

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 6th October 2022

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

Part I

1. Death of HM Queen Elizabeth II and acknowledgement of the accession of King Charles III

Members noted the Proclamation read by Cllr Lancaster on 11th September 2022.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Brooks and accepted by the Members; all other Parish Councillors were present.

3. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for Dispensations at this meeting.

4. Declarations of Interest

Item 10 – Planning, Cllr Arnold (S/03/215G/LB School House, Busk Lane)

Item 11 – Finance, Cllr Arnold (Requests for payments)

Item 14/18 – Update on Projects and Correspondence, Cllr Hutt (Festive Lights and Pedestrian Gate)

There were no other declarations of interest.

5. Public Participation

Members welcomed representation from Sedbergh Post Office, this followed recent news that the local sorting office was being considered for closure (transfer to Kendal). Members were advised that this, in turn, would cause a threat to the viability of the Post Office. At a time of hoped growth for the town (new housing development) and lack of other financial institutions, Members fully support the Post Office and the sorting office in holding their place in the community. Cllr McPherson will draft a letter of support, to circulate to Members, prior to submission to Royal Mail and The Post Office.

6. Minutes of the Meeting of Sedbergh Parish Council 11th August and 8th September 2022

Members resolved to adopt the Minutes of the meetings held on the 11th August and 8th September 2022 and they were signed as a true record by the Chairman, Cllr Kevin Lancaster.

7. Matters noted from the Minutes of 11th August 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

There were no updates. Apologies were received from County Cllr Cotton. Cllrs Mitchell, Hodgson and Pye did not attend.

9. To receive an update on the Local Government Reorganisation

Regular Newsletters continue to be circulated to Members, and the Clerk confirmed there was due to be a Question-and-Answer session arranged for Town/Parish Councils in November.

10. Planning

The Planning Committee had not met and hope to convene a meeting for the week commencing 10th October 2022.

The following application was discussed at Full Council. S/03/215G/LB School House, Busk Lane, Listed Building consent to permanently remove external metal window grilles and to replace existing windows with 7 no. Kommerling Upvc flush-sash windows, glazed with laminated glass, to the north elevation (Day Room). Members discussed the application, and resolved to support the planning application, noting that that this would be an improvement to the current grilles with an overall improved external appearance of this listed building. After giving a brief background introduction to this application Cllr Arnold took no part in the resulting discussion/resolution.

- i) Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan – Consultation No.5 ‘Preferred options’. There was no copy available, of the completed submission, for circulation.

11. Finance

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 5th September 2022 and resolved to pay all payments recommended for approval. In addition, a further invoice for £115.24 was approved, received late, for September streetlighting. Budget consideration for 2023/2024 was highlighted, noting that with the current economic situation, Members should be minded that an uplift of 10% might be required to meet rising costs/expenditure. Finally, also following recommendation by the Finance Committee, Members resolved to remain opted ‘in’ to the External Audit appointment review for the next five years following notification from the SAAA (Smaller Authorities Appointments Ltd)

12. Grants

Members noted that a grant application had been received from the Town Twinning Group, however, some further information was required and would, therefore, be deferred to the November meeting. Cllr Lancaster will liaise further with the Group. Members additionally noted a donation request, from Sedbergh CIC (Information Centre) in respect of the annual Lane Night Opening event planned for 14th December 2022 after they had previously advised they have taken over running the event from this year. Members agreed a donation of £225.00 toward entertainment, whilst also acknowledging the Council additional contribute to the town’s festive period throughout December with the erection of the Christmas festoon lighting for Main Street and lighting of the tree at the fire station.

13. Amenities Committee

The Amenities committee meeting had been adjourned. It was noted that a meeting will be convened later this month. To note only, it was highlighted that Sedbergh Bowling Club had submitted a copy of their draft plan for remodeling the pavilion and it was resolved that any forthcoming application would be submitted by the Parish Council under permitted development.

14. Update on Projects

The following ongoing projects/matters were discussed.

- i) Joss Lane car park – Members noted that following the initial expression of interest for the Shared Prosperity Fund (South Lakeland District Council) the potential project, at Joss Lane car park, would be better suited to a later tranche of funding and would require a further submission in the future.
- ii) Loftus Hill car park lease, there was no update on the lease from Sedbergh School.
- iii) Jubilee Fountain, the contractor had not been in touch. The Clerk will now ask how this might be progressed in the spring of 2023 (As the fountain would be switched off during winter months).
- iv) Next steps for EV charging Joss Lane and Loftus Hill car parks – the application to the Energy Saving Trust has been submitted.

- v) Parish lighting review, progress continues, with grant applications now submitted to Yorkshire Dales National Park (Sustainable Development Fund) and Cumbria Actions for Sustainability (CAFS). The Council had participated on a Market stall on 28th September 2022, highlighting the initiative and Dark Skies.
- vi) Late Night Opening and Festive Lights – (see Item 11) as previously noted, Cllr Hutt will be erecting the festive lights, with support from Cllr Longlands, including a new motif festoon at the entrance to Main Street.

15. Queen’s Garden

Members received the notes from the recent meeting. Members acknowledged the Committees disappointment in respect of the Bandstand, however, acknowledged their decision not to progress further. As noted at the August meeting, Members of the Council were generally supportive of the notion of a Bandstand, however, funding had become problematic. The Clerk noted the previous funds, already received, from The Community Trust (CIO) in respect of this potential project and was asked to write to them advising that the bandstand proposal was not going to be progressed. Whilst offering to return the funds, Members asked if they might still consider the donation remain with the Council, toward the future refurbishment of the stone steps leading to the monument.

16. Future parking

Cllrs Lancaster and Bromley confirmed their recent meeting with representatives from Sedbergh Economic Partnership. A further meeting would be convened, as an informal working group at this stage, allowing momentum to continue. This would include further thoughts/plans to a parking strategy for the town/and potential locations for additional parking. Cllrs Bromley, Lancaster and Capstick to attend.

17. Highways Matters

i) Proposed footpath at Howgill Lane and Highways connection – works had commenced on 20th September 2022 and were moving along well. The slope and extended footway at Havera/Howgill are due to commence w/c 10th October 2022.

In addition, Members noted the ongoing delay to any replacement bridge at Rigmaden. Whilst this is not in the parish of Sedbergh, it continues to have a significant impact on many travelling to/from the parish and the Clerk was asked to write a letter of support for the replacement to CCC Highways. The Clerk was additionally asked to highlight the graffiti on several road signs around the town, and the poor condition of others (facing the wrong way/illegible due to deterioration etc) whilst contacting CCC Highways. Members resolved to cut back some hedgerows in the town, as in previous years, including the pavement area at Millthrop bridge (Dent Road), Ghyllas layby (with the hedge due to be laid soon) and the hedge on the north east corner of the playing field (Howgill Lane). Members remained unhappy that overgrowing hedges/shrubs within the town continue to impede the use of some footways, at times, for example Station Road/Fairholme. Also on Highways, Members again expressed the desire to see signposts for lanes off the main roads. The parish has always been willing to do some of this work itself, but the rule whereby Cumbria County Council contractors had to be used, made that impossible. Members resolved to raise this with Members of the new Council in due course, as the present situation makes it unrealistic to progress.

18. 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.
- ii) Antoni Gosiewski – some estimated costs were now known, and there was a requirement for additional funding. Letters had been issued by the Clerk, to the History Society and the Royal British Legion asking for any potential support.
- iii) SLDC, Sedbergh Cemetery – following the recent correspondence, there had been no further update received.

- iv) Parking – Joss Lane car park – reservation of spaces. Members noted the continued reservation of spaces on the car park, including the placing of cones, and resolved that the Chairman will make formal contact to try and resolve the ongoing contravention of the Resident Parking permit agreement. Members further resolved, that if no resolution could be sought to remove the cones from the car parking bay, that South Lakeland District Council would be notified that the permit had been revoked.
- v) B4RN – Members noted the additional request for the Wayleave at the playing field and resolved to accept the extra ducting along the newly constructed footpath.
- vi) Sedbergh Post Office - (see Item 4)
- vii) Former URC building – Members noted that work was due to commence at the former URC in the coming weeks, and all remaining Market equipment and been removed from the store.
- viii) Pedestrian Gate, playing field, Howgill Lane – following correspondence received in connection with the pedestrian gate on the southern boundary (for and against), Members resolved to block the cut through to the private lane beyond. Noting that there was no footpath or public right of way at this point. (Cllr Hutt took no part in discussion of this item).
- ix) Sedbergh and Dent United Football Club – the Clerk confirmed that their annual donation had now been received. Members also noted a request from the Club to host a Ladies match on the 16th October, which was agreed.
- x) South Lakeland District Council – Members noted the Free Sunday Parking, Christmas 2022, noting that previously the Council had always agreed to mirror SLDC.
- xi) Electricity North West – the Clerk had received an enquiry in respect of ‘responsibility/ownership’ of The Folly. The Clerk had advised that this area of land appears to be unregistered. Enwl hope to complete an installation in this area in the coming weeks/months and will erect notices in due course.
- xii) Settlebeck School – Members noted the kind invitation to their forthcoming Awards Evening later this month, and will send representation.
- xiii) Rural Town Network – Members noted the current offer (six months free membership), however, resolved to decline joining the group.
- xiv) Yorkshire Dales Parish Forum – Members noted the next meeting, 10th October 2022, Cllr Lancaster to attend.

19. Date and Time of next meeting – monthly meeting of Sedbergh Parish Council, to be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 10th November 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. Legacy monies – any update from Solicitors

The Clerk had circulated a summary of the legacy monies, further discussion was deferred to the November meeting.

21. Contractors Review

Members noted that the Handyman/Gardener Contract had been signed (three years). The grass cutting contract remains for review and will be discussed by the Amenities Committee.