

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 10th March 2022.

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

Revd. A Burgess, Vicar to the Benefice of the Western Dales, was welcomed to the meeting for prayer and reflection - Ukraine Invasion - prior to commencement of the formal Agenda

Part I

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sedgwick and McPherson and accepted by the meeting. Cllr Bromley was in attendance from 8.00pm. One Vacancy.

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Arnold and Cowperthwaite (Item 9, Planning)

Cllr Longlands (Item 13, Projects i) electrical adaptation at People’s Hall for emergency resilience)

4. Public Participation

Members welcomed representatives for the Western Dales Bus (WDB). This followed the deferment of their Grant application for £1,000.00 in February 2022. Further information had been received from WDB and circulated to Members. The additional information gave a summary of viability on some routes and some further clarification on future financial projections, Members were also able to ask some further questions, including queries over any Recovery Strategy and support from other Parishes on the current routes. After further discussion, two options were proposed. A lower amount of £500 and the original request - £1,000.00. However, following a vote, it was resolved that the sum of £1,000.00 be awarded (voted 4/4 with the Chairman’s casting vote in favour). Members were also minded to note that Sedbergh Parish Council do additionally support the WDB on a continuing annual basis, by providing two parking bays within their car parks. Members thanked those that attended to represent the Western Dales Bus. (See also, Item 11, Grants)

Cllr Bromley joined during this Item.

5. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council 10th February 2022

Members resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 10th February 2022 and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters noted from the Minutes of 10th February 2022

The Clerk highlighted that the B4RN Wayleave for the playing field (approved at the February meeting, Item 4 Public Participation) required final completion, signature by the Chairman, and return to B4RN. There were no other matters to note, all ongoing items were included on the agenda.

7. Report/update from District/County Council

Apologies were received from District Cllr Mitchell and County Cllr Cotton. Cllr Pye did not attend. Cllr Lancaster noted a brief update on the Local Government Reorganisation (see also Item 8).

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

Cllr Lancaster gave a brief update on LGR progression. It was anticipated that the first meeting of the new Shadow Authority would take place on 17th May 2022. The Clerk attended a meeting for Larger Town and Parish Council's to share best practices as LGR progresses, and will continue to maintain contact. It was noted that the Shadow Authority would be prioritising workload in the coming months as they work toward Vesting Day on 1st April 2023. It was hoped that when meeting dates of the new Shadow Authority were confirmed, a date for the Annual Meetings of the Parish could be confirmed. Election Day was 5th May 2022. It was further confirmed that Nomination Packs for Parish Councils would be distributed shortly, with a timescale of 28th March to 5th April 2022 for submission by candidates. A Statement of Nominated Persons would be published by South Lakeland District Council on the 6th April 2022.

9. Planning

The Planning Committee had not met, the following applications were discussed.

S/03/724 Primrose Cottage, permission for erection of two-storey side extension to west elevation and erection of a single storey rear extension – No objections.

S/03/719 Pine Trees, Cautley Road, planning permission for change of use and conversion of former gym building into 3 No. holiday cottages. The site sits within the only area allocated for Business Development in the Parish. It is as such a critical site for the future economic prosperity of the town. The position of the council is to object to any proposals on the site which are not significantly biased towards providing such opportunities. Members were mindful of their recent objection on these grounds for another application within the allocated area and felt that it would be inconsistent to offer a different opinion. Indeed, this application if approved could set a precedent that could result in grounds for a far from optimal resolution for the wider site. Members wished it to be noted that their opinion would be no different if the application were for low cost or local occupancy housing – Objection.

S/03/132A Danson Buildings, Sedbergh School, planning permission for installation of a three-bay modular classroom unit to the rear of the existing building (retrospective). Members discussed the retrospective application and wished to express that that permission should only be given to a maximum of five years, without provision for renewal, and that an agreement should be made to restore the site thereafter. (Cllrs Arnold and Cowperthwaite left the meeting for this Item).

10. Finance

Members received the minutes from the meetings held on 7th March 2022. Members also resolved to approve all payments recommended for February. In addition, payments were agreed for Western Dales Bus grant £1,000.00 (see Item 4 Public Participation and Item 11 Grants), Electrical work at the People's Hall £1047.00 (see Item 13 Projects), plants £31.43 (see Item 14 Queen's Garden) and wet pour repairs at the Playing field £1980.00. In addition, it was resolved that a payment should be made to WaterPlus (for wastewater) for Joss Lane and Loftus Hill car parks, following invoices received for the forthcoming year – £1773.78 (Loftus Hill) and £3710.11 (Joss Lane) – total £5483.89.

Authorisation was required to avoid any late payment fees that might accrue if delayed until the April meeting. Following recommendation from the Finance Committee, it was also resolved that Cllrs Lancaster, Brooks, Capstick and Arnold would be the authorised signatories for the Parish Accounts, continuing with dual authority, with particular view to the future ongoing plans to switch to online banking.

11. Grants

Western Dales Bus - £1,000.00 (see Item 4, Public Participation).

12. Amenities Committee

Members received the minutes of the meeting held 2nd March 2022. It was noted that the Clerk would liaise further with Friends of the Lake District in respect of the two highlighted street lights for potential upgrade, following the recent review and audit.

13. Update on Projects

Joss Lane car park –Members hope to consider options to progress current appearance, as the lining continues to deteriorate. No action in respect of potential resurfacing at this time.

Loftus Hill car park – the Clerk was awaiting a copy of the completed lease.

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

Electric Vehicle Charging – an updated quote had been received from enwl in respect of a new connection. Members resolved that Cllr Longlands and the Clerk review information received and report back to Full Council with potential next steps.

- i) Electrical adaptation at People’s Hall for emergency resilience. Members reviewed the quote that had been received from Cllr Longlands and resolved to progress the installation. This would give a more robust community response in the future if the building was used as an Emergency Hub. (Cllr Longlands left the room for this Item)

14. Queen’s Garden

The Queen’s Garden Committee had recently met and the notes circulated to Members. It was resolved that a tender should be progressed, to establish potential ground work costs for the desired Bandstand project. Once potential costs are established, Members would be in a position to review the proposal further. The tender should also include provision for any ducting that might be required, if an electrical (sub main) connection was progressed in the future. Members of the Queen’s Garden Committee would continue to liaise with the Bowling Club over the project, and seek their feedback, along with the feedback of neighbouring properties. It was noted that the Grant, received from the Community Trust toward this project, would be banked and held in Reserve for the future. If the Bandstand project did not progress, the grant would be returned to the Community Trust. Finally, Members noted the works required to trees on the eastern boundary and the residual stumps, and resolved that a contractor should progress with works as soon as practicable. Also, that a cheque should be issued for the sum of £31.43 to purchase some ferns for the stumpery. A replacement tree (due to the storm damage seen on one of the new young Acers) would be ordered in due course. Finally, it was noted that there may be some damage to the northern boundary wall – Cllr Capstick will report further.

15. Highways Matters

- i) Members noted that a tender had been issued for the proposed path at Howgill Lane, with a closing date of the 6th April 2022.

16. Correspondence

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

- i) Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – there were no updates on plans for the town.
- ii) Sedbergh Economic Partnership meeting – a meeting is scheduled on 18th March 2022.
- iii) Proposed Children’s Wood – People’s Hall, no further update.
- iv) United Utilities – the Clerk noted that UU had attended the inspection chamber, close to Birks Lane, following a surcharge of sewage. It was noted that some remedial works had been carried out. A further update on any provision for potential improvement works, following the anticipated increase in housing (Station Road development), had not been received.
- v) Memorial bench – Pentney’s Folly (Church Walk) – the Clerk advised that a former Sedbergh School student might wish to donate a bench on Pentney’s Folly in memorial to the late Lester Garnett. The Clerk was advised to liaise further, to discuss costs/provision.

- vi) Paddock close to Straight Bridge/Burnt Mill – Members noted correspondence received in regard to General Permitted Development (Temporary) for tea/coffee/cake provision at the paddock. Members noted that they would review/comment in due course, should a permanent application follow in the future.

17. Date and Time of next meeting, monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday 14th April 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 information to be discussed.

18. Road Safety A684

Members resolved to go into part two to discuss an update from CANS (Councils Against Noise and Speed).

19. Sedbergh United Charities

Members resolved to go into part two to discuss a confidential matter relating to an ongoing complaint, Sedbergh United Charities, noting that the Council had six representatives on the Board of Trustees.

20. Legacy monies

Members resolved to go into part two to discuss the details of the legacy monies anticipated.

1) Legacy 1 - (Seven shares of the residual estate) £16350 had been received so far, with further funds anticipated. The shares SPC will receive are divided for a) infrastructure and benefit of local people and b) to help encourage young talent in areas such as music/art/farming and the local economy.

2) Legacy 2 - (8% of the residual estate) and must be agreed by the Executor and should be for a capital project.