

## **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 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022.**

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

### Part I

#### **1. Apologies**

There were no apologies, all Members present. One Vacancy.

#### **2. Requests for Dispensations**

There were no requests for dispensations.

#### **3. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Brooks – Item 17 (Correspondence)

#### **4. Public Participation**

Members welcomed representation from B4RN in respect of a proposed wayleave at the playing field, Howgill Lane. Members discussed the proposed new route (and cabinet) which follows the south and west sides of the boundary. Cllr Longlands expressed concern for the proximity, of this route, to a main power cable. Noting in particular, the concern for use of the mechanical plough at this location. B4RN gave assurances that they would maintain site safety/integrity at all times. Members resolved to approve the wayleave request, and the Chairman will sign in due course (attached).

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

Members noted that there was nothing new to report, restrictions continue to ease in England, including the relaxation of social distancing and face coverings.

#### **6. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Members resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held in December and January and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

#### **7. Matters noted from the Minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 or 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

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 Cllr Mitchell, District Cllr Pye and County Cllr Cotton did not attend. Cllr Lancaster gave a brief update on LGR progression, including notice that the Parish Council May meetings, may need to be delayed, depending on outcomes for the Shadow Authority.

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

The new Shadow Authorities (Cumberland Council, and Westmorland and Furness Council for this area) and will be elected in May 2022 with Vesting Day being 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. The Clerk will be attending future meetings with other larger Parish/Town Councils in the area, to maintain dialogue with the authority as LGR progresses.

## **10. Planning**

The Planning Committee had met recently, and comments submitted directly to Yorkshire Dales National Park as appropriate. Members noted S/03/721 31 Loftus Hill had been withdrawn. In respect of S/03/55F Baliol House, Baliol School Site (see 20.1.22) Members noted that there was a potential material changes request to the Local Plan 2023-2040, which might include the former Baliol site.

## **11. Finance**

Members resolved to adopt the minutes from the meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

Members also resolved to approve all payments recommended for February, including legal fees for the lease at Loftus Hill car park, and an interim invoice for the design work at the playing field (as soon as the final design was received, with the minor adjustments noted).

## **12. Grants**

Western Dales Bus - £1,000.00. Members discussed the application, however, there were several questions that could not be simply answered. The Clerk was, therefore, asked to invite representation from the WDB to attend a future meeting to discuss further. Including further detail on their current hopes for the service and its current and projected finances. For example, analysis/viability of some services/passenger numbers etc, given the current financial forecast. Members also noted that the Council do support the bus currently, by reserving two car parking spaces.

## **13. Amenities Committee**

Members had not met since November. Members did note, however, that the Senior Football Club hope to reinstate the fence/sign as soon as their contractor is available, following the damage to the fence at the playing field during Storm Arwen. Members also noted that the Club now intended to send their £300 donation for use of the field, this is a contribution toward the annual costs for maintaining the pitch (circa £3500 per annum). The Club had been invited to attend the Council meetings in December and January – and were again invited to attend a future meeting to discuss any matter they wished to raise/address in respect of the pitch. Members also noted that the wet pour repairs, recently highlighted during an inspection, were due to take place on the play area at the playing field in March. i) update on Parish Street light audit. The Clerk and Cllr Longlands were able to confirm that an audit had now been completed with Friends of the Lake District and Cumbria County Council – in summary, the new output for the unmetered supply would be significantly reduced by approximately 50% after a review by enwl. It also highlighted some old-style lights for upgrade, and the Clerk will continue to liaise with Cllr Longlands and Friends of the Lake District to improve these in due course. In partnership with the current Dark Skies promotion, Friends of the Lake District are hosting a talk in Sedbergh on 22.2.22 and would like to attend a future Parish Council meeting to discuss the Council's hopes to reduce energy/light to support the initiative in the longer term, and following the audit. Thanks to Friends of the Lake District and Cumbria County Council for their support.

## **14. Update on Projects**

Joss Lane car park – no progress to report in regard to resurfacing at this time. SLDC had advised that the Council are welcome to apply for a Locally Important Project grant (toward any enhancement/resurfacing work) when/if the fund becomes available again in the next financial year. In the meantime, Members will consider options to progress, as the lining continues to deteriorate.

Loftus Hill car park – the Lease had been received (with relevant corrections) and signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Members noted that it had been necessary to also sign a notice advising that there was no security of tenure and the Council were, therefore, unable to guarantee an automatic renewal at the end of the seven-year lease. See also, Part II.

Jubilee Fountain – the Clerk will follow up any progress with the contractor, bearing in mind the current complications on investigative work at this time of year (frost etc)

Electric Vehicle Charging – the Clerk is waiting for an updated quote from enwl for civils costs for any future EV charging provision.

### **15. Queen’s Garden**

The Queen’s Garden Committee had not met. i) Proposed Bandstand, updates from initial funding enquiries and future progression – The Clerk had received positive feedback from the Community Trust, with total potential funding toward a bandstand now being £18,000, from a variety of sources. Members resolved that the Queen’s Garden Sub Committee should now meet, and obtain some up to date anticipated costs for a project, including feedback from town band on size required etc. The Clerk should also summarise current legacy monies that are due to be received, along with restrictions – so Members can make a full evaluation of potential funds available against potential future projects/priorities of the Council.

### **16. Highways Matters**

Members noted the following. i) Proposed footpath at Howgill Lane. An updated design had been received; however, three minor adjustments were still required. The Clerk was asked to progress these as soon as possible, with the view to issuing the tender for works in the next two weeks. Members also confirmed that the interim invoice should be paid upon receipt of this amended design and the Clerk should then seek a reimbursement from Cumbria County Council. Members also discussed the hedge in the north east corner of the playing field, it was resolved that the Amenities committee visit the site and confirm a suitable height for the hedge, and to ensure it was cut back prior to any commencement of the growing season. ii) Puffin crossing, Long Lane – the crossing was now complete and welcomed by Members. The Clerk was, however, asked to contact CCC and asked if any additional light could be considered directly onto the crossing. Anecdotally, Members had been advised that (at night/dusk) it was difficult to see if there was anyone crossing (while lights on green) and there was a concern that some might not realise the crossing was there – ie people trying to cross, without pressing the button/former zebra crossing. Whilst Members recognise this is at the users’ risk, the glare from the green lights does make this problematic. Members were keen to express, that they welcomed the crossing, and the increased safety generally, but felt they must highlight the request for improved visibility during darker hours. Another suggestion was highlighting the highway with additional lining maybe, but Members recognise that this may not be standard practice for a Puffin Crossing.

### **17. Correspondence**

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

- i) Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – Members were advised that the request to plant trees in the north west corner of the playing field had been withdrawn. It was noted that a new location was being considered within the People’s Hall lease area, further details to be confirmed. Members noted that there was a concern for detritus from any additional trees, also the longer-term plans for management etc. In respect of general plans to mark the Jubilee, Members noted that a beacon would be lit (Cllr Sedgwick) 2.6.22 and the Cllrs Longlands and Cowperthwaite would support any group set up to consider joint plans/celebrations for the town. Members also noted that they would be minded to give some financial support. Finally, it was noted, that if the path progresses at the playing field, this could be named as the Platinum Jubilee Walk to commemorate the Queen.
- ii) B4RN – see Public Participation
- iii) Sedbergh Economic Partnership meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022, Cllrs Lancaster and McPherson had attended, along with the Clerk. It was noted that the Economic Advisor hoped to attend a future meeting of the Council.
- iv) Request for (new) residential property drainage into playing field/People’s Hall drains. Members acknowledged the recent ‘Notice’ of Planning permission which included the desire to join to the drains at the playing field. Members noted a recent response from the People’s Hall Committee, in that they would be reluctant to set a precedent with this request, and Members of the Parish Council were inclined to agree. Plans are not yet available in detail, but it was thought that an alternative solution to foul and top water drainage, would need to be sought. Cllr Brooks left the room during this discussion.

- v) Revised Parish Council meeting dates – Election year and Queen’s Jubilee – Members resolved to adopt the new dates, with a note that the scheduled May dates may need to be delayed, depending on outcomes of the Shadow Authority/Elections on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022.
- vi) YDNPA – the Clerk had received a letter of introduction from the new Area Ranger, noting that he would like Members of Sedbergh Parish Council to consider any priority paths for improvement work. It was agreed that the Amenities Committee would discuss this further and compile a list for YDNPA.

**21. Date and Time of next meeting, monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022, commencing at 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 legal information to be discussed.

**14. Update on Projects** - Members resolved to go into part two to consider the future legal representation of the council.