

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 12th January 2023

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

Part I

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs McPherson and Bromley and accepted by the Members; all other Parish Councillors were present. Members were updated on Cllr McPherson following his accident and stay in hospital. Members expressed their good wishes towards a recovery.

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for Dispensations at this meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 9 – Planning, Cllr Capstick (Correspondence)

4. Public Participation

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

5. Minutes of the Meeting of Sedbergh Parish Council 8th December 2022

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

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

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

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

Cllr Mitchell was welcomed, and Members discussed the appointment of officers to the new authority. Apologies were received from County Cllr Cotton. Cllrs Hodgson and Pye did not attend.

8. To receive an update on the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

The Clerk noted that an online information evening, for Town and Parish Councils, was scheduled for 8th February 2023.

9. Planning

The Planning Committee had not met. The following application was discussed at Full Council. S/03/258B Barn in curtilage of Wardses Cottage, Frostrow Lane, Sedbergh, Cumbria, LA10 5JU, Full planning permission for conversion of barn and existing holiday cottage to form a single dwelling. No objections. Members briefly discussed the following outstanding application again S/03/518D Birks Farm, Birks Lane, Sedbergh, LA10 5HQ. Full planning permission for use of agricultural field as a campsite for 5 months of the year and construction of a new 3-bay building for stock, hay, or tourist facilities according to the season. Members noted that this application remained undetermined (submitted April 2022) and the applicant had written to Cllr Arnold.

Following the meeting in December, Mr Arnold was waiting for further contact from the applicant.

In addition, the Clerk had not received a response from Yorkshire Dales National Park in respect of determination delays (generally) and/or feedback on the current 28-day ruling, temporary campsites (which had been increased to 56 days during Covid, Permitted Rights Development Extension). (Cllr Capstick took no part in discussion/resolution for this item). It was resolved to include this planning application as an Agenda item at the February meeting.

10. Finance

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 9th January 2023 and resolved to pay all payments recommended for approval. **i) Precepting information request for South Lakeland District Council (awaiting confirmation of ‘parish grant’** Members resolved to approve the Precept of £44244.10 as recommended by the Finance Committee. The increased amount had to assume that there would be no ‘parish grant’ payable in 2023/2024 (as no decision had yet been made by Westmorland and Furness). If, however, parish grants were paid by the new authority, these sums would be reserved separately for a Parish specific project.

11. Grants

There had been no Grant applications this month.

12. Amenities Committee

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 5th January 2023. Members noted that one of the picnic benches at Ghyllas still required replacement and Cllr Arnold will report further, with a view to ordering as soon as practicable. In addition (information received following their meeting), the Clerk noted that further plans for the proposed Bowling Club pavilion improvement had now been received (attached). Members noted the new plan at this meeting, and it was resolved that Cllr Longlands would liaise further – in preparation of a formal planning application being submitted via the Parish Council. Observations by Members, included access from canteen to meeting room and access to toilets/store, however, appreciated that the plan incorporated differing ground levels.

13. Update on Projects

The following ongoing projects/matters were discussed.

- i) Jubilee Fountain, the contractor had not been in touch. Cllr Arnold is awaiting contact, with Members still hoping that this can be coincided with the Coronation of King Charles III.
- ii) Next steps for EV charging Joss Lane and Loftus Hill car parks – the application to the Energy Saving Trust has been submitted, with quotes also now submitted for their full reference. Members resolved to await next steps from the Energy Saving Trust (EST), The Clerk has is now, concurrently, submitting further Grant applications to support the project if approved to proceed by the EST.
- iii) Parish lighting review, progress continues following successful grant applications The Clerk awaits further contact with Cumbria County Council to confirm a site meeting, as soon as viable, to progress alongside Friends of the Lake District.

14. Queen’s Garden

Members had not met. The Clerk noted that Yorkshire Dales National Park Tree Officer was due to attend Sedbergh to give some further feedback on two trees that had been highlighted for an additional inspection (due to perceived public perception) at the last meeting. In addition, the officer will look at trees previously highlighted at New Bridge (potential ash die back) for reference. The Clerk noted that a new grant application form was being completed for the Community Trust, in respect of potential works to improve the stone steps. This was to formally request the Community Trust to consider allowing the funds, previously allocated for the Bandstand (no longer progressing), to be considered for a refurbishment project.

15. Future parking

Cllr Bromley had given apologies. It was noted that work toward a car parking strategy was ongoing and would be available at the next meeting.

16. Highways Matters

i) Proposed footpath at Howgill Lane and Highways connection – Members noted that the path was complete and that Cumbria County Council had authorised their grant.

The Clerk had not received a response from CCC Highways (December 2022) in respect of the railings at Cross Keys. In addition, the Clerk was asked to report the (upper) cattle grid at Langstone Fell, as it was in a poor condition.

17. Correspondence

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

- i) Sedbergh Economic Partnership meeting – Members noted that the SEP was due to meet again on 20th January 2023. Members had no specific items for inclusion in a future Agenda at this time.
- ii) Antoni Gosiewski – Members noted that an interpretation panel style plaque was being drafted, prior to permit submission request with South Lakeland District Council (for erection at the cemetery lych gate) as previously agreed.
- iii) Sedbergh CIC – Late Night Opening – Members noted correspondence received from the CIC, advising that they were unwilling to be the sole organisers of the event in the future. They hope to circulate a questionnaire in the coming weeks/months to gauge interest in the event continuing.
- iv) Sedbergh Tennis Club – Members noted a late item of correspondence in respect of car parking at the informal parking area at the tennis courts at Guldrey, and reduced Membership of the Club. Members of the Council hope that the Tennis Club can attract new Members, with a competitive offer, when the weather improves.
- v) Hedgehogs R Us – Members noted correspondence from the Founder, explaining the project in more detail. Members resolved to support, and the Clerk was requested to make an order (£150) for hedgehog highway surrounds (and information leaflets) which would then be donated to the Primary School/Information Centre.

18. Date and Time of next meeting – monthly meeting of Sedbergh Parish Council, to be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 23rd February in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh. With no meeting in March, the next meeting would be held 13th April 2023. Members had resolved delegated authority to the Finance Committee to make all payments, deemed necessary, in February/March to meet the financial year end for 2022/2023 and in conclusion of expenditure for Annual Audit.

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.

19. Legacy monies – any update from Solicitors

The Clerk had received a response in respect of one legacy, with agreement from the Executor that funds could be used for children's play equipment. The Clerk will write to the Solicitor, thanking them for the decision, and seeking clarity that the funds may be held in a named reserve until such time that they are required.

20. Contractors Review

Members noted that the Amenities Committee were in the process of completing a draft contract for Grass cutting/field maintenance.