

## **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 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023.**

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

The Chairman requested a moments reflection for the lives of the late Dr Gina Barney and former Rev’d Andy McMullon, being significant figures for the community of Sedbergh. Members also acknowledged, with sadness, correspondence from the Slovenian Ambassador following the recent severe flooding in some parts of Slovenia. With extreme rainfall claiming lives, destroying homes, property and causing multiple landslides and damage to transport infrastructure.

### **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**

Items 4 Public Participation, 8 Planning and 10 Grants – Cllr McPherson

### **4. Public Participation**

Several residents attended to voice their objections to a planning proposal for two parking spaces in grounds close to the Friends Meeting House. S/03/45H. Full planning permission for creation of vehicle parking area, associated track and turning area at Rosebank, Brigflatts Lane, Sedbergh, LA10 5HN. Members advised that at the time of original discussion for this application – the Planning Committee had, on 11<sup>th</sup> July, resolved no objections as there were no material planning considerations for additional note. Whilst Members acknowledged the resident’s concerns, and subsequent objection by the Senior Listed Building Officer at Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNPA), they resolved not to reopen the former decision for further discussion (Cllr McPherson did not speak or vote and there were two abstentions). This would undoubtedly set a precedent for any future objections/discussions and would not necessarily have any impact on any determination made by YDNPA Planning Committee. Members reiterated that the Parish Council is only a consultee. And, that the resident’s concerns, which included various matters (attached) should be addressed directly to YDNPA Planning Committee, copying Cllr Ian Mitchell and Mrs Libby Bateman. In addition, another resident sought an update on the ongoing public transport issue. Cllr McPherson was able to give an update which had been passed to him by Westmorland and Furness Councillor Ian Mitchell. In that, work continues in respect of seeking a solution for a bus service to be restarted – and that recommendations were being made to Westmorland and Furness Council Cabinet to find a solution.

### **5. To adopt the Minutes of the normal monthly meeting, held Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023.**

The Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were adopted, and signed by the Chairman, as a true record of the meeting.

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

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

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

Cllrs Hodgson did not attend. Cllr Mitchell had given the transport update to Cllr McPherson and, in addition, advised that he had recently been elected as Deputy Chair of the YDNPA Planning Committee. And, had been appointed to the Westmorland and Furness Highways and Transport Board.

### **8. Planning**

The Planning Committee had not met recently and the Chairman, Cllr Arnold, confirmed a meeting would be convened in due course. (See also Item 4 Public Participation).

### **9. Finance**

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023, which included approval of all payments recommended. In addition, Members resolved to approve a replacement cheque for Loftus Hill car park rental - £750.00, original cheque lost in post – and a transfer of £50,000 to the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund, as soon as administration was complete for online banking. Authorization of a cheque for £16016.55, for the two new electricity connections required for EV charging (Joss Lane and Loftus Hill car parks) was also approved. Finally, it was noted that Online Banking registration had now been completed by Cllr Lancaster, with Cllrs Brooks and Arnold due to complete their registration as soon as possible. This would then allow payments to be made via Online Banking in the future (with all payments requiring dual authority, as currently).

### **10. Grants**

Community Orchard Group Sedbergh – Members resolved to approve the sum of £300.00, following recommendation from the Finance Committee. (Cllr McPherson did not speak or vote)

### **11. Amenities Committee**

There had been no formal meeting since 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Members had attempted to meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023, but had not been fully quorate. The following matters were, therefore, resolved by Members at this meeting. i) Request for additional nappy bin in the ladies' toilets, refused. Members could not justify the additional expenditure and hope that the current bin provided, will be sufficient for ongoing requirements. ii) Grass cutting at playing field, north of new path. It is hoped that the current grass cutting contractor can add this area to his work program. iii) It was noted that the cheese stall, on the Wednesday Market, had given notice to leave at the end of August, the Clerk was asked to try and seek another stall iv) Memorial bench request, the Clerk was asked to advise that there was potentially a space on Main Street. v) Finally, it was noted that the Handyman had requested additional hours to complete works at Queen's Garden (see Item 13 Queen's Garden).

### **12. Update on Projects**

The following ongoing projects/matters were discussed.

- i) Jubilee Fountain, the Clerk had not heard further from the contractor, and no update was available at this meeting.
- ii) Update on EV charging points at Joss Lane car park/Loftus Hill car park. It was noted that the project was continuing to progress following the meeting with the Designated Network Operator (DNO), with payment approved (Item 9) for the new electricity connections required to facilitate the proposed EV fast chargers. The Clerk advised that the process would take some time, not least due to Traffic Regulations Orders required by the DNO for the street works.
- iii) Parish lighting – the outstanding lights were due to be delivered this month. Once received, the Clerk will liaise with Westmorland and Furness in respect of installation.

### **13. Queen’s Garden**

Members resolved to appoint Cllr Cowperthwaite to the Committee and a meeting will be convened in due course. It was noted that the Clerk was currently awaiting quotes for the tree works required in the Garden (removal of cypress pine) along with additional tree works required at New Bridge. It was resolved that the decision of accepting a suitable quote be delegated to Cllrs Lancaster and Arnold – in consultation with the Council – in order to make timely progress on the matter. Not least, as the removal of the tree at Queen’s Garden should be made as soon as practicable. In addition, Members resolved to allocate 10 additional hours to the Handyman, as a one off, to allow him the opportunity to complete additional general maintenance works required in the garden. Other outstanding matters to resolve, include the stone steps (with funds currently being held in reserve) will be discussed in due course.

### **14. Future parking**

There was no update following the meeting in June. It was noted that YDNPA required a sketch of the proposal at New Bridge, to allow them to consider the potential coach parking proposal. However, it was further noted that Westmorland and Furness Highways would need to give feedback on feasibility. It was hoped, following recent correspondence with Westmorland and Furness Council over the potential to reduce recycling containers at Joss Lane car park, that a small reduction might be possible.

### **15. Highways Matters**

It was noted that following contact from Sedbergh School, to Westmorland and Furness Highways, to discuss road safety/crossing points – a date was yet to be convened to discuss proposals further. 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. It was additionally noted, that whilst Sedbergh School currently had a planning application in to improve the entrance to Sedbergh School drive – it was not feasible to incorporate a crossing into this application at this time. Ultimately, that would delay a determination, which was required to help facilitate construction vehicles to the development site at Sedbergh School, but also to assist in meeting minimum requirements now required for emergency vehicle access to the grounds.

### **16. Sedbergh Economic Partnership**

Members received the latest draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Economic Partnership (attached). Members resolved to send the following feedback, for consideration.

- i) Members believe that meetings should be open to the public, allowing full transparency to the community.
- ii) Tenure of the Chairman should be agreed by the Partnership, along with proposed method of appointment.
- iii) Membership of the Partnership should be determined and agreed – the current draft ToR refer to groups that a) often do not attend b) do not currently exist.
- iv) Members believe the Partnership would benefit from becoming a formally constituted Group, this would allow for greater transparency. This would also allow the Partnership to apply for funding directly, and not (as currently) via The Community Trust. For example, Members understand that public and private monies have been received to fund the role of the Economic Advisor and, therefore, a breakdown of these should be available to the public.

### **16. Correspondence**

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

- i) Songs of Praise, Queen’s Garden – Members discussed a recent advertisement for an event scheduled at Queen’s Garden on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023. This was raised as an urgent item as the Council were not aware of the event and it was scheduled to take place prior to the next meeting.

The Clerk advised that, following various recent communication with bodies involved, it became apparent that each had thought the other had made an approach/sought permission from the Parish Council, and verified appropriate Public Liability Insurance etc. Following discussion and given the aim of the community event Members resolved to agree, as a one off, to incorporate the event under the umbrella of Sedbergh Parish Council.

- ii) Sedbergh Economic Partnership (SEP) – the notes from the last meeting had been circulated.
- iii) Antoni Gosiewski – Members resolved to erect the sign when practicable, with a press release to be arranged by the Clerk.
- iv) Use/provision of disabled parking spaces in Sedbergh/car parking – Members were advised that the Clerk/Chairman had received correspondence in respect of people misusing the disabled parking bays. Members sympathized with the issue, noting their concerns, and will endeavor to continue to highlight to relevant car parking enforcement teams.
- v) Daily weekday bus service – Sedbergh to Kendal (see Item 4, Public Participation).
- vi) Community Orchard – Members noted correspondence received advising that the group were extremely disappointed at the recent increase in dog fouling in the orchard. The Clerk advised that this had also been highlighted with Westmorland and Furness Council, and a request made for some possible signs.
- vii) Graffiti/damage to benches at Queen’s Garden – Members were disappointed to note the recent damage at the garden.
- viii) Civility and Respect Pledge – Cumbria Association of Local Council, Members agreed to delegate further investigation into the Pledge to the Finance Committee for future consideration.
- ix) Fly Tipping – the Clerk advised of fly tipping at the bring site (recycling area) at Spar. This had been reported to Westmorland and Furness Council, and was currently being investigated.

**17. Date and Time of next meeting – monthly meeting, to be held from 7.30pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh**