

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 14th September 2023.

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sedgwick and Brooks and accepted by Members.

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no new requests for Dispensations at this meeting. However, Members noted that there were planning applications from Sedbergh School to be discussed, so the existing Dispensations would be evoked.

3. Declarations of Interest

Items 8 Planning (S/03/45H) – Cllr McPherson

4. Public Participation

One member of the public was present, but did not speak.

5. To adopt the Minutes of the normal monthly meeting, held Thursday 10th August 2023.

The Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 10th August 2023 were adopted, and signed by the Chairman, as a true record of the meeting.

6. Matters noted from the Minutes of 10th August 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 would be convened at 7.30pm on 19th September 2023, in the Parish Council office. The following items were discussed at the meeting.

S/03/45H. Full planning permission for creation of vehicle parking area, associated track and turning area at Rosebank, Brigflatts Lane, Sedbergh, LA10 5HN. Further to the Member resolutions July/August (no objections) further correspondence has been received from residents of Brigflatts. The Chairman (Cllr Arnold) will circulate a further response in due course.

S/03/336A. Full planning permission for construction of stables on agricultural land site north west of The Hill, Sedbergh (retrospective). Following the deposition at the Planning meeting (11 July 2023) Members remain surprised that a planning application was required. The stables are a temporary/mobile structure, and are required for the wellbeing of the horses/ponies in situ. Members believe the impact of the structures to be negligible and, therefore, resolved to support their installation. Additionally noting, that whilst not a planning concern, the horses were bringing much benefit to the wider community.

S/03/730D. Full planning permission for installation of Photovoltaic array to flat roof of existing science classroom block, mounted on a support structure with 10-degree pitch. Sedbergh School, Station Road, Sedbergh. No objections.

S/03/591C. Full planning permission to install a new private footpath from the Hirst Centre car park directly to the synthetic pitch 2; to install a safety edge protection timber fence above the eastern retaining wall of synthetic pitch 1; to install 2no swint traffic barriers: one within the access track at the start of the Hirst Centre building and the other in the same access track after the car park entrance (part retrospective). The Hirst Centre, Sedgwick House, Busk Lane, Sedbergh. No objections. As an addition to minutes only, it was highlighted that as part of the car parking strategy for the town, Sedbergh School would seek to request their staff to make use of the car parking on site at Sedbergh School (including new car parking area being developed off the school drive) to help alleviate pressure on the town's car parks.

S/03/637A. Section 73 application for variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) of S/03/637 (Full planning permission for erection of 49 No.dwellings (15 open market, 17 affordable/social rented, 17 affordable share ownership), external works and landscaping) in respect of relocation of Electrical Substation; amendments to the Infiltration Basin; amended road surgace colours within the Site; removal of stone window/door heads) to the rears of Plots 16 to 62; revised locations of Bat/Bird boxes and amendments to the landscape drawings. The application was determined in August, with a Section 106 Agreement. The developer has asked to speak further to Sedbergh Parish Council in respect of the Section 106 and the Chairman of the Planning Committee will liaise further.

S/03/591B/D1S1. Approval of details reserved by Condition 6 (Community Use Scheme) of S/03/691B (see below) The Hirst Centre, Sedgwick House, Busk Lane, Sedbergh. Members considered the Community Use Scheme submitted for Newfield Hockey Centre, discussing matters such as advocating proactive promotion to the community, prescribed times for school use (secondary and primary schools in the area) and the proposed scheduled hours for community use. Members resolved that further information was required from the schools, in respect of use, and from the wider community over the prescribed hours (and curfew time for lighting). Currently 6pm-9pm Thursday evening and 8am-12noon Sunday (additional hours in school holidays). In summary, Members were concerned with Schedule 2, and will seek further clarity prior to a formal response. Also highlighted, for reference, were the original comments submitted by Sedbergh Parish Council in December 2021 (noted below).

‘Hirst Centre S/03/591B Full planning permission for installation of 2 synthetic sports pitches
Comments by Sedbergh Parish Council. This application was considered by the Parish Council at its meeting held on 9th December 2021.

Location and scale: The location is considered appropriate for the development of 2 x synthetic sports pitches, being in close proximity to the Hirst Centre.

Parking arrangements: Members noted the on-site parking provision, currently for 45 vehicles. Members took the view that this was a minimum requirement and would welcome any increase, but not any decrease. Members acknowledged that on-site parking should be encouraged at all times (where feasible) to avoid overspill onto Busk Lane. Parking on Busk Lane has been problematic in the past and has previously been a cause for concern. Particular regard should also be given to parking around the junction of Birks Lane too, where access is regularly required by heavy goods vehicles (including a waiting area). Visitors should be encouraged to follow the parking management plan provided by Sedbergh School.

Design and materials: The Council is generally content with the proposal and acknowledges the need for additional overhead lighting for the development. Members note the restrictions on use and that they will only be lit when required and kept within curfew.

Community use: The Council notes the claims of the importance of the proposed facility to the local community and that it will be available community groups and other local schools. Members note that historically, where it has been suggested that community use will be available, the times/restrictions often applied make this unworkable within the community. From past experience members specifically emphasised that community use and use by the state schools in Sedbergh and Dent must include usable times within the normal school day, 9.00 to 3.30, perhaps with one day or two half days of every week, whether Sedbergh School term time or not and be available for these uses.

These slots should be in the 106 agreement and if for some reason, such as school matches, they cannot be used in a particular week an equivalent slot MUST be granted in lieu. No detail of when the facility might be available for the community is noted at this current time. Therefore, Members of Sedbergh Parish Council request that Members of Yorkshire Dales Planning Committee be wholly satisfied that appropriate access times will be available for use by the community. **Conclusion:** The Parish Council supports this and the further development of Sedbergh School and recognises the importance of the school being able to offer good sporting facilities. The Council is also mindful of the potential benefits to the town and the community of Sedbergh and therefore supports this application, with the caveat that Community use should be meaningful and credible.'

9. Finance

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 11th September 2023, which included approval of all payments recommended. Members noted that online banking was now complete and payments would now be made online (continuing with dual authorisation). In addition, Members resolved that a further sum should be transferred to the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund, as soon as administration was complete (requirement for an internal transfer between NatWest savings and current account). Members noted the pledge to sign up to National Association of Local Council Civility and Respect Pledge (attached), the Clerk advised that the required 'Dignity at Work Policy' would be included on the October agenda, along with the Pledge. Finally, Members noted the request for a food stall/take away to operate at the People's Hall car park, and Members resolved to support.

10. Grants

No grant applications had been received in August.

11. Amenities Committee

There had been no formal meeting since 5th April 2023. In the absence of the chair, Members noted the correspondence received in respect of the desire for a MUGA (Multi use games area) for the town. It was resolved that this correspondence be considered further by members of the Amenities Committee. The Clerk also advised, that she could put the resident in contact with Sedbergh Community Trust for their ongoing reference (and ongoing desire to find a location for a pump track).

12. Update on Projects

The following ongoing projects/matters were discussed.

- i) Jubilee Fountain, the Clerk had not heard further from the contractor, and was also awaiting contact from United Utilities following recent correspondence over the unregistered connection. It was resolved to remove this item from the agenda until such time that any meaningful progress could be made.
- ii) Update on EV charging points at Joss Lane car park/Loftus Hill car park. It was noted that the first phase of the works had been completed by Eon, with a site inspection now awaited by the Designated Network Operator (DNO). Once the connections were complete (which could take approx 16 weeks plus) Eon will assist with meter install and completion the project. Once complete, the Clerk will seek to receive grants previously awarded.
- iii) Parish lighting – the contractor had now collected the lights, and hopes to start the replacement project in October. Once complete, a new audit of the lights will be completed, to update the Council's Estimated Annual Consumption (EAC) for the unmetered supply.

13. Queen's Garden

Members had met, informally, with a local resident with some considerable historic stonemasonry knowledge.

It was hoped that further meetings/discussion would take place, including the practical issues of supporting the stone steps/future protection/refurbishment. Members hope to update further at a future meeting.

14. Future parking

Members noted that Cllr Bromley had sent correspondence to YDNPA and Westmorland and Furness Council in respect of the proposal to consider coach parking at New Bridge, but had not received an acknowledgement or reply. The Clerk had followed this up, again, earlier this week. It was envisaged, that further consideration would also need to be made over feasibility by engaging with the Highways department of Westmorland and Furness Council. In addition, there was ongoing correspondence with Westmorland and Furness Council over the potential to reduce recycling containers at Joss Lane car park. The Clerk will seek to convene a site meeting (Cllrs Arnold and Bromley to attend, along with the Clerk) to discuss options.

15. Highways Matters

It had been noted at the August meeting, following contact from Sedbergh School with Westmorland and Furness Highways, there continued to be hopes to improve road safety/crossing points – a date, however, has not yet been agreed to meet on site. Members also noted that, following an update from Westmorland and Furness Council, there was some progress in respect of moving the street lighting on Station Road (close to the new housing development) which had been left in an unworkable position, within the pavement, due to boundary changes.

16. Sedbergh Economic Partnership

Members received the latest draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Economic Partnership (attached). Members discussed the Partnership, eluding further to the points raised in August (see below). It was acknowledged that i) had been addressed to a degree, in that members of the public may attend, with prior notice/invitation. ii) tenure of the Chairman had been prescribed as two years, but no mention of to/from dates included. iii) it was not clear how/who parties/groups would become active members of the partnership (ie, who decides how/why) and finally iv) Members believe that the SPC ought to be the lead for the Partnership, being the legal entity that draws together the partnership. This would give full transparency of finances and meetings going forward – showing both public and private monies invested. It was noted that the Economic Partnership had largely evolved from the former Townscape Project, which included many of the same Members/representatives. The Townscape Project had been an initiative of Sedbergh Parish Council in 2010.

- 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.

17. 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 (and see Item 16).
- ii) Antoni Gosiewski – Members were delighted to note that the memorial plaque had now been installed and unveiled at the lych-gate at Sedbergh Cemetery – Busk Lane.
- iii) Daily weekday bus service – it was understood that some meetings had recently taken place, and Members now awaited any further update from Westmorland and Furness Council.

- iv) Community Trust – Grants Committee. Following a vote, Cllr Arnold was selected to represent the Parish Council and the Clerk was asked to liaise with the Community Trust.
- v) Request for Harri Van – Members noted that the health service van would like to attend the Wednesday market later this month, and this was agreed. It was acknowledged that access/position were a challenge, but that Members did want to support. An alternative option, would be for the van to go in the layby on Main Street (close to the former bus shelter), if Westmorland and Furness gave their support.
- vi) Newfield Hockey Centre – Community Use Scheme S/03/591B (see Item 8).
- vii) Market stall – it was noted that the Wednesday Market cheese stall was now hoping to continue to attend (fortnightly) and a further stall potentially attending on the alternate weeks.
- viii) Yorkshire Dales National Park – Forum Meeting – scheduled on 25th October, Members will discuss who might attend and confirm at the meeting in October.
- ix) Late Night Opening – Members received correspondence regarding the use of Joss Lane car park for extended facilities for the event, and Members resolved to support. This might include, for example, erecting gazebos and/or marquee for use on the night.
- x) Section 77 Notice – property on Back Lane. Members noted that a property had been highlighted due to concerns over public safety.
- xi) Members wished the clerk to write to Westmorland and Furness Council over the current condition of Sedbergh Cemetery – noting that the recent grass cutting had left the cemetery looking particularly untidy.
- xii) Sedbergh Information Centre had sent a list of the dates for the proposed Artisan Markets in 2024. 25 May/29 June/27 July/24 August and 21st September.

18. Date and Time of next meeting – monthly meeting, to be held from 7.30pm on Thursday 12th October 2023 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh