

## **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 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

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

### Part I

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Sedgwick and accepted by the meeting. One Vacancy.

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

There were no requests for dispensations at this meeting. The Clerk was requested to circulate Dispensation forms, for Sedbergh School, for the July meeting.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no Members of the Public present at the meeting.

#### **5. Vacancy – consider any written application for Co-option to Sedbergh Parish Council**

No written applications had been received, and the Clerk was requested to include the item again at the July meeting. The chairman reminded members of the process for co-option and the need for all votes to be held in public.

#### **6. Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council 12<sup>th</sup> May and 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

Members resolved to adopt the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, the normal monthly meeting and the extraordinary meetings held in May. There was minor addition to the extraordinary meeting, to include the reason it had been called by the Chairman.

#### **7. Matters noted from the Minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

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

#### **8. Report/update from District/Westmorland and Furness and County Council**

Apologies were received from County Cllr Cotton and Cllr Mitchell. Cllr Pye did not attend. Cllr Hazel Hodgson hopes to attend a future meeting.

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

There were no matters to note at the current time.

#### **10. Planning**

The Planning Committee had recently met, and would be submitting their comments to Yorkshire Dales National Park. Three further recent applications were noted, at the meeting, all with – no objections.

#### **11. Finance**

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022. It was further noted, that the Town Twinning Group had recently met, and minutes will be circulated for reference. (May 2022, Item 12).

## 12. Grants

There were no Grant applications.

## 13. Amenities Committee

Members resolved to accept the minutes for the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

## 14. Update on Projects

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

Jubilee Fountain – the Clerk advised that the fountain was almost ready for commissioning into use, various final checks/risk assessment/public health regulations (with South Lakeland District Council) were still to be confirmed prior to reopening, including potential requirements over winter months etc.

Joss Lane car park – representatives of the Council had met with a consultant to discuss a fee proposal for the works required (still awaited) to enhance and improve the car park, including consideration to reduced recycling, improved infrastructure/appearance and EV charging. Cllr Arnold gave a brief overview on the Shared Prosperity Fund, recently circulated by South Lakeland District Council, noting that the car park rejuvenation would potentially fit within elements of the funding stream, giving added value to the town. Members delegated authority to the Chair/Vice Chair and the Clerk to pursue the funding opportunity further, however, it was noted that there was a very short initial deadline for proposals.

- i) Electric Vehicle Charging – the Clerk has received feedback on the draft application and will continue to progress the funding via The Energy Saving Trust, On-Street Residential ChargePoint Scheme (ORCS), Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) and potential future installations at Joss Lane and (also) Loftus Hill car park, including the new connections required.

## 15. Queen's Garden

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the Queen's Garden Committee meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022. i) proposed Bandstand and future ideas – Members resolved to progress the tender invite for the hardstanding (for a future bandstand) and associated landscaping. The Clerk will liaise with the Committee over the tender document and proposed closing dates, with hopes to consider further at the August meeting. Whilst it had been hoped to bring the proposal to the July meeting, other time critical commitments of the Council, would afford this unfortunate delay. The new timings would, however, potentially allow a longer tender period for contractors to submit.

## 16. Highways Matters

Following the disappointment noted at the meeting in May, in regard to the Traffic Regulation Order requests for additional yellow lining (Item 15) Members resolved that the Clerk should write to the new Westmorland and Furness Council Councillors, highlighting the Councils concern and request further action/consideration in the future. The areas to consider include, Station Road, close to its junction with Highfield (and Castlegarth/Thorns Lane and Loftus Hill/Busk Lane. Members also noted that CCC Highways had given some early indication of road surfacing works on the Cautley road, and that the safety work and rebuild required to repair the significant damage (close to Cross Keys) was due to commence in the coming months. Unfortunately, this was going to include a full road closure. CCC Highways hope to give as much notice as possible ahead of the works. A start date has not yet been confirmed, due to collaboration with other agencies involved, particularly in respect of the river beneath.

i) Proposed footpath at Howgill Lane. Members noted that final confirmation of the proposed path had been agreed by Cumbria County Council. However, it was now noted that the additional work required on the highway would now form part of the project. Initially, it was envisaged that CCC Highways would undertake the work. Further details and specification would need to be clarified with CCC Highways as soon as practical, and to coincide with the works planned to commence in September.

## 16. Review of current Resident Parking Permit Scheme

Members discussed the current scheme (attached) and how this might be improved/updated for the future, particularly in light of the continuing parking issues/concerns in the town. For example, the number of permits issued versus the number of spaces available and how this was now causing concern when considering planning applications for the town. ie, several recent development/planning applications had indicated that parking for the new development would be via the town's public car parks. Unfortunately, however, this was not feasible and was going to put added pressure on the spaces available and leave visitors with nowhere to park, or force them on to nearby residential streets. The lack of parking space in the town was of growing concern and it was resolved that Cllr Arnold would highlight the issue with Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority – by confirming that even where Members supported an application for development in principle, they would be compelled to object on the grounds of lack of suitable/adequate parking and that suggesting the use of the public car parks was not acceptable on planning applications. Various other options were raised in respect of resident permits, including the potential to formalise parking at the People's Hall car park and Guldrey (tennis courts), restricting numbers of permits and potential times allowed. **Members finally resolved the following interim amendments i) vehicles should be moved regularly and should not return to the same space within a 48-hour period (no reserved or assumed spaces), reiterating that the storage of vehicles was prohibited ii) an increase to the annual fee, to £60 for the forthcoming permit period.** It was noted that the annual off-street parking permit fee in Kendal (as a comparison only) was £550.00 and that further reviews of the scheme would be needed in the future, to ensure that sufficient spaces could be maintained for the town.

## 17. Correspondence

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

- i) Sedbergh Economic Partnership meeting – minutes of the recent meeting would be circulated to Members.
- ii) Numbers of migrating travellers during Appleby Fair – Members noted the town's recent concerns following the number of issues highlighted in recent weeks, and advise that a Respect meeting will be requested as soon as feasible to discuss concerns/future improvements/considerations.
- iii) NatWest mobile bank – Members noted concerns raised by residents over the adhoc attendance of the mobile bank in recent months. NatWest had indicated that matters were now resolved, and they hoped to return to regular attendance.
- iv) United Utilities – the Clerk noted a response (attached) over the discharges close to Birks/and the reported discharges into the river.
- v) Yorkshire Dales National Park – Parish Member, a request was noted in regard to attendance at a future meeting.
- vi) Joss Lane car park – it was noted that as plans for improvements to the car park progress, it would be necessary to investigate the various gates/access arrangements on the car park.
- vii) Antoni Gosieswdki – members noted that the Clerk hoped to enquire, with SLDC, if a plaque could be considered at the cemetery. The Community Trust, had indicated that one would be possible at the Garden at No 72 Main Street, if required. It was hoped that a meeting would be progressed in the summer.
- viii) Sedbergh Information Centre – a request for a bin in the Garden, at number 72, was noted, however, the garden belongs to The Community Trust.
- ix) Platinum Jubilee Beacon – Members expressed their sincere thanks to Cllr Sedgwick (and family) for the recent Beacon lighting at Winder Fell.
- x) Sedbergh Cemetery – Members noted concerns raised for the ongoing condition of the cemetery, particularly in respect of the damage caused in the storms in 2021 and the residual damage to graves/head stones in close proximity to the footpath.

**18. Date and Time of next meeting – monthly meeting of Sedbergh Parish Council, to be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in the 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 financially sensitive and confidential nature of the items to be discussed.

**19. Road Safety A684 – any update from CANS (Councils Against Noise and Speed)**

Members noted that there was no formal update/progress.

**20. Legacy monies/Update Solicitors**

No update on legacy monies at this time, noting that Members will consider further (when legacies complete) how to disperse funds, including consideration of transfer to another body. Members resolved that Sedbergh Parish Council’s Legal representation be transferred to Temple Heelis, Solicitors, and that Members of the Finance Committee would sign the formal agreement as required in due course.

**21. Contractors Review**

Members discussed a draft contract for Main Street toilets, and it was resolved that this should be used as an initial document to consider as a basis for all existing and future contracts (including Handyman/Gardener and grass cutting). The initial draft would now be referred to the Contractor for discussion.