

## **THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH**

**Minutes of the monthly Meeting for the Parish Council of Sedbergh, held at 7.30pm in the Hirst Centre, Sedbergh School, Busk Lane, Sedbergh on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023.**

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

The Chairman requested a minute's silence and reflection for the life of the late Robert Taylor, member of Sedbergh Parish Council for 20 years, retiring in 2002.

Sedbergh School Challenge Week – The Chairman thanked Cllr Arnold, and all the team at Sedbergh School, for the various community work carried out during challenge week – including bench and notice board renovations and a complete refurb of the shelter at the playing field.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Brooks, Hutt and Bromley 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**

A Member of the public asked if there had been any update from Cllr Mitchell/Tim Farron's Office in respect of the withdraw of the current Monday to Friday bus service between Sedbergh and Kendal from late July. It was noted that a paper petition had been made available from Tim Farron's Office (with approx. 29 sheets now completed) but no 'online' version had been made available so far. It was also noted that there had not yet been any update on plans for Tim Farron MP (with representation from Westmorland and Furness Council) to meet with Michael Gove MP to discuss the matter. Members resolved that the Clerk write to Tim Farron MP, along with Cllrs Mitchell and Hodgson for any available update – not least as the bus service was due to cease 21 July 2023. It was further raised that, following the recent announcement of 'ecofriendly store' Zero Pantry's closure at the end of July, the Westmorland Gazette article cited the lack of custom/dwindling community contributing to the closure. The owner had said "the likes of second homes and holiday lets in the area has really killed off a sense of community" "People come here for a few days and don't bother visiting local businesses. There is no sense of community support". The Member of the public was concerned that second homes et al, were having an impact on the local economy and hoped that Sedbergh Parish Council were making appropriate comment on the current Government Consultation, published in April 2023, suggesting 'new rules to give communities greater control over short-term lets in tourist hot spots'. The Consultation, by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities 'will propose introducing planning permission for an existing home to start to be used as a short term let – helping support local people in areas where high numbers of holiday lets are preventing them from finding affordable housing'.

### **5. To adopt the Minutes of the normal monthly meeting, held Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**

The Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were adopted, and signed by the Chairman, as a true record of the meeting.

### **6. Matters noted from the Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

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

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

Cllrs Hodgson and Mitchell did not attend.

## **8. Planning**

The Planning Committee had not met recently and the Chairman, Cllr Arnold, confirmed a meeting for Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – 7.30pm to discuss current applications.

## **9. Finance**

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023, which included approval of all payments recommended.

## **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 a meeting had been scheduled on 28<sup>th</sup> June, however, this had been deferred. It was acknowledged that Sedbergh Wanderers Junior Football Club had recently made their annual donation toward use of the playing field and that some additional work had recently been carried out to the goal mouths. The council had agreed to the additional work (normally completed by Sedbergh and Dent United Football Club) as the seeding had not taken place this year. It was hoped that seeding would be completed in 2024. Finally, Members wished to take this opportunity to pass on their regards Cllr Brooks, following her recent accident.

## **12. Update on Projects**

The following ongoing projects/matters were discussed.

- i) Jubilee Fountain, the Clerk had recently been in contact with the contractor and it was envisaged that the fountain could be in use soon. Once all administration complete, an appropriate announcement would be given locally for reference.
- ii) Update on EV charging points at Joss Lane car park/Loftus Hill car park. It was resolved that Cllrs Lancaster and Arnold would sign the contract with the EV provider. It was further noted that the Clerk and Cllr Longlands, if available, had a meeting scheduled with the Distribution Network Operator (DNO) for an Advisory Meeting in respect of the new connections and potential street works required at both locations.
- iii) Parish lighting – the lights had been ordered in May and their receipt was awaited, with lead times of approx. 8/10 weeks.

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

Members were advised that both previously co-opted (not Parish Councillors) Members of the Committee had now resigned, though would still contribute by volunteering their time in the garden. This left only two Members of the Council on the Committee; therefore, further discussion was needed over the future of the Committee, including the stone steps (with funds currently being held in reserve). Cllr McPherson additionally gave a short update on the recent site meeting with Yorkshire Dales Nation Park's tree officers over two trees in the Garden (and several further trees at New Bridge – infected with Ash die back) with a summary report prepared by the Clerk (attached). Several trees were highlighted for significant work, including felling/removal. The report will be sent to YDNPA for feedback, prior to confirmation of any works needed, including any potential felling licence and work within the conservation area (New Bridge). Once confirmed, the Clerk will seek quotes for the works required and feedback at a future meeting. i) Cllr McPherson also advised that he had recently met with B4RN in respect of the minor adjustment to the wayleave (attached) and Members resolved that it could be progressed.

#### **14. Future parking**

There was no update following the meeting in June where it has been noted that correspondence was ongoing with YDNPA over potential to consider coach parking at New Bridge.

The Clerk had additionally written, again, to Westmorland and Furness over the potential to reduce recycling containers at Joss Lane car park.

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

The Clerk noted one or two works that had recently been carried out by Highways, including gully works at Lilymere and vegetation clearing at the Kirkby Lonsdale junction. It was noted that Sedbergh School had recently been in contact with Highways to discuss road safety/crossing points and the Clerk was requested to confirm that Sedbergh Parish Council would like to be represented on any future meeting between the School and Highways. As previously noted, there are Section 106 monies available, which may be a contribution to work to calm/slow traffic on Station Road, close to Spar/Sedbergh Medical Centre and the newly opened Nursery – the area being a popular crossing point from the public footpath exiting Sedbergh School drive.

#### **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 awaited notice of a sub group meeting to discuss the Partnership's Terms of Reference. A full meeting of the Partnership was scheduled later this month.
- ii)** Antoni Gosiewski – Members noted that the final sign was due to be completed soon.
- iii)** Sedbergh School Challenge Week – Members again expressed their thanks for all the works completed.
- iv)** Daily weekday bus service – Sedbergh to Kendal (see Item 4, Public Participation).
- v)** Sedbergh School – parking spaces, Loftus Hill car park, it was noted that the School would surrender their current access to 8/10 interchangeable permits on Loftus Hill car park (part of the lease agreement) and that any member of staff requiring a permit, could purchase individually.
- vi)** New Bridge and picnic area – feedback from recent encampment – Members noted the report.
- vii)** The Folly – query over repair/reinstatement works following utility connections – Members acknowledged that The Folly was in private ownership/responsibility and is not recognized formally as a public right of way by Westmorland and Furness Council.
- viii)** Graffiti/damage to shelter at the playing field, future plans – the recent vandalism to the shelter at the playing field was discussed. It was noted that though it has now been refurbished (Sedbergh School Challenge week) again, this was the fourth time it had been refurbished in recent years. Members resolved that if/when the shelter became unserviceable again – it would be removed, citing that the Council could not justifiably commit to the expense.
- ix)** Late Night Opening – it was noted that the Information Centre (Sedbergh CIC) Directors had agreed to organize the event this year – with a date set for 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Cllr Welti will represent.

**17. Date and Time of next meeting – monthly meeting, to be held from 7.30pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh**