

Minutes of the Meeting of Sedbergh Parish Council Finance Committee

Held online via Zoom @ 5.00pm Tuesday 4th May 2021

Present:

Cllrs Lancaster, Capstick, McPherson, Brooks and the Clerk, Miss Hassam

Part I

1. Apologies

All Members of the Finance Committee were present.

2. Declaration of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Monday 5th April 2021

The minutes were received, agreed and confirmed by the Chairman Cllr Lancaster (signing of the minutes will be processed when reasonable).

4. Urgent Business – Government Roadmap updates and proposed footpath, Sedbergh.

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 will expire on 7th May 2021. Face to face meetings will return thereafter and be held in accordance with restrictions and guidance, as appropriate, at that time. Risk Assessments will be completed as required. In respect of Proposed Footpath, please see Part II Item (below).

5. Financial Summary and Bank Reconciliation

The Financial Summary for April 2021 had been circulated to Members and it was resolved that all payments were approved for payment immediately. (Please see Sedbergh Parish Council Finance meeting minutes 5th April 2021 and subsequent resolution at Full Council 8th April 2021 for amendment to authorisation of payments, by the Finance Committee only, in May and June 2021). The Clerk noted that the current electricity supplier for the toilets at Main Street (and the former toilet block at Loftus Hill Car park) had significantly increased the direct debit and it was recommended that a review was completed when practicable. In addition, the annual Insurance renewal had been received from the Council's agent and circulated to Members. It was resolved to accept the quote as recommended, with a premium £1689.87. The Bank Reconciliation for April was checked and found to be correct. Members also discussed the potential to investigate other bank accounts, and look at improved interest rates.

6. Income and Expenditure 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

The Income and Expenditure report for 2020/2021 was circulated for information. The Clerk noted that the first payment of the Precept had been confirmed, by SLDC, on 28th April 2021 (£18,942.84) along with their Grant (£1869.31).

7. Grant Applications

There were no Grant applications for April 2021.

8. Annual Meetings scheduled 27th May 2021 and End of Year Finance arrangements in regard to Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

The Clerk confirmed that the Annual Parish Meeting, The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the normal monthly meeting are all scheduled for Thursday 27th May 2021, commencing at 7.00pm. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) is currently with the Internal Auditor and will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council/normal monthly meetings for approval prior to submission for External Audit. The Exercise of Public Rights will commence thereafter and adhere to the prescribed timescales as required.

9. Electric Vehicle Charging

- i) **proposed lease at Joss Lane car park - Charge My Street (CMS).** Members noted that formal written consent was still awaited from South Lakeland District Council. It was resolved that the Chairman should follow up the delay directly with SLDC.

10. Consider/review Policies as required, including Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

It was resolved that any relevant updates would be circulated, by the Clerk, for consideration at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

11. Date of next meeting – Monday 7th June at 5pm, Members resolved to meet in the Committee Room of Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.

Part II

In accordance with Standing Orders, it was proposed and resolved that the public should be excluded from the meeting, by reason of the confidential nature to be discussed, in relation to the following item:

12. Proposed footpath, Sedbergh

Members resolved that the Chairman, Cllr Lancaster, would write to three Members of the Public, in consultation with County Cllr Nick Cotton, the Vice Chair Cllr McPherson and the Clerk. This followed an exploratory meeting that had been held recently at the riverside Public Right of Way with Cllr McPherson, YDNPA, County Cllr Nick Cotton and residents from Millthrop.