson and Longlands had met further with www.ChargeMyStreet.co.uk and an update was awaited in regard to viability of potential electric vehicle charging sites being explored at the People's Hall car park and Joss Lane car park.

Festive lights – Members were advised that the contractor is proceeding with the festoon lighting and the infrastructure required to erect. Members agreed that the lights should be erected as soon as practical.

Joss Lane car park – no progress to report in regard to resurfacing at this time.

Loftus Hill car park – an update is awaited from the Solicitors in regard to the new lease proposal.

Jubilee Fountain – an update is awaited in regard to proposals to bring water back to the fountain, inevitably delayed due to Covid restrictions/availability of United Utilities.

B4RN, there were no updates available from B4RN on the sites at the Tennis Courts/The People's Hall or Queen's Garden.

15. Queen's Garden

Members received the notes from the recent meeting of the Queen's Garden subcommittee and resolved to accept them. Ongoing plans for the introduction of trees to assist in the future creation of an Arboretum were noted, with ongoing discussion with YDNPA trees officer and SLDC. Cllr Capstick had successfully secured a quote for the urgent wall repair required on the western boundary and the contractor would be instructed to begin. Members were advised to be mindful that the wall could suffer a further collapse due to its current state and that further remedial works may be additionally required. Members noted that Cllr Arnold was liaising with a contractor in regard to cleaning the stone steps and further resolved to erect 'caution, slippery surface' signs in the interim. The Clerk was instructed to proceed with the signs as soon as practicable, additionally requesting signs to ask people not to walk on newly planted areas.

16. Highways Matters

Update on Safer Roads project A684 – Members noted that the Clerk was continuing to pursue County Cllr Cotton in regard to safety improvements at Long Lane (zebra crossing) and CCC were investigating potential improvements (including the notion of a Toucan crossing). Members acknowledged feedback received in respect of the urgent newly erected weight limit signs at the bridge along Row Lane. It was noted that there is an ongoing strategy by CCC Highways to reduce/stop traffic using this narrow lane, in error, particularly beyond the cottages when attempting to follow satellite navigation from the A683 to the A684. The Clerk was also asked to contact CCC Highways, again, in regard to the missing Dowbiggin sign off the A683. Members further noted that CCC were attending Howgill Lane (close to Croasdale Beck) to assess the significant corrosion being caused to the lane due to water damage in that area.

17. Correspondence

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

- i)** The Folly – following concern raised for the surface at The Folly, off Main Street – the clerk confirmed that YDNPA had advised that this route does not carry an official footpath (as per the definitive map), likewise CCC confirmed that it did not form part of the highway and was likely unadopted land, essentially, the cut through from Main Street to Back lane had evolved over time and there was no clear line of responsibility. Unfortunately, there is nothing further the Parish Council can do.
- ii)** Dent Parish Council – Members discussed the proposal to work collaboratively with Dent PC in regard to a housing needs survey. The Clerk was asked to confirm any potential time scales. If SPC were to consider this further, they would have to engage with the contents of any proposed survey and write questions accordingly. For example, proposed questions/items would have to be tailored to each town. If it was not feasible to work on one survey, Sedbergh PC could consider its own survey, which would potentially dovetail into information gathered by Dent PC.
- iii)** Birks Lane – Members noted correspondence in regard to concern for a large container being stored in a private field. Cllr McPherson advised that the resident would need to take the matter up directly with YDNPA as it was not within the remit of the Parish Council.

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