

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 7.00 pm on Thursday 14th October 2021.

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr McPherson and Brooks and accepted by the meeting. One Casual Vacancy.

2. Requests for Dispensations

The Chairman and the Clerk highlighted a forthcoming planning application at Kings Yard (see Item 10 i) following an informal planning consultation recently circulated for the (currently) proposed development of eleven dwellings at Kings Yard, off Bainbridge Road. It was resolved that, given the number of Councillors indirectly (by employment) or directly (by living in close proximity to the development) with a DPI, that dispensations should be considered for any future formal planning application/discussion. Sedbergh Parish Council would be a consultee for any application subsequently submitted to Yorkshire Dales National Park in the future. Cumbria Association of Local Councils and the Monitoring Officer at South Lakeland District Council had been made aware of the request for dispensations and, therefore, Members resolved to delegate power to grant the requests to the Clerk of the Council in accordance with its Standing Orders. Relevant forms were completed and would be available upon request and further noted at the meeting in November. Without the dispensations, so many Members of the Council would have disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) that it would impede Sedbergh Parish Council in any transaction of business relating to this application. The Chairman further commenting that this was a necessary consideration, to protect the Councillors, the Community and the Parish Council.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Longlands – Item 12 (Defibrillator at Millthrop and Late Night Opening, festive lights), Item 14 Electric Vehicle Charging provision (People’s Hall) and Item 17 Sedbergh Tennis Club

4. Public Participation

(Members resolved to receive this Item prior to the commencement of the main meeting). An update was received from Sedbergh School in respect of their ongoing and future plans at the school, including, positive current numbers on roll at both Sedbergh School and the Prep School, marketing abroad difficulties during Covid, ongoing collaborative work with the Settlebeck School and the Primary School, Sedbergh Economic Partnership and their Marketing team, Nursery provision hopes, some staffing shortages, housing generally, technology centre plans and ongoing community outreach. The issue of parking was raised generally by Sedbergh Parish Council, as it becomes an increasing issue in the town at times, and whether the school might consider allocating some land in the future.

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

There were no urgent matters to consider at this time.

6. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council 9th September 2021

Members resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council held on the 9th September 2021 and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

7. Matters noted from the Minutes of 9th September 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. There was ongoing communication with CCC Cllr Cotton in respect of the proposed path at Howgill Lane, use of Gladstone House and a progress report on the current road closure at Middleton. Cllr Mitchell forwarded information from CCC Highways in respect of the junction at Busk Lane/Loftus Hill following ongoing communication over HGV's having difficulty at the junction, often due to cars parking up to the junction of Busk Lane. Members confirmed that the junction had been highlighted many times previously with CCC Highways and PCSO's, particularly in regard to cars parking up to and on the brow of the hill at Loftus Hill too, frequently forcing vehicles onto the wrong side of the road. The Clerk was asked to confirm these issues with Cllr Mitchell for his ongoing information.

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

Weekly updates were being received via South Lakeland District Council and circulated to Members. The Chairman additionally advised that some Parish/Town Councils election cycles would be changed to align in the future, however, this would not affect Sedbergh Parish Council – Elections scheduled for May 2022.

10. Planning

The Planning Committee meeting was scheduled for 20th October 2021. i) Informal consultation at Kings Yard/Bainbridge Road – information circulated. There was no comment on the informal planning application as Members await a formal application in due course.

11. Finance

Members resolved to adopt the minutes from the meetings held on 11th October 2021. Members also resolved to approve all payments recommended for October and noted the proposed Precept information. In addition, Members discussed the recent site meeting at Sedbergh Cemetery, resolving that the Clerk should now establish, with South Lakeland District Council (SLDC), how Sedbergh Parish Council might formalise the request to SLDC to allow the authority to consider any future Asset Transfer. Members were mindful to also identify any commuted or legacy sums that might be associated and what impact there would be on any future Precept provision if progressed. i) The Clerk requested all Members to consider future Budget requests/considerations and advise the Clerk prior to the next meeting in preparation for the draft budget for 2022/2023.

12. Grants

- i) Sedbergh First Responders – Members resolved to approve the recommendation for a grant of £500.00 as contribution to the cabinet for the defibrillator at Millthorp. Cllr Longlands took no part in discussion.
- ii) Sedbergh Late Night Opening – communication had been received in respect of festive lighting for December and Members resolved to approve additional costs for installation of some lighting in 2021 - £600.00. The Clerk was asked to liaise directly with the co-ordinator to confirm. Cllr Longlands took no part in discussion.

13. Amenities Committee

The Amenities Committee had not met.

14. Update on Projects

Maryfell Street sign - the Clerk had been advised that the sign was ready for installation. When erected, it was hoped that a promotion of the new sign would be scheduled with the Primary School, PCSO, South Lakes Housing and former Councillor, Kate Saunders alongside the Council.

Joss Lane car park – no progress to report in regard to resurfacing at this time, following an initial meeting with SLDC in September.

Loftus Hill car park – the Clerk had asked the Solicitor for an update in respect of the lease.

Jubilee Fountain – the Clerk confirmed that the contractor had met with United Utilities at the Fountain and the water sample taken had passed. The contractor will now carry out further investigation on restoring water for future public use and the Clerk will continue to liaise.

Electric Vehicle Charging – Cllrs Arnold and McPherson had met with an alternative provider to discuss EV charging at Joss Lane car park. Initial discussions had taken place and estimated costs were now being sought for civil/ground work. In addition, the Clerk was asked to pursue estimated costs at Loftus Hill car park (in conjunction with Sedbergh School) and the car parking area at the People’s Hall. Whilst it was noted that the People’s Hall Committee still did not agree with the provision of EV charging at the car park, it was noted that 2/3rds of the car park is owned by Sedbergh Parish Council (the remainder being leased to the People’s Hall Committee) and that investigations over viability should now continue. Cllr Longlands took no part in discussion in respect of the People’s Hall car parking area.

15. Queen’s Garden

The Queen’s Garden Committee had not met, verbal updates were received on the following.

- i) Tree Survey – it was noted that the contractor would be carrying out the necessary tree works in November.
- ii) Proposed Bandstand – Members noted that some provisional funding enquiries had been made with positive outcomes. The Clerk was asked to pursue further organisations and report to the Committee/Members in due course. When a potential ‘final’ total of grants had been sought, Members would further consider a contribution from legacy monies.

16. Highways Matters

- i) Proposed footpath at Howgill Lane. Following ongoing discussions with CCC Highways and the civil engineer instructed for the initial site survey/design of the proposed path, further implications in respect of ‘Principal Designer’ obligations under Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM) had been resolved. The Clerk noted that the contractor would become the Principal Designer and have responsibility for any ongoing requirements of CDM. The site survey was now awaited, prior to completion of design and formal tender invitations.

17. Sedbergh Tennis Club

Cllr Bromley updated Members following a recent meeting held by the Tennis Club.

Members of the Club wished to discuss disabled access at the main gateway and electrical issues in the pavilion. It was resolved that the Clerk write to the Tennis Club arranging a meeting to discuss issues, on site. In addition, given the request for Members to consider a financial contribution from Tennis Court reserves, for works required, the Clerk was asked to seek clarification over any fund raising the Club would be considering in the future. Further noting that the Council’s reserves were primarily being built for future surfacing/maintenance of the courts. Cllr Longlands took no part in discussion.

18. Correspondence

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

- i) Sedbergh Town Twinning – Members noted a request from the Town Twinning Group, to Sedbergh Parish Council, to host a meeting with the Slovenian Ambassador in the coming weeks/months in respect of a donated Linden tree at St Andrew’s church. The Clerk was asked to clarify some details and the Chairman advised he will speak directly with the Town Twinning Group too.
- ii) High Sheriff of Cumbria – Members noted a request for the High Sheriff to visit Sedbergh and it was agreed that this could be coincided with the Town Twinning event. The Clerk will liaise further in due course.

- iii) Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – Members noted correspondence from CALC in regard to hopes for Beacons to be lit on 2nd June 2022. Further noted, in regard to the extended bank holiday weekend, was an amended to the list of Meeting dates for 2022. The Parish Council will meet in May, following the Elections and then again in July (no Full Council meeting in June).
- iv) Market Trader – Members noted that a trader was disappointed that some stalls were selling similar stock. However, it was noted that the Market rules were being adhered to.
- v) Sedbergh Bowling Club – Members were advised that the Bowling Club were looking at potential improvements to the toilets, further information would be available in due course.

21. Date and Time of next meeting, monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday 11th November 2021, commencing at 7.30pm in Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.