

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 12th October 2023.

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs McPherson and Cowperthwaite and accepted by Members.

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no new requests for additional Dispensations at this meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 8 Planning (S/03/404G) – Cllr Brooks

Item 17 – Correspondence, Late Night Opening/Lighting - Cllrs Hutt and Longlands

4. Public Participation

One member of the public was present, but had attended to hear any relevant update on buses. Westmorland and Furness Councillors were, however, not present at this time.

5. To adopt the Minutes of the normal monthly meeting, held Thursday 14th September 2023.

The Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 14th September 2023 were adopted, and signed by the Chairman, as a true record of the meeting.

6. Matters noted from the Minutes of 14th September 2023

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

7. Report/update from Westmorland and Furness Council

Cllr Mitchell did not attend. The Chair asked the Clerk to write to Cllr Mitchell and ask for an update on the Respect Group, which would normally have met in September to discuss Appleby Fair. Cllr Hodgson arrived at Item 8. She was able to confirm that a tender invite had been issued for the new commercial weekday bus service (Sedbergh/Kendal) following the one-year support/grant established with Westmorland and Furness Council. It is anticipated, that an update will follow in November, information on any proposed/agreed timetable was not yet available. It was noted, however, that there were hopes for improved times for the service, which might extend to people travelling to/from Kendal for a ‘working day’. In addition, Cllr Hodgson gave an overview of the Community Grant Scheme (Westmorland and Furness Council).

8. Planning

The Planning Committee had not met again recently and the following were, therefore, discussed at the meeting. It was also noted that Yorkshire Dales National Park were hosting a Planning Seminar for Parish/Town Councils and Cllr Arnold will attend.

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) hopes to send a further response soon.

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 surface 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/03/404G Section 73 application for variation of Condition 1 of S/03/404F (Section 73 application for variation of Conditions 2 (design), f (rooflights) & 7 (doors and windows) of S/03/404) in respect of proposed solar panels to north west and south east elevations. 2 Low Oaks, Marthwaite, Sedbergh. No objections. Cllr Brooks took no part in discussions.

S/03/473A Householder planning permission for erection of domestic extension and balcony 12A Queens Drive, Sedbergh. No objections.

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 again, discussing matters raised in September, 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 three additional hours should also be made available during the school day. Whilst it is acknowledged that Sedbergh School are flexible with local school use, Members feel that some allocated hours should be formally included in the agreement. Of course, these can/should be flexible to suit all parties. For final reference, a copy of the original comments, submitted by Sedbergh Parish Council in December 2021, are noted again below and the Clerk was asked to submit these, along with the resolution, to YDNPA.

‘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 near 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 always encouraged (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. 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 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 9th October 2023, which included approval of all payments recommended. In addition, Members resolved that a further sum should be transferred to the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund as soon as the administration of the inter account transfer (NatWest) was complete. Members also resolved to adopt the Dignity at Work Policy along with the updated Equality and Diversity Policy and, therefore, signed up to the National Association of Local Council Civility and Respect Pledge (attached).

- i) Request to give financial support to Sedbergh Information Centre. Members await a formal approach from the CIC (Information Centre). It is understood that YDNPA have not yet made their decision on continued financial support.
- ii) Request to give financial contribution to Sedbergh Economic Partnership (Economic Advisor). Members await a response in respect of the Terms of Reference suggestions, in particular, the request for Sedbergh Parish Council to become the lead/financial vehicle for the Partnership (see also Item 16).
- iii) Legacy money dispersal. Members resolved to adopt the recommendations of the Finance Committee. Noting however, that confirmation was still awaited from Cumbria Association of Local Council in respect of funds for the school art department. And, in respect of ‘Farming’ Members resolved to split the share between Sedbergh Young Farmers and The Farmer Network.

10. Grants

No grant applications had been received in August. (See also Item 9)

11. Amenities Committee

Members received the minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2023. Members noted the correspondence received in respect of the desire for a MUGA (Multi use games area) for the town. However, Members had concluded that there was no suitable location available. It was also noted that the benches at Settlebeck Gill (Winder) had been highlighted for maintenance. These benches are not Sedbergh Parish Councils and, therefore, the Clerk will contact Yorkshire Dales National Park in the first instance. In respect of the playground – it was noted that Cllr Arnold hopes to progress matters (see Finance Committee, Item 8, Projects).

12. Update on Projects

The following ongoing projects/matters were discussed.

- i) Update on EV charging points at Joss Lane car park/Loftus Hill car park. It was noted that a site inspection had now been completed by the Designated Network Operator (DNO) – and permits for working on the highway (for each connection) were now being made to Westmorland and Furness Council. MPAN (meter) numbers are now awaited, to assist with the progression of the install. Eon advises they will assist with the meter install in preparation of the project completing in due course. Once complete, the Clerk will seek to receive grants previously awarded.
- ii) Parish lighting – the contractor collected the lights in September, and hopes to start the replacement project in October/November. 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 not met, but hope to convene a further meeting to discuss the steps.

14. Future parking

Members noted that a response had been received from Yorkshire Dales National Park in respect of the Parish Council’s hope to consider coach parking at New Bridge layby. The onus now being on Westmorland and Furness Council (W&F) to consider viability/feasibility. If, the area is deemed suitable, W&F may be able to progress an application for permitted development. A response/update is, therefore, now awaited from W&F Council. In addition, there is a site meeting arranged at Joss Lane car park, with Westmorland and Furness Council, to consider the potential reduction of recycling containers. It was noted, for example, that the number of containers had increased significantly at the Spar site, but the equivalent reduction had not been seen at Joss Lane car park.

15. Highways Matters

i) It had been noted at the August meeting, following contact from Sedbergh School with Westmorland and Furness Highways, the continued hope to improve road safety/consider crossing points. A date, however, has still not been convened for a site meeting. The Clerk has followed this up with W&F.

ii) Section 106 monies (Highways) it was believed that the allocated monies may be utilised in support for a proposed crossing/improvements (as noted above). However, information remained outstanding from Highways (W&F) at this time.

In addition, the Clerk reminded Members that they were waiting for an update on the silt trap/inspection chamber close to Spar – with the hope that W&F would take responsibility for this (as the flood authority) going forward. Members also noted that there had been no progress on yellow lining (as previously highlighted to Highways). Cllr Hodgson advised she will follow up on both issues. Various concerns for parking had recently been emailed to the Clerk, with information passed to Cumbria Police for their ongoing reference.

16. Sedbergh Economic Partnership (SEP)

(See also Item 9ii). Members received the latest draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Economic Partnership (attached) which included reference to the additions suggested, by Members, following their meeting in September. Members discussed these and noted that the SEP were due to meet again on 20th October 2023. As noted, at Item 9 Members are unable to consider any financial contribution further until progress has been made in respect of Sedbergh Parish Council becoming the lead/financial vehicle for the SEP - therefore being the legal entity that draws together the partnership. Members resolved, therefore, to suggest this as an Agenda item for their meeting. This would give full transparency of finances and any meetings going forward. As previously noted, 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. For reference, key points noted for ToR noted below.

- 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)** Daily weekday bus service – it was understood that a substantial sum had been secured to support a new weekday service and that a contract is currently out for tender (see also Item 7).
- ii)** Sedbergh Tennis Club – request for Members to consider ongoing maintenance contract/future paint refresh. Members noted that the final clean of the current 5-year contract was due in March 2024. It was anticipated that a new contract would be considered then (with 50% contribution from The Tennis Club). At the visit in March, advice would also be sought on thoughts for any paint refresh required.
- iii)** B4RN – request to cross parking area – St Andrew's Parish Church. Members had received a request to cross the parking area, and whilst the land is unadopted, the Council has previously undertaken the resurfacing and enhancement works at this location. Members suggested that a site meeting with Cllr Longlands, to discuss other alternatives be progressed, for example – utilizing the existing route of the cabling for the BT kiosk.
- iv)** Request to consider additional food van/s – People's Hall car parking area. Members will consider on an individual basis, noting that the only viable days at the car parking area were Sunday/Monday (Tuesday now occupied) for any further enquiries.
- v)** Yorkshire Dales National Park – Forum Meeting – scheduled on 25th October – Cllr Arnold offered to attend.
- vi)** Late Night Opening Event and Christmas Tree – Members resolved to erect the small tree at the toilets (Main Street) as previously. In addition, they recommended the sum of £200 as a contribution toward entertainment for the event on 6th December 2023. Festoon lighting (SPC) will be erected as previous years/and lighting for the tree at the Fire Station.
- vii)** Settlebeck School awards evening – Cllrs Sedgwick and Longlands accepted the kind invitation to attend the evening on 19th October 2023.
- viii)** Royal British Legion – Members noted recent correspondence from the Sedbergh branch of the RBL in respect of their annual Remembrance Day parade. It was understood that a formal road closure may, in future, be required for the parade and that it was too late to enact this for 2023.
- ix)** Sedbergh 30 Ltd – Members noted an application for a late licence at the former Al Forno premises.

18. Date and Time of next meeting – monthly meeting, to be held from 7.30pm on Thursday 9th November 2023 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh