

## **THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH**

**Minutes of the monthly Meeting for the Parish Council of Sedbergh, held at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**

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

### Part I

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Sedgwick and accepted by Members.

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

There were no requests for Dispensations at this meeting.

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

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

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

Eleven Members of the Public attended the meeting to express their concern over the recent announcement to withdraw the current Monday to Friday bus service between Sedbergh and Kendal from July. Residents highlighted several points to Members and Westmorland and Furness Cllrs Hazel Hodgson and Ian Mitchell (echoing items of correspondence also received). Views included, use of bus to access Kendal to visit relative in care home, access to hospital appointments, journey to work, access to nearest commercial hub, visitor and resident connections to trains at Oxenholme and onward travel via bus, lack of transport for tenants considering new housing development (49 homes), public transport was a factor in decision to move to Sedbergh, and its loss may mean a move away, isolation of residents in the town that have no access to transport elsewhere, environmental impact (ie encouraged to use public transport and be sustainable, but there will be no Mon to Friday service), how long had Westmorland and Furness known about the potential loss of the service and why did the provider not seek help/support sooner (before withdrawal). Additionally, it was noted that the current College Bus is unable to take members of the public on its service (could this be reconsidered for the future), could Western Dales Bus offer extra services. It was also noted that some views expressed believe that a service that operates for working hours (in Kendal) may be utilized more, though it was acknowledged that a service during the middle of the day would also be required for shorter visits to/from Kendal. Members encouraged users to consider commencement of a petition to give evidence of use and highlight concern. Cllr Lancaster asked Cllr Mitchell/Hodgson if this could be instigated by Tim Farron MP, and that request will be put forward. Cllr Mitchell was additionally able to give a brief update on recent developments via Tim Farron’s office, with a meeting soon to be arranged with Michael Gove MP (along with further representatives from Westmorland and Furness Council). With consideration being given to any potential ‘levelling up’ monies at national government level and/or funds available via local government to help find a solution.

#### **5. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Sedbergh Parish Council 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023, along with the minutes for the normal monthly meeting held on the same day. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish also to be received.**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Sedbergh Parish Council and the monthly meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were adopted and signed as a true record. The Annual Meeting of the Parish minutes were received for reference and would be recommended for approved at the next Annual Meeting of the Parish (2024).

#### **6. Matters noted from the Minutes of 18<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**

Cllr Hodgson was able to give an update on the stone trap/inspection chamber at Guldrey/Spar, advising that Westmorland and Furness would add this to their maintenance program. Members further highlighted the traps at the playing field, and requested that Westmorland and Furness also consider adding these to their regime – which would give a consistent link upstream toward Howgill Lane. Cllr Mitchell gave a brief update from MASC (Multi Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group) – and requested that any feedback in relation to the migration period for Appleby Horse Fair (specific to Sedbergh) be fed back to the local area Respect Group at their next meeting.

## **8. Planning**

The Planning Committee had met recently and the Chairman, Cllr Arnold, had submitted comments onto Yorkshire Dales National Park portal. A further meeting was due to be scheduled to discuss recent applications. These included a change of use for S/03275E Longrigg, Frostrow Lane - full planning permission for change of use from 1no. short term holiday let to 1no. short term holiday let or local occupancy dwelling.

## **9. Finance**

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023, which included approval of all payments recommended. It was noted that a further invoice had been received £390 for weed control, and members approved the additional cheque to avoid any late payment to the contractor. Members also resolved to progress opening a Public Sector Deposit Fund, with Cllrs Arnold, Lancaster, Brooks as signatories, along with the Clerk (all accounts to remain dual signatory, as existing). Members additionally received a summary of three tenders (identified as A<B<C only) in respect of Electric Vehicle charging installation. Members resolved to proceed with Tender A (with a shortfall noted against approved funding already secured). Members resolved, therefore, an additional contingency, not to exceed £5,000. The successful tender was ultimately disclosed as Eon (for installation/hardware) and the Clerk will progress a site meeting as soon as practicable to confirm timetable/commissioning/connection and any additional potential costs. For example, highway permissions/works required. (Cllrs Arnold and Hutt abstained).

## **10. Grants**

There had been no Grant applications this month.

## **11. Amenities Committee**

There had been no meeting since 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023. It was noted that the grass cutting contractor would liaise with Sedbergh School in respect of obtaining sand/seed required for some maintenance work, however, full seeding would not now take place until 2024 when access to appropriate equipment could be established. It was further noted that the bench close to Borrett Farm needed attention and Cllr Arnold advised he would see if the bench could be added to Sedbergh School Challenge Week. Finally, it was resolved that an additional six bags of cold tar should be ordered, to continue repairs of pot holes at Joss Lane car park.

## **12. Update on Projects**

The following ongoing projects/matters were discussed.

- i) Jubilee Fountain, the contractor had not been in touch. It was noted by Cllr Arnold that the crack, previously reported, appeared to be of little concern. The Clerk was now asked to follow up with the contractor in respect of progression/opening of the fountain.
- ii) Update on funding for EV charging points at Joss Lane car park/Loftus Hill car park. See Item 9/19.

- iii) Parish lighting – the lights had been ordered and their receipt was awaited, with lead times of 8/10 weeks. Specification confirmation was required for the heritage lights and clarity would be sought from Friends of the Lake District.

### **13. Queen’s Garden**

Members had not met. The Clerk was asked to contact the Chairlady of the Committee and request a meeting to be called, not least to discuss the stone steps. The Clerk additionally advised that B4RN had been in contact in respect of the wayleave, and an amended plan had been received for the ducting. Cllr McPherson advised he would meet with the contractor on site to discuss further.

### **14. Future parking**

The Clerk noted that correspondence was ongoing with YDNPA over potential to consider coach parking at New Bridge. It was, of course, recognised that any feasibility here would also be subject to formal feedback from Highways. Cllr Bromley had received example Resident Parking information from Highways, for reference, and it was hoped that once W&F were able to consider further, a parking survey may be possible for Sedbergh in the future. The results of which, would be a critical factor while developing the future parking strategy for the town.

### **15. Highways Matters**

There were no updates in respect of Highways matters, other than those reported at Item 14.

### **16. Correspondence**

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

- i) Sedbergh Economic Partnership (SEP) – the notes from the last meeting had been circulated. Members discussed the Economic Partnership, and the ongoing merits of the group. It was noted that the group did not have a constitution and that its Terms of Reference (TofR) were outdated (2019). For example, they referred to the Chamber of Trade which no longer existed. Members of the Council understood, however, that the TofR were due to be revised and were now seeking feedback from its Partnership members. It was, therefore, resolved that Cllr Arnold consider the existing TofR and feedback appropriate recommendations. Members also reflected that it was currently a private (invitation only) group which had resulted in some generally negative feedback from the community. There were also queries over funding of the partnership/Economic Advisor and, therefore, a request for full transparency of finances (separated from the Community Trust as conduit). Cllrs Lancaster and Arnold were due to attend a meeting of the SEP on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023, with an update on current/proposed projects of the Council.
- ii) Antoni Gosiewski – Members noted that the final sign was being constructed.
- iii) Sedbergh School Challenge Week – Ongoing, with projects planned for July.
- iv) Daily weekday bus service – Sedbergh to Kendal (see Item 4, Public Participation).
- v) Sedbergh School – request for future projects (Thursday and potentially Saturday) that Sedbergh School can support with volunteers.
- vi) Westmorland and Furness bin collection/emptying – Members noted the recent retirement of a resident, that collected waste bags/bins in the area for many years, and wished thanks to be recorded. Noting also, that he regularly did litter picks around the community too.

**17. Date and Time of next meeting – monthly meeting, to be held from 7.30pm on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh (one week earlier than previously scheduled)**

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 resolved to defer this item to January 2024 (Cllr Arnold will then consider a draft)

**19. Electric Vehicle Charing – consider tenders for proposed project at Joss Lane and Loftus Hill car park – along with next steps.**

See Item 9 - Finance