

## **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 on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023. This meeting followed the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and commenced at 8.05pm**

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

### Part I

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Bromley and accepted by Members.

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

There were no requests for Dispensations at this meeting.

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

Item 10 – Grants. Cllr Lancaster and Cllrs Welti and McPherson

Item 11 – Cllr Capstick

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

A resident raised a query in relation to the new housing development off Station Road. After a spell away from the town, they were surprised to see how close the new build properties were in proximity to the road. Members sympathized with the view, and were minded to ask the Clerk to write to YDNPA to confirm that the build was continuing in accordance with approved plans.

#### **5. Minutes of the Meeting of Sedbergh Parish Council 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Members noted that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023 had been adopted at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

#### **6. Matters noted from the Minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

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

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Mitchell. Cllr Hodgson was in attendance and was able to give Members a brief update on progress at Westmorland and Furness Council, including the allocation of committees. It was noted that Cllr Hodgson was replacing former Councillor Nick Cotton on Sedbergh United Charities and would continue to represent on the Sedbergh Economic Partnership. Cllr Hodgson was able to advise that the developers of the Station Road site were seeking to donate to a local project – and it was suggested that the planned future improvements for the play area at Howgill Lane might be suitable. Finally, it was noted that there had been a serious accident at Junction 37 (M6) resulting in the loss of life. Members had been saddened to hear of the accident, which highlighted again the need for changes to the Junction. Members had written to relevant authorities in July 2022. Members made various suggestions for improvement, including altering the slip road completely (with provision of a bend to slow traffic) as a potential longer-term strategy. In the meantime, urgent consideration should be given to Stop signs and significant rumble strips/road painting to help warn motorists of the emerging junction/s.

## **8. Planning**

The Planning Committee had not met, and a meeting was convened for 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023. It was noted that communication had been received in respect of the **Local Plan Consultation 6 – Land for Housing Development** and the Councils request to consider coach parking at New Bridge – YDNPA had rejected the idea, advising it was important open space. The matter will be followed up further. In addition, it was noted that correspondence had been received from one of the landowners that had offered a site for potential future development. The site had been rejected, and Members were minded to liaise further with YDNPA and perhaps request a site meeting to discuss further. The Clerk will write to the land owner. In addition, the Clerk will advise YDNPA that a response will be forthcoming (noting the formal closing date had passed).

## **9. Finance**

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023, which included approval of all payments and resolving to pursue opening a Public Sector Deposit Fund.

## **10. Grants**

i) Sedbergh and District History Society – an application for the sum of £2,000 had been received. Following recommendation from the Finance Committee (Item 7) it was resolved to approve the lower figure of £1,000. Cllrs Welti and McPherson took no part in discussions for this item. Cllr Lancaster left the room for this Item.

## **11. Amenities Committee**

There had been no meeting since 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023. It was noted that the Chair had recently requested a contractor to carry out weed control at the playing field and both car parks. It was additionally noted that the Chair was hoping to liaise with the grass cutting contractor and Sedbergh School over the provision of maintenance works required to the football pitch area, including verti drain, seed, fertilizer, and sand. Finally, it was noted that a solution was being sought to empty the culverts on the playing field.

## **12. 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. It was noted that a member of the public had reported seeing a crack on the fountain. The Clerk was asked to attend and take photos.
- ii) Update on funding for EV charging points at Joss Lane car park/Loftus Hill car park. The Clerk confirmed that the Energy Saving Trust (.Gov) funding had sent 75% of their award. The Clerk confirmed that the Council had been successful in their bid to Yorkshire Dales National Park (Sustainable Development Fund) and had now issued a tender.
- iii) Parish lighting – the lights had been ordered and their receipt was awaited, with lead times of 8/10 weeks.

## **13. Queen's Garden**

Members had not met. The Clerk noted that Cllrs Arnold and/or McPherson were still hoping to meet with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Tree Officer. Cllr Arnold also hopes to meet with a contractor, on site, in respect of estimates for the proposed restorative works at the stone steps in due course. The Clerk additionally advised that B4RN had been in contact in respect of the wayleave, and an amended plan for the ducting would be forwarded for Members to consider further/arrange a site meeting.

## **14. Future parking**

A further update would be received at a future meeting (see Item 15). The Clerk did note that, following SPC's request to YDNPA to consider coach parking at New Bridge (Item 8).

### **15. Highways Matters**

It was noted a meeting had taken place with representatives of Westmorland and Furness (Highways) in respect of parking and highways generally. Highways had attended in April and various matters were discussed, including the proposed parking strategy and concerns previously highlighted, for example, road markings/parking at Thorns Lane/Castlegarth, Highfield/Station Road, Loftus Hill/Busk Lane and general road sign condition. Various updates were awaited and will be reported at a future meeting.

### **16. Correspondence**

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

- i) Sedbergh Economic Partnership meeting – the notes from the last meeting had been circulated.
- ii) Antoni Gosiewski – Members noted that the final sign was awaited.
- iii) Sedbergh School Challenge Week – Members were asked to consider potential projects for Challenge Week this year. Improvements to some benches on Main Street were suggested.
- iv) Sedbergh Young Farmers – Cllrs Brooks and Capstick will liaise with YFC over the proposed works at the playing field.
- v) Langstone Fell informal car parking area – it was noted that Westmorland and Furness Council had recently used some 'spare' tarmac to fill various potholes at the site.
- vi) Parish Forum Meeting – YDNPA. Cllrs Lancaster and/or McPherson hope to attend.
- vii) Cumbria Association for Local Council – Cllr Lancaster will attend the Special Meeting.
- viii) Acoustic Cameras A684 – General query received from resident.

**17. Date and Time of next meeting – monthly meeting, to be held from 7.30pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023 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.

### **18. Contractors Review**

Members noted that the Amenities Committee were in the process of completing a draft contract for Grass cutting/field maintenance – not yet available and the item was deferred.

### **19. Sedbergh Economic Partnership (SEP)**

It was noted that the Sedbergh Economic Partnership were planning on reviewing their Terms of Reference. It was understood that Cllr Lancaster would attend the next meeting of the SEP – with an additional request to establish how the SEP (and Economic Advisor) were currently being funded.