

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 9th September 2021.

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Bromley, Sedgwick 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

There were no Members of the Public present, however a statement was read from the proprietors of a business on Main Street. This followed the complaint received in August 2021 (Item Number 12 Finance) in relation to the Council’s decision to allow a mobile catering van to trade at the People’s Hall car park on a six-month trial. Members noted the contents, however, did not feel they could offer anything further to their original response.

5. Coronavirus Covid 19 – update on relevant information, including any urgent matters

There were no urgent matters to consider. Anecdotally, Members noted that cases were rising but that hospital admissions in Cumbria remained relatively low comparatively.

6. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council 12th August 2021

Members resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council held on 12th August 2021 and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

7. Matters noted from the Minutes of 12th August 2021

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

8. Report/update from District/County Council

CCC Cllr Cotton and South Lakeland District Councillors Pye and Mitchell did not attend. 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 as a first step towards pursuing a Judicial Review. The Clerk noted that SLDC were due to give a presentation at the forthcoming District Association meeting for Cumbria Association of Local Councils.

11. Planning

The Planning Committee had met, however, there were no minutes available.

In addition, the Cllr Arnold asked for any update on (S/03/634) Builders Yard, Opposite Brigflatts Lane and an ongoing issue over evidence of use. There was no further update and the Clerk was asked to liaise with Cllr McPherson. Correspondence was also noted in regard to former application (S/03/207A) Outbuildings, 59 Main Street, Sedbergh (refused) and a new application, as well as the current YDNPA enforcement in regard to the laundry currently housed in the outbuildings.

12. Finance

Members resolved to adopt the minutes from the meetings held on 6th September 2021. Members also resolved to approve all payments recommended for September. Members additionally noted the request for financial support from CANS (Council's Against Noise and Speed), and ongoing communication with SLDC in respect of Parish Assets. i) The Clerk confirmed the Conclusion of External Audit report 2020-2021 had been received – noting 'Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met'.

13. Grants

- i) Donation – Members noted the recommendation for a potential donation toward for the defibrillator cabinet at Millthrop and resolved that the Clerk write to the First Responders and the resident advising that they would welcome a grant application from the First Responders for this purpose.
- ii) Sedbergh Young Farmers – £750 Members noted the application for £750 and the Committee's recommendation to grant £1,000. Members discussed the increased amount, noting the current funds being held by the Club. Members voted and it was resolved to proceed with the figure recommended - £1,000 (with one abstention).
- iii) Sedbergh Walking and Cycling Group - £500 – Members discussed the recommendation and agreed. It was therefore resolved to reject the application on the basis of it appearing to support a commercial project.

14. Amenities Committee

Members received the minutes from the meeting held on 1st September 2021. It was further noted that Cllr Longlands had accompanied a contractor to clear the culvert at Guldrey (close to Spar) and had cleared one culvert at the playing field (gym area). Further works were required, including revisiting in the future when visible stones (within the pipework) would be washed into the culverts again. Cllr Longlands also noted that he had now met with a representative from B4RN at the playing field, to discuss their hopes to install B4RN in this location and to consider potential routes.

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, the Clerk was asked to follow the matter up with SLDC again.

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

Jubilee Fountain – Cllr Arnold requested that the Clerk contact UU and the contractor in an attempt to progress the project.

Electric Vehicle Charging – Cllr McPherson and the Clerk had met with ChargeMyStreet with a view to considering potential locations further. Members further discussed the project and additional questions recently raised in regard to i) lack of ability to increase capacity ii) inability for rapid charge iii) restrictions on bays/length of time vehicle could be in situ iv) length of contract and, therefore, resolved to end progressing the project any further at this time. Members agreed that alternative EV charging should now be considered and the Clerk was asked to pursue other providers.

16. Queen's Garden

- i) Tree Survey – it was noted that the Finance Committee had resolved to proceed with the required works as recommended.
- ii) Proposed Bandstand – Members noted that the Committee will be making informal enquiries for funding and will report further at a future meeting.

It was additionally recorded that the proposed bandstand anticipated significant contribution from legacy monies SPC were due to receive. However, the bandstand proposal would have to be considered against other applications and be within the terms of the relevant legacies. For example, whilst a contribution was a possibility, any contribution would have to be considered in proportion to the benefit of the community. It was also highlighted that other significant works would be required at the garden in the future, including the boundary wall, improved access and remedial works to the stone steps.

17. Highways Matters

- i) Proposed footpath at Howgill Lane. Cllr Arnold had met with a civil engineer to consider costs for a site survey and design of the scheme. Members resolved that the Clerk should now make further contact with CCC Highways/County Cllr Nick Cotton with a view to progressing the project, in particular, establishing potential financial obligations as the scheme progresses – including, also, consideration of overall responsibility under Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM).

18. Correspondence

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

- i) Gladstone House – Cllr Capstick raised a query on behalf of the volunteers that ran the Afternoon Teas/Fun Bingo at Gladstone House (pre covid). Members noted that South Lakes Housing had advised that they were not allowing external groups to use the communal lounge at this time and would review in six months. Members resolved, therefore, that the Chairman should write to the Housing Portfolio Holder at SLDC to pursue further. Currently it meant that all those that previously attended were no longer able to meet socially in their local area. The nearest alternative venue being the People's Hall, almost 1 km away. Unfortunately, it was not realistic for the majority of attendees to travel that far, due to mobility/accessibility constraints.
- ii) Market Trader – Members noted, with thanks, that one of the regular traders had recently donated an additional sum to Sedbergh Parish Council in support of the Market.

21. Date and Time of next meeting, monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday 14th October 2021, commencing at the earlier time of 7.00pm in Committee Room, Sedbergh People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh