

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 12th August 2021.

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

Part I

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Cowperthwaite and Cllr McPherson (Covid/health concerns) and accepted by the meeting. 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

Sedbergh B4RN – Members welcomed representation from Sedbergh B4RN, giving a further update on the Community-led project delivering gigabit broadband (attached). It had been unexpectedly announced that the government’s gigabit voucher funding scheme will cease for Cumbria in September and B4RN need more people to sign up. It was resolved, by Members, that a letter of support should be sent to Tim Farron MP, asking for the Government to reconsider the significantly reduced timescales recently imposed.

Friends of Queen’s Garden – Members welcomed representation from the Friends of Queen’s Garden/Queen’s Garden sub committee in support of the recent discussion paper for a bandstand at the garden (attached). Members discussed the proposal, raising several further questions over general cost vs other potential projects/logistics for hiring, including risk assessments and bookings/suitability of size (town band for example)/consultation with neighbours and finally other funding opportunities/grant giving bodies that could be approached. Members asked for further clarification on these matters and would discuss further at a future meeting.

There were no other 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. Anecdotally, Members noted that invites for a booster (third) vaccination were now being issued locally.

6. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council 8th July 2021

Members resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council held on 8th July 2021 and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

7. Matters noted from the Minutes of 8th July 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 South Lakeland District Councillors Pye and Mitchell. District Cllr Pye asked the Clerk to raise the following with Members. On behalf of the Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group (MASCG) for Appleby Horse Fair Cllr Pye invited any feedback. Members resolved that feedback could be given when the Fair had finished and asked to be advised when the local Respect Group meeting (post Fair) would be scheduled. There was ongoing communication with CCC Cllr Cotton in respect of the proposed path at Howgill Lane.

9. Casual Vacancy

Members agreed that, following the meeting last month, this item could be removed due to the timescales of the forthcoming Sedbergh Parish Council election cycle (2022).

10. To receive an update on the planned Local Government Reorganisation

The Chairman gave a brief update on the Local Government Reorganisation and the recent Cumbria County Council Pre-action protocol letter sent to the Secretary of State. This followed the decision to create two new unitary councils for Cumbria. The Pre-action letter by Cumbria County Council is seen as a ‘potential’ first step towards pursuing a Judicial Review.

11. Planning

The Planning Committee had not met, however, the Chairman advised that two applications had recently been received and would convene with Members of the Planning Committee as required to discuss further. In addition, the Clerk raised a query in respect of an application from October 2020 (S/03/634) Builders Yard, Opposite Brigflatts Lane and an ongoing issue over evidence of use. Cllr Arnold will liaise with the applicant. However, Members all agreed that the site had been continuously used as a builder’s yard for as long as they could remember (some 60+ years) at least. The matter did highlight an issue with YDNPA Planning website, in that Sedbergh Parish Council was unable to look at their comments submitted via the portal as they did not appear. Finally, it was noted that YDNPA Planning Consultation No4 (Local Occupancy and Barns) had launched and would be discussed further at a future meeting. Cllr Arnold raised particular concern for the current limitations on ‘openings’ allowed for barn conversions.

12. Finance

Members resolved to adopt the minutes from the meetings held on 9th August 2021. Members noted the recommended revised prices for hourly parking tariffs, however, resolved to adopt all except the weekly tickets (currently available) should cease from 1st April 2022. This was to discourage people leaving their cars in the car parks and, effectively, limiting available space for visitors and residents. The Clerk was asked to update SLDC, for their Parking Order review later this year/early 2022. Members also resolved to approve all payments recommended for August, additionally it was agreed that the Clerk could raise a replacement cheque to HMRC £1109.44. The previous cheque (002938 issued in June) had not been received, assumed lost in the post, and the Clerk had requested a ‘stop’ with the bank.

13. Grants

No grant applications had been received. The Clerk did note that the North West Air Ambulance may be making an enquiry for support in the future.

14. Amenities Committee

Members had met but no minutes were available. Cllr Brooks gave a brief update, noting the Committee’s hope to establish dialogue with South Lakeland District Council in respect of works needed at Joss Lane car park. The Clerk was asked to write to SLDC to arrange a meeting with Cllr Arnold. Members also discussed Festive Lights – confirming that they would like to financially support additional lights/trees for the town in the absence of the Chamber of Trade coordinating this year. For example, the trees/lights at Fire Station and the garden at The Information Centre. Also, potentially agreeing support for Father Christmas/speaking with shops to seek support to coordinate a Late-Night Opening for business in December. Cllr Arnold will draft a letter to circulate in due course.

15. 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 (see Item 14).

Loftus Hill car park – there had been no update from the Council’s Solicitor.

Jubilee Fountain – Cllr Arnold had an initial conversation with the contractor. The Clerk will confirm the contact information for UU for ongoing communication.

Electric Vehicle Charging – The Chair and the Clerk had met with South Lakeland District Council and their agent, along with representation from the Parish Council’s Insurance to progress the ongoing proposed for EV points with ChargeMyStreet (CMS). The Clerk will now liaise further with CMS in regard to outstanding matters with a view to progressing the project as soon as practicable. Matters to confirm included confirmation of insurance provision, public liability, legal responsibility/risk assessment/method statements etc and final location. South Lakeland District Council also agreed additional support in confirming relevant risk assessments/method statements as required.

16. Queen’s Garden

- i) Bandstand – see Item 4 – Public Participation
- ii) Tree Survey – Members noted that the Parish Handyman had now completed all works within his capacity and the Clerk will now seek a quote from a specialist for remaining works recommended.

17. Highways Matters

- i) Proposed footpath at Howgill Lane. Cllr Arnold and the Clerk are meeting with Cllr Nick Cotton and representation from Cumbria County Council later this month, to establish how a path might joint to the highway at Howgill Lane. Cumbria County Council had recently advised that procurement for the project would now fall to Sedbergh Parish Council and, therefore, it was hoped that further support could be established to write a formal tender/specification for the planned works.

18. Correspondence

The attached Clerk’s Correspondence list was noted by the meeting:

- i) Millthop Resident – Members noted the (attached) request to install a defibrillator at the former telephone box at Millthop (adopted by the Council in recent years). Members resolved that permission would be favourable for the installation of a defibrillator and asked the Clerk to seek further information in respect of progressing the request. Including, liaising with Sedbergh First Responders.

21. Date and Time of next meeting, monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday 9th September 2021, commencing 7.30pm in Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh

Part II

It was resolved and agreed that the public should be excluded from the meeting for reason of the confidential nature of the information to be discussed.

12. Finance

Members noted a complaint that had been received from a local trader in respect of Sedbergh Parish Council’s meeting on the 8th July 2021 (Item 16. People’s Hall car parking area – consider arrangements for use by traders/one off events). The trader was disappointed at the Council’s decision to allow a mobile catering van (selling the same food) to set up in Sedbergh. Whilst sympathetic, Members confirmed their original decision – acknowledging that it allowed additional provision for residents and visitors. There was one abstention (Sedgwick). It was therefore resolved that the Chairman/Vice Chairman send the (attached) draft letter in response.