

## **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 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**Present:** Councillors Lancaster (Chair), Arnold, Longlands, Capstick, Welti, Brooks, Cowperthwaite, McPherson, Sedgwick and Bromley. Members welcomed Cllr Ian Hutt, following Co-Option at the July meeting.

#### Part I

#### **1. Apologies**

All Members were present at the meeting. However, apologies were received from Cllr Brooks and Sedgwick who arrived a few minutes late, also Cllr McPherson who left at approx. 9.00pm.

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

There were no requests for Dispensations at this meeting.

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

Item 9 – Planning, Cllr Arnold (S/03/730 and S/03/726LB)

Item 16 – Correspondence, Cllr Hutt/Longlands (Festive Lights)

There were no other declarations of interest.

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

Members welcomed the new Parish Member for the Sedbergh area, Yorkshire Dales National Park – Libby Batemen. Following a brief introduction, Members were able to ask questions. Members also advised that the Sedbergh Economic Partnership had been asked to invite her to attend a future meeting to introduce herself to the Partnership.

Representatives of the Queen’s Garden Committee/Friends of Queen’s Garden attended to give a presentation/update on the Bandstand proposal. This included the potential cost of groundworks and the increased cost of a bandstand as well as indicated support from groups in the town, including Sedbergh Town Band. Members thanked them for attending and will discuss further at Item 14.

There were two representatives from the Friends of Queen’s Garden and one other member of the Public. (Cllrs Brooks and Sedgwick arrived during this item).

#### **5. Minutes of the Meeting of Sedbergh Parish Council 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

Members resolved to adopt the Minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and were signed as a true record by the Chairman, Cllr Kevin Lancaster.

#### **6. Matters noted from the Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

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

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

Apologies were received from County Cllr Cotton, Mitchell and Hodgson. Cllrs Pye did not attend Cllr Mitchell had met with Cllrs Lancaster and McPherson for a walkabout following the last meeting.

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

It was noted that approval has been given for Cumbria’s Police and Crime Commissioner to take control of the county’s fire service from April 2023.

## 9. Planning

The Planning Committee had not met. Members noted no objections (supported) application S/03/291G – Rawthey Bank, full planning permission for change of use of domestic outbuilding to self-contained annex and installation of solar roof panels. Noting, in addition, that the dwellings should remain as one unit. The following applications were passed to full council for discussion.

After giving a brief background introduction to both of the following planning applications Cllr Arnold then left the meeting for the duration of the discussion and the vote on them.

S/03/726/LB – Sedbergh School, listed building consent to refurbish the existing toilet facilities and add a new wheelchair accessible cubicle and for the conversion of an existing classroom to install eleven new toilet cubicles, wash basins, and another wheelchair accessible cubicle. **Members supported this application.**

S/03/730 – Sedbergh School, full planning permission for erection of Technology Centre (use Class F1) to the north of Sedbergh School; creation of a replacement car parking area and demolition of the existing toilet block. **Members supported the underlying principles of this application and raised no objections.** Cllr McPherson abstained.

- i) Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan – Consultation No.5 ‘Preferred options’. Members discussed the Consultation at length and Cllr Arnold will circulate a copy of the final submission in due course. Points particularly noted, were, newly allocated housing sites (and % of affordable housing split, whilst allowing the site to be viable) as well as 2<sup>nd</sup> home ownership.

## 10. Finance

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022. In addition, an invoice for Main Street toilet supplies was approved - £485.91. Finally, following recommendation by the Finance Committee, Members resolved to adopt the Notice of Conclusion of Audit for 2021 to 2022 (attached) from the External Auditor. The notice will be displayed, and published on the Council website, as required.

## 11. Grants

There were no Grant applications.

## 12. Amenities Committee

Members resolved to accept the minutes for the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022, and fully supported the position of the Committee in respect of Sedbergh & Dent United Football Club. The Council is currently awaiting this season’s donation (requested to be received by 1.10.22 latest), noting that the suggested donation of £500 was equal to approx. 20% of the additional costs borne by the Council to maintain the pitch to a suitable standard. It was also noted that alongside the reserves, now being considered annually for the playground, that Members might consider extending the car park at the People’s Hall in the future, as and when replacement equipment is progressed by moving any new play installations further around the field (west) and therefore releasing space adjacent to the current parking area. If a resident permit scheme was then considered viable for some of the car park, funds received from this could potentially be utilised toward the future upkeep of the playground.

## 13. Update on Projects

There was no update on Joss Lane car park, following the expression of interest for the Shared Prosperity Fund (South Lakeland District Council). There was no update on Loftus Hill car park, and an update on the lease is still awaited from Sedbergh School. There was no update on Jubilee Fountain, the Clerk continues to follow up the relevant contractors.

- i) Next steps for EV charging – new quotes from electricity supplier and installation contractor are awaited. Once received, progress will be made on applying for funding.

- ii) Street lighting review – progress continues, with estimated (and quotes) received for materials and installation. The Clerk will progress with grant funding applications, so Members may consider phased or full implementation in due course. In addition, Members resolved to approve a £2500 contribution toward the project also noting the ongoing savings from the more efficient and upgraded lighting, whilst also acknowledging the overall improvement that would be made toward Dark Skies and the general reduction of energy.
- iii) Additional consideration to future parking (paper attached) – update/consider working group. A response had been received from Cllr Peter Thornton, advising that he would be unavailable to support until after Vesting Day (1.4.23). Members additionally discussed this item under Part II (Sedbergh Economic Partnership). It was agreed that a working party (lead by Cllr Bromley and Lancaster), would meet to consider the paper further with representation from the Sedbergh Economic Partnership.

#### **14. Queen’s Garden**

Members discussed the presentation from representatives of the Friends of Queen’s Garden/Queen’s Garden Committee and the proposal for a Bandstand.

- i) A quote had now been received for the hard standing/landscaping following tender invitation. It was noted, that in addition to this cost, the total estimated cost of the project was now £28,500 (an increase from £21,000), with funding in the region of £18,000 previously indicated. It was proposed that Sedbergh Parish Council should progress and make best efforts to retrieve the shortfall from other sources (including legacy monies). Though this motion was seconded, it received no other support. A 2<sup>nd</sup> proposal was discussed, in that Members of the Queen’s Garden Committee establish if all previously indicated funding is still available and confirm where any additional funding would be sought (and secured), prior to any further progression. Members voted in favour and it was resolved that the Clerk write to the Friends/Queen’s Garden Committee to confirm the latter was adopted and that they should now seek clarification on funding and additional monies needed to progress any further. Whilst it was acknowledged there may be some legacy monies, it could not be relied upon at this time, and the shortfall was now approx. £10,000. Members felt that it was incumbent upon them to ensure sufficient funds were available noting, however, that this did not undermine the efforts of all those concerned in reaching this point. Members were generally in favour of the bandstand proposal, but that funding must be secured in advance of any further progression. Cllr McPherson voted against the latter proposal and there were two abstentions.

(Cllr McPherson left the meeting).

#### **15. Highways Matters**

- i) Proposed footpath at Howgill Lane and Highways connection. Further confirmation of works/funding were awaited from the contractor and Cumbria County Council for the highway’s element of the path. However, work on the path (within the boundary) is due to commence in September.
- ii) proposed replacement footbridge at Cautley Spout (YDNPA). Members expressed their support for the replacement accessible bridleway bridge proposed.

#### **16. Correspondence**

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

- i) Sedbergh Economic Partnership meeting – the Clerk was asked to circulate the notes from the recent meeting. In addition, and following conduct at the recent meeting of the Partnership, Members discussed a response and a letter (attached) was agreed. This should be sent to the Chairman of the Partnership, with all Members additionally copied. It was also noted that the current Terms of Reference for the Partnership be revisited (and circulated).

- ii) Antoni Gosiewski – the Clerk is awaiting quotes for a potential plaque. SLDC have formally advised on placement at the lych gate (including a reduced formal agreement fee). When a suitable quote has been received, and funds confirmed, it is hoped that this will progress.
- iii) SLDC, Sedbergh Cemetery – the Clerk has written to SLDC, Cllr Jonathan Brook, to highlight the ongoing concern for the condition/upkeep of the cemetery and awaits any further update.
- iv) Festive lights – Members discussed early plans for Festive lights, including the potential erection of a new banner type ‘Merry Christmas’ sign at the entrance to Main Street, alongside the festoon lighting and the tree lights at the Fire Station. It was resolved that the Parish Council proceed with this lighting (pending final estimate of costs). Cllrs Hutt and Longlands took no part in the vote. In addition, it was noted that the Sedbergh CIC (Information Centre) were coordinating Late Night Opening this year (including liaising with shops/premises over the individual trees).
- v) Sedbergh Environmental Network – as part of the Big Green Week (24<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October and the YDNPA Dark Skies fringe events (21<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October) Members agreed that a partnership stall on the Wednesday Market be progressed, to promote various initiatives, including the Parish Council project to improve street lighting, switching to Dark Skies compliant LED lights.

**17. Date and Time of next meeting – monthly meeting of Sedbergh Parish Council, to be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 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.

### **13 iii (car parking) and 16 i (Sedbergh Economic Partnership)**

Following the resolution of the Council, as above, further details of the car parking paper and the Sedbergh Economic Partnership recent meeting were discussed.

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

There was nothing to report at this meeting and it was resolved that this item could now be removed from the Agenda.

### **19. Legacy monies – any update from Solicitors**

No formal update on legacy monies anticipated at this time. The Clerk was asked to circulate a summary of legacy monies (along with a proposal for future disbursement) for the September meeting.

### **22. Contractors Review**

Members discussed the draft contract (including rate/terms/hours) for the Handyman/Gardener contract and resolved to approve the draft. The Chair of the Amenities Committee will now discuss formally with the current contractor. (The grass cutting contract remains for review).