

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 11th February 2021

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

Part I

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Longlands 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 Lancaster. Planning (Lilymere Estate, Killington SL/2021/0110 (SL2017/0363))

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 4th January 2021 and market review

Cllr Welti confirmed that the Covid Support Group telephone continues, mainly used for shopping and prescription collections. Members wished to note thanks to all the GP Practices involved in the current vaccination program for the area, acknowledging the speed and efficiency being highlighted throughout the community. Members received information from NALC (National Association of Local Council) in regard to the current legislation (permitting virtual meetings) ceasing on 7th May 2021. Whilst it is noted that there is continued lobbying of the Government to extend this date, Members resolved to book the People’s Hall as a preliminary venue for the ‘open’ annual meetings of the Council. In regard to the Wednesday Market, Members noted that patrons of the market are now largely wearing face coverings while in attendance.

6. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council 14th January 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2021 were adopted and will be signed by the Chairman, Cllr Lancaster, when reasonable.

7. Matters noted from the Minutes of 14th January 2021

The Clerk will continue to 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

Cllr Lancaster advised he had attended the South Lakeland District Council event (4th February 2021) on the proposed Government Reorganisation. County Cllr Cotton, District Cllrs Mitchell and Pye did not attend.

9. Casual Vacancy

The Casual Vacancy is currently advertised, with a closing date at the end of February, 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 further information from South Lakeland District Council in regard to the The Bay proposal. As noted, (Item 8) Cllr Lancaster had attended the open Forum, it had been highlighted at the Forum that there was queries over how the Police forces of Cumbria and Lancashire would combine, if a cross county Unitary Authority was established. No information had been received in regard to other proposals for the County and there was no update from North Yorkshire.

11. Planning

The Planning Committee comments from the meeting in January had been circulated (attached), other recent applications would be considered by the Planning Committee as required. Members noted that South Lakeland District Council had approached Sedbergh Parish Council for comment on SL/2021/0110 Lily Mere Estate, Killington, Sedbergh application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval SL/2017/0363 for Construction of 20 holiday retreats with associated infrastructure including car park and buggy tracks and revised access. The Clerk had circulated previous comments made in 2017 for reference. Given the short time frame for comment, it was resolved that Cllr Arnold would look at the associated documents alongside this application (and visit the location of the proposed holiday retreat from a distance) and convene a discussion of the Planning Committee for further comment to South Lakeland District Council. (Cllr Lancaster took no part in discussion).

- i) **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 discussed the desire for Sedbergh to become a principal settlement in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, evoking flourishing businesses, sustainable tourism and attracting young families. It was noted that the proposed development off Station Road (50 homes) would be a significant first step toward growth for Sedbergh and welcomed further growth in the coming years. The closing date for comment/completion of the consultation is 26th February 2021, and Members resolved that Cllr Arnold and the Clerk would complete the consultation in the spirit of the Council's commitment for growth and sustainability of the Parish.

12. Finance

Members received the minutes from the meeting held on Monday 8th February 2021 and resolved to adopt them, also resolving to approve the list of payments (attached) **i) Car parking tariff annual review** Members resolved to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee and maintain the current rates. It was acknowledged that significant revenue had been lost in 2020/2021, however, the majority of Members felt that this was not the time to increase tariffs. Members agreed that a further review could be completed in August, in preparation for 2022, this would also coincide with the review of parking permits.

13. Grants

There were no grant applications in January 2021. Members resolved that the Clerk should include an item about Grants available, in a future edition of the Lookaround.

14. Amenities Committee

Members received the minutes from the meeting held on 3rd February 2021. Members discussed the position of the proposed Electric Vehicle Charging points and resolved that they should be located where the disabled parking bays are currently marked (to allow access to the power supply). The disabled use only bays would move further along the southern boundary, close to the steps to the Information Centre/Parish Council office. Appropriate lining and signage would be required. Members noted that the replacement benches at Maryfell had been installed, thanks acknowledged to the Sedbergh Wellbeing Group for donating toward these, along with South Lakes Housing. Members additionally discussed the Wednesday Market and the requirement for salt/grit in poor weather. Cllr Arnold advised he would liaise with a local shop in regard to provision of fine grade salt that could be utilised in the Parish Council salt spreaders (to be used by the Parish Handyman).

15. Update on Projects

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

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 and plan

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

B4RN – an update on the outline proposals is awaited from B4RN in connection with planned routes at Queen’s Garden and the playing field.

16. Queen’s Garden

Members discussed the inevitable delay to the proposed tree planting project, being progressed with YDNPA and SLDC at the garden. There was a potential risk, as Lockdown continued, that the planting of any trees would not be possible within the season. The Clerk was asked to contact SLDC to clarify the situation in regard to funding previously agreed.

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 and the Clerk was asked to seek an update from CCC Highways. Additionally, the Clerk was asked to request an update on the Dowbiggin sign, updates for Howgill Lane (Crosedale Beck) as CCC Highways continue to liaise with the contractor over improvements, potential grit bin at Bainbridge Road, the planned repairs at Millthrop Bridge (following mortar damage reported in January) and various other outstanding Highways matters. Also, the ongoing concern by Members for the poor conditions at Blackhorse/Lilymere during recent bad weather – which resulted in several accidents reported on 2nd February 2021. The Clerk was asked to seek clarity from CCC Highways over their program of winter maintenance at this location, a principal route for the Parish, and highlight that local knowledge and use of local contractors should continue to be key.

18. Public Space Protection Order – South Lakeland District Council

Members discussed the current consultation/review in regard to the Public Space Protection Order, which included areas in Sedbergh. Sedbergh Parish Council had previously requested that the paddock area, adjacent to the playground at Maryfell, be included in the ‘dog exclusion’ zone and welcomed the addition on the consultation. The Clerk was requested to confirm the Council’s support, welcoming the addition. As previously noted, this would allow young people to play safely in the area, becoming an extension of the current playground.

19. Correspondence

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

- i) South Lakeland District Council - Greening Campaign, Members discussed the opportunity to engage with the Campaign, though agreed that Sedbergh already had a good awareness of Climate Change and was well represented in the community. CALC (Cumbria Association of Local Council) are hosting a Nature Recovery event on 25th February 2021 and the Clerk hopes to attend.

- ii) Sedbergh CIC – Members noted the request for further information on Farm Diversification for use by the Marketing Consultant. The consultant had recommended promotion should be reserved for business/growth over the past 12 months. Given the effect of the Coronavirus over the past 12-month period, therefore, Members felt that it could not highlight anything specific for that time period. The Council did, however, emphasise again that there should be continued promotion for all business in the Parish, not just those regularly featured. Members had additionally received correspondence in regard to ongoing funding for the Marketing Consultant/Social Media roles. Members felt that the desire for ‘staycations’ in 2021 would, most likely, see a surge in visitors to the area in the coming months. The Council resolved, therefore, to focus on how to manage the potential upsurge in visitors to the Parish rather than invest in further promotion at this time.

19. Date and Time of next meeting – normal monthly meeting on Thursday 11th March 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 financial/sensitive information to be discussed.

21. Finance

The Chairman reported on a new (positive) financial matter for the Council.