

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 14th July 2022

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

Thanks were noted to Sedbergh School and Councillor Arnold for the recent successes of Sedbergh School Challenge week. Many Councillors had received feedback for the improvements/repairs implemented around the town, including (but not exhaustive) New Bridge picnic area, the shelter at the playing field, along with the reconditioning of the slide, the bus shelter at Station Road, benches around the town and Queen’s Garden works and much more.

Part I

1. Apologies

All Members were present at the meeting. However, apologies were received from Cllr Welti who arrived a few minutes late, also Cllr Sedgwick who had to leave at approx. 8.30pm and Cllr McPherson who had to leave at approx. 9.00pm. One Vacancy.

2. Requests for Dispensations

Requests for dispensations were considered and renewed for Planning Matters, primarily Kings Yard Development (Item 10) and any future Sedbergh School planning applications, as might be deemed appropriate. Reasons noted were where individuals were directly or indirectly related to Sedbergh School (or their employees) or neighbours of the proposed Kings Yard development.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Public Participation

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

(Cllr Welti arrived at the meeting)

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

Members received two expressions of interest for Co-Option to Sedbergh Parish Council. Mr Alisdair McMeechan and Mr Ian Hutt. Following a process of votes, Mr Ian Hutt was successful. The Clerk was asked to make contact with Mr Hutt with relevant Acceptance of Office forms and Declaration of Interest form, as required, and will notify South Lakeland District Council. Thanks were expressed to both candidates for their interest.

6. Minutes of the Meeting of the Sedbergh Parish Council 16th June 2022

Members resolved to adopt the Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th June 2022 and were signed as a true record by the Chairman, Cllr Kevin Lancaster.

7. Matters noted from the Minutes of 16th June 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 Cotton had indicated his written support of Sedbergh Parish Council’s approach to the car parking issue in Sedbergh (Item 14), along with Cllr Mitchell.

Cllr Mitchell also highlighted his hope to meet with representatives of Sedbergh Parish Council and ‘walkabout’ the Parish in the future, to raise/answer queries raised by residents. The Chairman, along with Cllr McPherson, indicated their support to attend any walkabout, and to walk/drive the whole Parish, when convenient. Cllrs Pye and Hodgson did not attend.

9. To receive an update on the Local Government Reorganisation

There had been a Full Council meeting on 13th July 2022, no other updates to circulate at this time.

10. Planning

The Planning Committee had recently met, there were no minutes available however their comments to Yorkshire Dales National Park were available on YDNPA website. The following application was passed to full council by the Planning Committee and dispensations formally applied for due to more than 50% of councillors living close to the site or having other declarable interests.

S/03/606A Kinds Yard Developments – Full planning permission and relevant demolition of an unlisted building in a conservation area in respect of demolition of the existing commercial buildings and erection of 7 No. residential dwellings with association means of access, parking and landscaping

Members were unanimous in the opinion that commercial use of the site was inappropriate given its location and a change to residential use was the in the best long-term interests of the Parish and local residents. Members felt that the scheme was of an appropriate design and density having been reduced from 11 units to 7. Members also agreed that any development on the site would cause temporary disruption locally and this application would have no greater effect than any other. The alternative is a rapidly decaying group of buildings in the town which is not in the interests of the Parish. Providing appropriate conditions are applied by the authority any disruption can be minimised.

Members were mindful of a previous mixed use scheme S/03/606 which whilst approved by the authority had failed to prove viable; it was felt that were this application not to be approved or such conditions applied that made it financially unviable to develop, there was potential that the site would become unattractive for any other future developer to investigate, and as a result become a long-term derelict plot. With this in mind members wished an appropriate balance of ‘local occupancy’ and ‘open market’ property be agreed with the authority.

Members noted the parking provision was for two spaces per property and other existing residential units had been catered for. Whilst there would still be some displacement of vehicles unofficially utilising the site the owner was within their rights to prevent parking on the current site and as such this was not a material planning consideration. Equally a new B2 use could move into the site without requirement for planning consent, this could include significant levels of delivery traffic and would result in the same displacement of parked vehicles. The proposal was therefore considered a best-case scenario for any residential development of the site.

A motion was put therefore to support the application and was passed 9 votes to 1. Cllr Bromley wished it to be formally recorded that whilst she had no objection to the details of the application she had concerns over the continuing parking problems in the town and the displacement of vehicles that would be caused by this site being developed. As such she felt that until wider parking issues had been addressed, she felt compelled to vote against the motion.

- i) Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan – Consultation No.5 ‘Preferred options’. The Clerk was requested to share the link to the consultation document again, with Members, so that a response could be agreed at the August meeting and submitted before the deadline in August.

11. Finance

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 11th July 2022. It was additionally resolved that a trade account could be set up with a local building supplier, to allow ordering and invoicing for goods authorised.

12. Grants

There were no Grant applications.

13. Amenities Committee

Members resolved to accept the minutes for the meeting held on 6th July 2022. It was noted that the Committee had agreed to have a rolling program of repair/replacement of benches. It was identified that a replacement picnic bench was required at Ghyllas Layby picnic area, and the Clerk would liaise with the Committee over an appropriate purchase (to match existing benches at the site where possible). It was further noted that, following discussion at the meeting, a letter should be progressed to BT to make enquiries about the telephone exchange building, west of Main Street, and its future. The site may, for example, be an appropriate space for parking if it were to become available/adapted. It was resolved that a Cllr Arnold would draft a letter for BT, and the Chairman would additionally raise this with Sedbergh Economic Partnership.

14. Update on Projects

Future carparking – Members discussed the attached paper on car parking, drafted by Cllr Bromley. It was agreed that the Parish Council needed to be proactive in addressing the issue of parking in the town, and the lack of car parking spaces.

It was resolved that the Clerk write to the portfolio holder, Cllr Peter Thornton, Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee, to invite along to the August meeting to discuss the Council’s concerns. It was further agreed that this should also be raised with the Sedbergh Economic Partnership, and that the paper should be shared with their Members and Cllr Thornton. During discussions, various locations were discussed to alleviate parking in the town centre, for example, coach parking been made available on the outskirts of town (potentially New Bridge layby) and extending the car parking area at the People’s Hall – as well as the BT exchange (Item 13).

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

Jubilee Fountain – the Clerk was awaiting contact from the contractor and SLDC in regard to the fountain being brought into use.

Joss Lane car park – following the meeting with a consultant, and fee proposal, it was resolved that the consultant should now be requested to progress the civil engineering design discussed. This would give additional information for Members when looking at future works at the car park. South Lakeland District Council had recently advised that it was unlikely that any Locally Important Project Funds, or Capital Grown Bids would be available during this financial year. It was, however, noted that the Clerk had submitted an expression of interest (attached) for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund with South Lakeland District Council.

- i) Electric Vehicle Charging – the Clerk had received feedback on the draft application and is progressing the funding via The Energy Saving Trust, On-Street Residential ChargePoint Scheme (ORCS), Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV). With requests for potential future installations at Joss Lane and (also) Loftus Hill car park, including the new connections required. As noted, above, the final signed lease for Loftus Hill car park is still awaited from Sedbergh School and this would be required for final submission.

- ii) Street Lighting Review – the Clerk was able to update Members on the ongoing work being completed by herself, Cllr Longlands and Friends of the Lake District in respect of improvements to the Parish owned street lighting. This would potentially help reduce costs, and also be dark skies compliant. Some initial material costs had been established and labour costs were now being investigated further. Members resolved that they were supportive for this project to continue and for relevant funding applications to be completed to support in the future. The initial works might be, for example, to agree to upgrade approx. no.18 lights to LED, with future works then considered to improve the style of some lights in the town/replace ones that were no longer working.

(Cllr Sedgwick left the meeting)

15. Queen’s Garden

Members had not met i) proposed Bandstand, update on tenders for hard standing/landscaping for future proposed bandstand. The invitations had now been issued, with a closing date later this month, an update would be made to Members at the August meeting.

16. Highways Matters

Members noted that there had been more incidents and two accidents at Junction 37/M6 in recent weeks. Members resolved that the Clerk highlight the ongoing concern for this Junction while writing to Cllr Peter Thornton (Item 14).

- i) Proposed footpath at Howgill Lane and Highways connection. A recent meeting with CCC had been postponed, to discuss the join onto the Highway at Havera. The Clerk is due to meet CCC Highways and the Contractor completing the path on the playing field later this month. It was hoped that a proposal can be agreed with CCC Highways, as soon as practical, and to coincide with the works planned to commence in September.

17. Review of current Resident Parking Permit Scheme

Following the agreement to amend/update the Resident Parking Permit Scheme the draft (attached) was agreed by Members and it was resolved that the Clerk circulate to the Information Centre in preparation for permits being issued this year.

18. Correspondence

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

- i) Sedbergh Economic Partnership meeting – minutes of the recent meeting were shared with Members. It was noted, by Members, that the identified location for a children’s nursery was not ideal due to a) age/condition of building b) access, both stairs internally and access/parking externally
- ii) Antoni Gosiewski – the Clerk had spoken with SLDC and initially identified a potential location on the lych gate (cemetery) for a plaque to commemorate. The Community Trust, had indicated that one would be possible at the Garden at No 72 Main Street, if required. The Clerk hopes to meet with interested parties, and progress further in the coming weeks. Members resolved a budget of up to £300.00 for the plaque and future installation.
- iii) SLDC, Sedbergh Cemetery – Members resolved that the Clerk write to SLDC, Cllr Jonathan Brook, to highlight the ongoing concern for the condition/upkeep of the cemetery.
- iv) Resident – report for Respect meeting over damage caused at New Bridge/picnic site – Members noted the report (attached). Members additionally discussed the town’s recent concerns following the number of issues highlighted during the lead up to Appleby Fair. Cllrs Lancaster, McPherson and the Clerk hope to attend the joint Respect meeting scheduled on Thursday 21st July 2022 at Barbon Village Hall.
- v) Yorkshire Dales National Park – Parish Member, following a request, it was noted that the new Parish Member would attend the August meeting.

- vi) Sedbergh Tennis Club – Members noted the concern raised by Sedbergh Tennis Club in regard to some damage caused to an inspection hatch recently. It was noted that the Clerk would write to United Utilities highlighting their concerns.
- vii) Sedbergh Information Centre – the Clerk advised that the Information Centre (and other Traders) hope to promote the Shop Local campaign over the Summer.

(Cllr McPherson left the meeting)

19. Date and Time of next meeting – monthly meeting of Sedbergh Parish Council, to be held at the earlier time of 7.00pm on Thursday 11th August 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/or confidential nature of the items to be discussed.

20. Road Safety A684 – update from CANS (Councils Against Noise and Speed)

There was nothing to report at this meeting and any future consultation, if required, was awaited.

21. Legacy monies/Update Solicitors

No update on legacy monies at this time. The formal agreement for transfer of the Parish Council’s Legal representation had been completed and returned to Temple Heelis.

22. Contractors Review

Members discussed the recommendation from the Amenities Committee following an initial meeting with the contractor. It was resolved that the rate and terms of contract (including length and reduced term to accommodate holidays) would be formally offered to the current contractor for the Main Street toilets. Future contracts (including Handyman/Gardener and grass cutting would be considered in due course).