

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the monthly Meeting for the Parish Council of Sedbergh, held in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh at 7.30 pm on Thursday 8th July 2021.

Present: Councillors Lancaster (Chair), Arnold, Welti, Longlands, Brooks, Capstick, Sedgwick and Bromley, Cowperthwaite.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr McPherson (Covid/health concerns) and accepted by the meeting. Members resolved that, further to discussions in April, absence at face to meetings due to Covid concerns would (for the six-month rule) reset again from today’s date. One Casual Vacancy.

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no urgent matters to consider. The next Government announcement on Covid restrictions/measures was expected on Monday 12th July 2021. Cllr Welti was able to confirm that the Covid Support line had now ceased.

6. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council 27th May 2021

Members resolved to adopt the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the normal monthly meeting, both held on 27th May 2021 and the minutes were signed by the Chairman. The draft Annual Parish Meeting minutes were accepted by the meeting.

7. Matters noted from the Minutes of 27th May 2021

There were no other matters to note, all ongoing items were included on the agenda.

8. Report/update from District/County Council

Apologies were received from CCC Cllr Cotton and his ongoing support, with the proposal for a footpath at Howgill lane, acknowledged (Item 18). District Cllr Pye had advised the Clerk that, following previous communications, she had confirmed with SLDC the costs for arranging a new waste bin at Vicarage Lane, providing another location for dog waste to be disposed of in this problematic area. Cllr Pye had indicated financial support might be available for the purchase of a bin, with ongoing emptying costs to be paid by the Parish Council. Members noted that a bin had been requested at Millthrop Bridge too, Cllr Pye would enquire further about relocating an underused bin if possible. A Sedbergh Road Safety Group meeting is planned later this month and Cllrs asked that concern for the parked vehicles close to the Garsdale Junction be highlighted again. The level of vehicles now parking along this stretch of road, subsequently forcing traffic out into the chevrons at the junction, was cause for concern. The Clerk advised that CCC Highways are still considering additional yellow lining at this location as well as improvements to the pedestrian crossing. Cllr Mitchell did not attend.

9. Casual Vacancy

Members agreed consideration was needed in regard to timescales for co-option, noting that there were restrictions applicable prior to an Election year (May 2022), leaving a relatively short time scale for potential co-option.

10. Planning

The Planning Committee members scheduled a meeting for Wednesday 14th July 2021. An item of correspondence was raised, as a concern had been noted for use of a property off Main Street for a launderette. The letter had indicated that the launderette was causing concern to nearby neighbours and that the matter had been reported to SLDC and YDNPA. A previous application for a laundry here at been refused (S/03/207A) by YDNPA in December 2020. Cllr Arnold will liaise further with the Clerk.

11. Finance

Members resolved to adopt the minutes from the meetings held in June and July 2021. Members noted the recommended revised prices for resident parking permits and (advertised) holiday lets/bed and breakfast permits. Members resolved to adopt the new pricing structure with effect from 1st September 2021. The new prices would be £50 (resident) and £100 (holiday let etc). General hourly parking tariffs were also discussed, following the indicative prices noted, and further consideration would be given at a future meeting. Any new prices subsequently agreed would become effective from 1st April 2022, inline with SLDC Parking Order. It was finally noted and agreed that the Clerk should send a preliminary enquiry, to SLDC, in respect of the Sedbergh Cemetery (Finance Item 10) – asking how this might be transferred to the Parish Council. Members acknowledged that there many unknowns, however, wanted to explore the feasibility of taking responsibility for the cemetery.

12. Grants

Sedbergh in Bloom – The sum of £500 had been recommended by the Finance Committee and Members resolved to approve the Grant.

13. Amenities Committee

Members resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held 30th June 2021. Members noted the works required to repair the wet pour at the playground at Howgill Lane and will wait for further information from Cllr Arnold. Members agreed that quotes should also be sought for replacement doors at Joss Lane toilets and potential emptying works for the culverts at the Playing field and Guldrey. Members also resolved that the Parish Handyman could step back from assisting/supervising at the weekly Wednesday Market, once restrictions relax (potentially 19th July 2021) for Covid. This would allow more time to attend lengths men duties. Finally, Members resolved to proceed with the Festive light festoons for Sedbergh Main Street in December. It was noted that the Parish Council might additionally be required to fund erecting the lights this year. Ordinarily, the Chamber of Trade take a lead on Late Night Opening and the Festive lights etc. however, the Chamber is currently in suspension following the resignation of the Committee in June (see Item 17).

14. Update on Projects

Maryfell Street sign - the Clerk was waiting for an update from South Lakes Housing.

Joss Lane car park – no progress to report in regard to resurfacing at this time, Cllr Arnold will recommence enquiries with SLDC when practicable.

Loftus Hill car park – the Chairman and the Clerk had recently met with the Council's Solicitor and an update was awaited.

Jubilee Fountain – delayed due to Covid restrictions/availability of United Utilities/contractor – Cllr Arnold to follow up with the contractor.

B4RN – an update on the outlined routes had been received, seeing plans for potential installation via the highway, rather than wayleaves. Further details are awaited, this would mean that wayleaves at the playing field and Queen's Garden would not be required. The draft plan did show a B4RN cabinet at the playing field and the Clerk was asked to clarify details of this.

Electric Vehicle Charging – The Chair and the Clerk had requested a further update from SLDC in regard to consent at Joss Lane car park. This followed a matter raised by the Council’s Insurance Company in respect of legal liability – an update is awaited.

15. Queen’s Garden

- i) Bandstand – the Clerk had circulated a discussion paper for reference. Members noted the contents, however, in the absence of Cllr McPherson deferred further consideration – not least due to the potential significant cost to the Council. Members also wished to clarify if the bandstand would be within permitted development and if YDNPA had been contacted. Finally, Members wondered whether the Friends of Queen’s Garden had considered comparison estimates from local contractors for a bandstand.
- ii) Tree Survey – Members noted that the survey had now been completed and the urgent works recommended (removal of some dead wood) had been completed by the Parish Handyman. Further works were still required, and a specialist contractor would be required to complete a tree removal and crowning work identified.

16. People’s Hall car parking area – consider arrangements for use by traders/one off events.

Members agreed that traders could potentially use the car park and requests would be considered on an individual basis. It was resolved that a local catering van could apply for a six-month trial and that, as a courtesy, they should also liaise with The People’s Hall Management Committee.

17. Sedbergh Economic Partnership – update received from the Chamber of Trade

Following the meeting in May, the Clerk had written to the SEP in regard to the Priorities contained within the Framework for Growth, a response was awaited. It was noted that there were currently ten sections within the Priorities listed, with 41 points listed individually. It was further noted that following an item of correspondence from the Sedbergh CIC, for funding of the Marketing/PR Consultant, that some clarity was needed in respect of projects currently being funded under the umbrella of the SEP. CCC had recently indicated funding, for example, for Marketing/PR. Finally, it was noted that the current Committee for the Sedbergh and District Chamber of Trade had recently stood down and the Chamber was currently ‘suspended’. The Chamber Members were hopeful that new Committee members might come forward with new ideas/innovations. However, this did highlight that there was currently no lead for Late Night Opening in December.

18. Highways Matters

Cllr Arnold and the Clerk had recently met with YDNPA and a contractor to discuss potential options to create a path, along Howgill Lane, within the boundary of the playing field. When more details are known, the Clerk will liaise further with Cllr Nick Cotton. In addition, thoughts would be needed in regard to the pavement at the west and east entry/exit to any path created.

- i) Street name plates were also discussed, and the Clerk was able to advise that a new plate had been ordered for Dowbiggin. CCC Highways had advised that if SPC wished to consider additional place/street name plates around the Parish, a list would be required. Locations for individual signs would also need to be identified, so that CCC Highways could assess the proposed location and advise on cost.
- ii) Artisan Markets, following recent correspondence over pedestrian safety during the street market and a general enquiry with CCC Highways over potential diversions/road closures, Members resolved that the Clerk should write to Sedbergh CIC confirming that the Artisan Market was in no way connected to the Parish Council. They should, therefore, ensure they are adequately insured for the event, confirming with their insurance provider that they are adequately insured given any restrictions that might apply under a) the historical Market Charter and b) any regulations required by CCC Highways.

19. Correspondence

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

- i) Enquiry about use of Market store/cupboard for the Artisan Market/outdoor events – Members confirmed that accessing power from the store was not permitted, following advice from their Insurers. It was further noted, that this specific request referred to the alternative to use of a generator and that Sedbergh CIC (The Information Centre) had offered to assist.
- ii) Resident – Cllr Sedgwick noted that concern had been raised at Guldrey Fold after it was reported that untreated sewage was entering the water course here. Members resolved that the Clerk should report to Environmental Health at SLDC.
- iii) Royal British Legion – Dedication Service for a new Standard scheduled for 5th September.
- iv) Holiday lets/rented property – Members noted correspondence received in regard to Landlords taking back properties for Holiday lets, giving notice to long term tenants in the area. Members acknowledged that whilst they were sympathetic, this was a national issue and outside of their powers and duties as a Parish Council.

21. Date and Time of next meeting, monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday 12th August 2021, commencing 7.30pm in Committee Room, Sedbergh People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh