

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 December 2020

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

Part I

1. Apologies

There were no apologies, all Members present.

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 11i – Cllr Sedgwick. Planning

Item 14i – Cllr Longlands. Charge My Street, electric vehicle charging points at People’s Hall car park, Cllr Longlands. A member of the public had queried an interest at this item as Cllr Longlands is Chairman of the People’s Hall Committee. However, following information from the Chair in respect of the Localism Act 2011, Members resolved that there was not a declarable financial benefit/interest and that he should remain for the item.

4. Public Participation

A short presentation from a representative of B4RN was given to Members, including confirmation of their successful Government Gigabit bid. Members also noted that there were some changes into the way B4RN would be installed in the future, notably, that connections would be made with ducting under pavements, the scheme being called ‘safeplace’, further information will follow in 2021. Members also heard a request from a member of the public (letters at correspondence) in relation to the Broadacres proposed housing development at Station Road. This included thoughts on road safety if the development progressed, in particular, in respect of a potential roundabout at the junction of A683/A684 to assist with traffic congestion/speed.

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

Cllr Welti noted that the Covid Support Group telephone line had been open throughout Lockdown 2.0. The level of calls had been low during this lockdown period and the phone line was winding down again. However, if there were any significant changes to restrictions in the coming weeks/months, this would be reviewed again.

6. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council 12th November 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2020 were adopted and will be signed by the Chairman, Cllr Lancaster, when reasonable.

7. Matters noted from the Minutes of 12th November 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 did not attend. Cllr Cotton had advised Members that he hoped to progress a small project, along the A684, with unallocated historic Local Area Partnership (LAP) monies. It was hoped that all parishes within the LAP would support this, which would include clearing/checking a significant number of drains along the A684, from the bottom of Blackhorse, travelling east toward Sedbergh. Cllr Lancaster raised a query from a member of the public in regard to flooding at Busk Lane.

It was understood that the major flooding area here (at the junction with Birks Lane) had been rectified, however, that some minor flooding was still evident close to the Hirst Centre. Observations had been that some drains did not appear to be ‘edged’ which was resulting in them becoming full and blocking easily. The Clerk was asked to raise this with CCC Highways. Also, at the junction with Birks, there appeared to be a BT connection box, protruding above ground level which was causing some safety issues. The Clerk was additionally asked to raise this with CCC Highways.

9. Casual Vacancy and Appointment to Committees

Members noted the resignation of Cllr Saunders, thanking her for her service to the Parish Council. Cllr Saunders will continue to be involved with the final stages of the Maryfell street sign design competition (along with Cllr Brooks), an initiative proposed by Cllr Saunders in 2019 and now nearing completion with South Lakes Housing. Cllr Saunders resignation left a vacancy on the Amenities Committee and it was resolved the Cllr Cowperthwaite be appointed.

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

The Clerk had circulated a general appraisal, from Cumbria Association of Local Council, to all Members. Further updates would be received in 2021, following the submission of bids to the Government for the four proposed Unitary authority areas.

Cllr Lancaster has not yet spoken further with peers in neighbouring parishes (Dent and Garsdale) in respect of proximity to Yorkshire (and any potential bids), though noted that Dent PC had met this earlier this week and Garsdale PC were due to meet soon.

11. Planning

The Planning Committee had met on Tuesday 17th November 2020, whilst no minutes were available, Members were advised that responses had all been ‘no comment’. In respect of the Broadacres/South Lakes Housing Consultation, the Chairman added (further to Item 4, Public Participation), that any potential Highways project at the site (including a roundabout), might assist with an ‘entry’ to Sedbergh from the west, ultimately slowing traffic as vehicles approach the town. However, this would be a matter for CCC Highways and the developers to consider. Cllr Bromley added that if any major highway project, such as a roundabout, were to be considered, it should be open to consultation. The Clerk was asked to respond to the initial consultation being run by Broadacres, advising that Members, at this early stage, were keen to highlight the general road safety concerns raised (vehicle and pedestrian) at this location, following feedback from the community generally, including thoughts to a roundabout. It was also minded to raise concerns in connection with the proposed ‘site’ more generally, noting that it was reported that the field had ‘sunk’ over the past 60/70 years. Observing that the field now dipped at its centre, highlighting that the site used to be almost level when used as the showfield for Sedbergh. Other than these two points, Sedbergh Parish Council wished to make no further comment until final plans are submitted to Yorkshire Dales National Park.

- i) Request from YDNPA to consider additional gateway at Lockbank (bridleway to the fell).
Members understood that an application for an additional gate, along the fell lane to Winder, had been made to YDNPA. Members were minded to support with no objections, provided that there was also consent from the neighbouring farm. (Cllr Sedgwick took no part in discussions)

12. Finance

Members received the minutes from the meeting held on Monday 7th December 2020 and resolved to adopt, also resolving to approve the list of payments (attached) along with a payment for £296.00 for signs recently completed for Queen’s Garden and the Market. **i) Budget requests for 2021/2022 and Precept.** The Clerk circulated the Budget (including revised sinking fund amount for the playpark). Members had resolved that there be no increase for the Precept in 2021/2022, and when the tax base figures were released from SLDC, later this month, final confirmation on amounts would be known in preparation for submission in January 2021.

13. Grants

There have been no grant applications in November 2020.

14. Amenities Committee

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

15. Update on Projects

Maryfell Street sign, Sedbergh Primary School had now completed the competition for the replacement street name plate and the entries will be shortlisted and sent to South Lakes Housing for final selection in 2021.

Electric Vehicle Charging points, Sedbergh School confirmed that electric for the EV points at LH car park (while in use by Sedbergh School) would be paid by them. There was no further update on progression at this time.

Festive lights – Members noted that the festoon lighting was now almost complete at Main Street. Members wished to thank the contractors for the work being carried out throughout the town, noting that the increased number of festive lights had been well received in the community and Members had read and heard many compliments.

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 (see also, Item 4)

16. Queen's Garden

Members received a verbal update in regard to the proposed tree planting project being progressed with YDNPA and SLDC. Special thanks were noted to the co-opted Members of the Queen's Garden Committee for completing an initial Management Plan, to support this proposal, for the future development and ongoing maintenance of the garden. There was no update on the wall repair on the western boundary, and an update from the contractor asked to clean the stone steps was awaited.

17. Highways Matters

Update on Safer Roads project A684 – Members noted that an update from the Project Leader had been received earlier that day, and would be forwarded to Members. Members resolved that the Clerk write to the project leader, highlighting the ongoing concern for the quality of signs recently erected at New Bridge (noting that several were damaged already). Also highlighting that the Parish Council had invested, in previous years, in good quality 'Sedbergh' signs that had included the Parish Council logo. Members noted that County Cllr Cotton continues to pursue any potential road safety improvements at Long Lane (zebra crossing) as noted at the November meeting. Cllr McPherson was also able to advise Members that he had attended a meeting in response to concerns raised by Garsdale Parish Council in recent months, in respect of the level of bikers (speed and noise) travelling along the A684. Cllr McPherson was able to confirm that the group had agreed that a stake holder focus group meeting should be convened in 2021, inviting Highways/Cumbria Police etc to see what measures/steps could be taken to help with the growing concern, by many, of the safety of the road. In particular on the 'traditional' Sunday when the road was heavily used by bikers traveling from Hawes to Kirkby Lonsdale.

18. Correspondence

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

- i) Dent Parish Council – Members had previously discussed the proposal to work collaboratively, with Dent PC, on a joint housing needs survey. Following a reply to Dent PC, an update was anticipated early in 2021.
- ii) Car boot spaces at Wednesday Market – Members understood there had been a request to hold a one off 'sale' at the Market. However, due to insurance implications and Public Liability, Members resolved that this was not feasible.
- iii) Sedbergh Medical Centre, Health Inequalities Project – Members noted that an initial meeting of potential stakeholders in Sedbergh was due to take place in December. Members resolved that Cllr Bromley would attend, where possible, on this occasion. Cllr Brooks will attend for SPC in the future.
- iv) Community Mobility Project – the Clerk noted that correspondence had been received from Act Cumbria and would liaise further with Cllr McPherson in respect of the community transport working group, however, it was noted that the Western Dales Bus had no capacity to assist with any surveys for additional transport needs at this time.

19. Date and Time of next meeting – normal monthly meeting on Thursday 14th January 2021 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 legal information to be discussed. The Clerk confirmed that there were no Member of the Public present at the virtual meeting

15. Update on Projects

- i) **ChargeMyStreet proposals at Joss Lane/People's Hall carpark for installation of 2 x electric vehicle charging points at People's Hall car park and 2 x charging points at Joss Lane car park.** Following recent meetings with www.ChargeMyStreet.co.uk Members were advised that electricity supply surveys had now been completed and that ChargeMyStreet (CMS) were able to confirm that the project at both locations could progress with no charges to Sedbergh Parish Council. A draft lease would be obtained for further reference and information in regard to charging options etc. In respect of the People's Hall (PH) car parking area, Members had been advised that the PH Committee had met recently and had advised that they do NOT want electric vehicle charging points at the car park at the PH. Members noted legal guidance received and resolved to have a further agenda Item at the January 2021 meeting. It was further resolved that the Clerk write an open letter to the PH Committee in the interim, advising further detail of the scheme, including the hopes to install EV charging at other locations in the town.