

Minutes of the Meeting of Sedbergh Parish Council Finance Committee held at the Rawthey Room, Sedbergh Information Centre, 72 Main Street, Sedbergh on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 5.30pm

**Present:**

Cllrs Lancaster, Capstick, Arnold and the Clerk, Miss Hassam

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Brooks and accepted by the meeting.

**2. Declaration of Interests**

There were no Declarations of Interest for this meeting. It was noted, for information, and in preparation for Full Council (14<sup>th</sup> October 2021) that following a recent informal planning consultation, the Chairman and Clerk confirmed that formal Dispensation requests (relating to any future formal Planning application) would be required, in writing, to the Clerk and forms would therefore be made available (as appropriate) for any affected Members at Full Council (14<sup>th</sup> October 2021). Any requests for Dispensations (Localism Act 2011) would be in accordance with Standing Orders and would be considered by Members of Sedbergh Parish Council.

**3. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

The minutes were agreed and signed, as a true record, by the Chairman Cllr Lancaster.

**4. Financial Summary and Bank Reconciliation**

The Financial Summary for September 2021 had been circulated to Members and it was resolved that all payments were recommended to Full Council for approval. In addition, an increased payment (additional one month) was recommended for Parish Lighting (Eon), bringing the new total to £386.44. It was further noted that a visitor had requested a £5.00 refund for parking at Joss Lane car park, after incorrectly selecting 'one week' instead of 24 hours. Whilst Members were sympathetic, Members were unable to authorise a refund, as they did not wish to set a precedent for future claims. Members also approved a Purchase Order for the forthcoming parking tariff amendment (April 2022) £288.00 +VAT. The VAT for Quarter Two had been completed, with VAT of £3,550.67 being due to HMRC by Direct Debit in November. The Bank Reconciliation for September 2021 was checked and found to be correct and signed by Cllrs Arnold and Capstick.

**5. Income and Expenditure 2021-2022**

The up-to-date Income and Expenditure report for 2021/2022 was circulated for information. Whilst car park income is lower than anticipated, a tranche of funds is anticipated from Sedbergh CIC imminently.

- i) Budget requests/plans and proposals for 2022/2023 – Members discussed the current rise in utilities and other costs and noted that there would be need for a significant increase to the Precept in 2022/2023, potentially in the region of a 5%. Whilst higher than previous years (zero increase in 2021/2022), it was anticipated that the total increase would still be less than an equivalent £0.05 per week on a Band D property (assuming SLDC Grant still applicable), and significantly lower than some neighbouring parishes. Members further discussed the requirement to consider increased reserves from car park (net) income in the future and consideration of ongoing reserves for Queen's Garden, playing field, play area, tennis courts, gents toilet improvements at Main Street (Amenities) and smaller project contributions (including Jubilee Fountain and the proposed footpath at Howgill Lane). A draft Budget would be circulated by the Clerk, in November, for discussion by Members.

**6. Grant Applications**

- i) Sedbergh First Responders – Members resolved to recommend a grant for £500.00 toward the Defibrillator proposal at Millthrop.
- ii) Sedbergh Walking and Cycling Group - £500.00 Members noted that the applicant had been disappointed with the decision to reject the application. However, confirmed they were unable to consider further/reverse a resolution within six months.

**7. Consider Parish Council assets in preparation for future Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and discussion with South Lakeland District Council and update on Sedbergh Cemetery.**

Members had previously raised an informal query with South Lakeland District Council over the potential to take responsibility for the Sedbergh Cemetery. Cllrs Lancaster, Arnold and Capstick had a constructive meeting, on site, with the Cemetery Manager for South Lakeland District Council to discuss further, including legal obligations associated with a cemetery and general administrative requirements. Members resolved to discuss further at Full Council, in order that Members might consider how they would like to proceed. For example, make a Formal Request to South Lakeland District Council in respect of transferring their asset, as well as establishing any financial (commuted or legacy) sums that might be associated with any asset transfer. For further note, current leases with SLDC are as follows; land adjacent to river bank and river Rawthey (land and path at New Bridge) (5.12.2011, 99 years), Joss Lane car park (1.4.2012, 75 years), Main Street toilets (1.6.2011, 99 years) and land at Guldrey Tennis (Tennis courts and informal parking area) (5.12.2011, 999 years).

**8. Bank Mandate/Online Banking**

The attached report was circulated to Members in regard to online banking, Members resolved to pursue further and report at a future meeting. Any amendment to the Bank (signing) Mandate could be coincided with any future changes to banking arrangements.

**9. Date of next meeting – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 5.30pm, Members resolved to meet in the Parish Council Office, 72 Main Street, Sedbergh LA10 5AD**