

## **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 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

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

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cowperthwaite and Bromley and accepted by the meeting. One Casual Vacancy.

#### **2. Requests for Dispensations**

There were no requests for dispensations.

#### **3. Declarations of Interest**

Item 11 – Cllr Sedgwick. Planning (Spar site)

Item 11 – Cllr McPherson (Spar and Broadacres)

#### **4. Public Participation**

There were no members of the Public present at the meeting.

#### **5. Coronavirus Covid 19 – update on relevant information, including any urgent matters following Lockdown announcement 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (including consideration of Wednesday Market)**

Cllr Welti confirmed that the Covid Support Group telephone line had reopened again during the Lockdown. Members continued to agree delegated powers to the Chairman and Cllr Welti (along with the Clerk) in regard to any urgent Coronavirus related matters. Members also discussed the continuation of the Wednesday Market (essential items) currently permitted within regulations. It was resolved to adopt the recommendation of the Finance Committee, namely to urge members of the public and stall holders, in the interest of general safety, to wear a face covering at this time.

#### **6. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

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

#### **7. Matters noted from the Minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

The Clerk will follow up CCC Highways issues reported at Busk Lane in December, all other matters included on the Agenda.

#### **8. Report/update from District/County Council including presentation by District Cllr Suzie Pye – Poverty Emergency**

Cllr Pye gave a presentation on the Poverty Emergency declared by South Lakeland District Council on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Also asking for any observations/feedback on poverty, in Sedbergh Parish, by Members. Additionally, Cllr Pye advised Members about the Poverty Truth Commission and how to become involved. County Cllr Cotton and District Cllr Mitchell gave apologies.

#### **9. Casual Vacancy**

The Clerk confirmed that no election had been called and that South Lakeland District Council had advised that a Co-Option may proceed. Members resolved to advertise the vacancy, with a closing date of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021, with any applications to be considered at the Parish Council meeting in March.

## **10. To receive an update on the proposed Local Government Reorganisation and consider the Parish Council's position**

The Clerk had circulated some information from Cumbria County Council in regard to their proposal. There was no other information available at this time, with further consultation expected in the Spring.

## **11. Planning**

The Planning Committee scheduled a meeting for Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Cllr Arnold, however, raised S/03/4489 at Spar to gain general views of Members prior. The application was for full planning permission for erection of a single storey rear extension to form additional back of house area, relocation of bin store and external plant area and two new delivery ramps. It was noted that the extension was to house a butcher at the site. Cllr Lancaster requested that the Clerk gain clarification on the original permissions granted at the location (when the development, with the GP Surgery, was originally granted). (Cllrs Sedgwick and McPherson took no part in discussion at this item.)

- i) S/03/637 Land off Station Road, Sedbergh Full planning permission for erection of 50 No. dwellings (16 open market, 17 affordable/social rented, 17 affordable shared ownership), external works and landscaping. Members discussed the site, and highlighted the following areas of concern. A) Access, Members expressed again, that a roundabout off the A683/A684 would allow a safe approach to the development, whilst also encouraging traffic calming. Alternatively, additional thought needs to be given to traffic/pedestrian safety at the entrance, notably it was discussed that the road could be widened to allow a filter lane (for turning into the development), or the site should include slip roads in and out of the turning. The current turning is planned directly opposite the petrol station and Members feel morally obligated to highlight the potential danger any traffic incident could trigger here. B) Drainage, Members wished to formally note their previous comments on drainage from the site, and 'sinking' of the site in general, resolving that the local flood authority should be consulted. C) Sewage, concern was noted for the current 'pumping' station proposed. Members highlighted that the sewage system already floods/overspills at Birks at times, therefore, how will the system cope with the additional usage. D) Members resolved to urge South Lakes Housing to commit to future improvement and investment in their existing housing stock in the town (Castlegarth/Maryfell). E) Desire to incorporate improved safety/access to Queen's Garden (opposite the site). (Cllr McPherson took no part in discussion at this item)
- ii) Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan 2023-2040 – Consultation No3, including 'is there public support for more focused growth in Sedbergh, Hawes and Grassington?' Members noted that the closing date for comment was 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021, and resolved to discuss further at the meeting in February. This would also allow additional time for the Planning Committee to consider their views.

## **12. Finance**

Members received the minutes from the meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and resolved to adopt, also resolving to approve the list of payments (attached) **i) 2021/2022 Precept request South Lakeland District Council**. It was resolved to adopt the recommendation of the Finance Committee, with a precept of £37,885.68 being requested. This was lower than 2020/2021, but took into account the reduced tax base for Sedbergh. If the tax base remained the same, this should equate to a 0.0% increase to residents in 2021/2022.

## **13. Grants**

There were no grant applications in December 2020.

## **14. Amenities Committee**

Members had not met; their next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021.

## 15. Update on Projects

Maryfell Street sign, the entries for the replacement street sign had been shortlisted and submitted to South Lakes Housing.

Electric Vehicle Charging points, Sedbergh School (Loftus Hill) there was no further update on progression at this time (see also Finance Meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021).

Festive lights – Members noted that the invoice for the lights had been received.

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 and the Clerk is waiting for an update from Sedbergh School too.

Jubilee Fountain – delayed due to Covid restrictions/availability of United Utilities.

B4RN – a request had been received from B4RN for named contacts, within the council, to contact in regard to proposed routes at Queen’s Garden and the playing field. However, the Clerk was asked to clarify with B4RN, the current outline proposals, notably following the new methods presented to the Council in December. It was noted that, previously, potential routes had been highlighted at Queen’s Garden, the playing field and the tennis courts.

- i) **ChargeMyStreet proposals 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.** Members noted the comments from the Finance Committee meeting and resolved to adopt their recommendation in regard to the People’s Hall car parking area. The Chairman will write a formal letter to the Management Committee of the People’s Hall, outlining that ‘without prejudice’ the Council are, following their objection to the electric vehicle charging points, placing a temporary hold on progressing works as the pandemic was a greater priority at this time. Members additionally resolved that the letter should clarify, for members of the committee, that the majority of the car park was not included in the lease at the People’s Hall and remained the responsibility of the Parish Council – as evidenced by significant financial contributions to development/enhancement works in recent years. Members agreed that works could commence at Joss Lane car park, once final legal matters raised by the Council’s legal representation had been resolved and, confirmation received from South Lakeland District Council. It was noted, that any location agreed for EV charging points at this site, should be mindful of any future resurfacing/development works planned in the future.

## 16. Queen’s Garden

Members received a verbal update in regard to the proposed tree planting project being progressed with YDNPA and SLDC. Currently, the project is on hold due to Lockdown, however, Members were able to confirm that SLDC had given their full support, and financial commitment, to the purchase of the trees. There was no update from the contractor asked to clean the stone steps and the wall repair had been delayed due to Lockdown.

## 17. Highways Matters

**Update on Safer Roads project A684 – including Long Lane crossing** – Members noted that there had been no update on hopes for improvements to the crossing at Long Lane. A further programme of works scheduled for the A684 had been circulated. The ‘Sedbergh’ signs were again highlighted, due to their size (and quality) and Cllr McPherson agreed to raise the former with YDNPA. The Clerk was additionally asked to contact CCC Highways over the potential to position a grit bin on the corner of Fairholme/Howgill Lane.

## 18. Correspondence

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

- i) River erosion – a resident had raised concern over the changing river bank close to the weir and the Clerk was asked to highlight this to YDNPA Area Ranger.

- ii) Car parking, St Andrew's Church – a resident had raised concerns over some people using the '1 hour' slots for several hours at a time. The Clerk was asked to write a letter, to be handed to persistent vehicle owners, using the car parking beyond the advisory 1 hour, where and when possible.

**19. Date and Time of next meeting – normal monthly meeting on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 21 at 7.30pm – via Zoom.**