

## **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 14 December 2023.**

**Present:** Councillors Lancaster (Chair), Longlands, Capstick, Welti, Sedgwick, Brooks and Bromley

### **1. Apologies (to include provision for planned absence of any Council Member)**

Apologies were received from Cllrs McPherson, Arnold, Hutt and Cowperthwaite and accepted by Members. It was further resolved that apologies be accepted, in advance, for the Chairman, Cllr Lancaster (January to March inclusive). During the absence, it was resolved that Cllr Welti be co-opted to the Finance Committee. It was further noted that Cllr Arnold (Vice Chair) wishes to seek a temporary acting Vice Chair at the January meeting, to support during Cllr Lancaster’s absence.

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

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

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

Item 16 Correspondence – The Courtyard, Howgill Lane. Cllrs Longlands and Capstick declared a non-pecuniary interest.

### **4. Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

### **5. To adopt the Minutes of the normal monthly meeting, held Thursday 9 November 2023.**

The Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 9 November 2023 were adopted, and signed by the Chairman, as a true record of the meeting.

### **6. Matters noted from the Minutes of 9 November 2023**

Part I Item 4 – Public Participation, the clerk advised that a response had been received from Broadacre in respect of S/03/637A Section 73 application for variation to Condition 2 and will be added to the Agenda for January.

Part I Item 17 Correspondence - consider financial institution for the town. The clerk had received a response and it was anticipated that a presentation would be made at the February meeting.

Part II Item 9 - the Clerk confirmed a response had been received from the Solicitor in respect of boundaries. It was further noted that the picnic site/path be added as a future Agenda item, to consider ongoing responsibility/maintenance.

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

Cllr Hodgson advised, by email, that she continues to follow up Sedbergh Parish Council’s requests to Westmorland and Furness Council regarding the silt trap/inspection chamber at Guldrey and the drains that pass under the playing field. She also highlighted that the replacement bus service (Sedbergh to Kendal) tender has now been issued. A further update is anticipated in January, with a variety of potential services available for tender. Cllr Mitchell did not attend.

### **8. Planning**

The Planning Committee had not met recently, Cllr Arnold had asked the Clerk to convene a meeting and this was scheduled for 19 December 2023. In addition, it was noted that S/03/591B Hirst Centre, New Field Hockey Centre Community Use Scheme (amended) had now been received – attached.

Members acknowledged that there had been a small amendment, however, were disappointed to note that allocation of prescribed hours during the school day had not been included, as Members had requested.

### **9. Finance**

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023, which included approval of all payments recommended.

- i) **Draft Budget 2024/2025 and any update on Precept/Parish Grant.** Members discussed the notice from Westmorland and Furness Council advising that 24/25 would be the last year that the Parish Grant would be paid alongside the Precept. Members resolved, therefore, to await final tax base information (anticipated later this month) prior to concluding any precept request in January. Also being minded to consider any future implications due to the loss of the Parish Grant.

### **10. Grants**

There were no Grant applications in November.

### **11. Amenities Committee**

The Amenities Committee had not met since their meeting in October. Cllr Brooks wished to express thanks to Cllr Hutt for his recent works installing the festive lights in the town. Anecdotally, Members had many comments of appreciation – particularly for the tree at the fire station. Members also wished to thank Cllr Arnold, and his team from Sedbergh School (Gives Back), for their recent Parish ‘Hit Squad’ work around the town – including clearing leaves, litter picking and hedge cutting. Members noted that the poor condition of benches at Winder (close to Settlebeck Gill) had been raised, however, as these were not Parish Council benches – Parish input was minimal. It was noted, however, that the Clerk had been in communication generally with the Foundation for Common Land, and there was hope that there may be some funding available to replace one of the benches. Members also wished to note that, if installation was ultimately required, this could perhaps be a future project for Sedbergh School challenge week to consider.

### **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.  
Joss Lane connection is scheduled for January, with Loftus Hill in early March. Due to delays, whilst awaiting connection, the Clerk has written to all funders and advised of the unavoidable delay into 2024. It was noted that the grant from OZEV/ORCS administered by The Energy Saving Trust had warned that a delay into the next finance year could risk remaining funds. The Clerk will continue to liaise, with emphasis also on the contractor to plan final install/commissioning as swiftly as possible.
- ii) Parish lighting – the contractor has commenced the replacement project. 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, and with the future planned absence of Cllr Lancaster, any project is unlikely to progress until Spring/Summer 2024. The Clerk was asked, therefore, to contact the Community Trust in respect of the funds still being held in reserve for the stone steps project – on the understanding that they may request these funds to be returned. It is understood the Council would then have to reapply in the future when/if progress made.

### **14. Future parking**

There was no update available, information remained outstanding from Westmorland and Furness Council in respect of the hopes for coach parking at New Bridge.

Regarding future enhancement/improvement scheme at Joss Lane, it was noted that the Clerk had written to Westmorland and Furness Council in respect of any future UKSPF allocations, but no acknowledgement or reply had been received.

### **15. Highways Matters**

i) The Clerk had followed up with Cllr Mitchell in respect of the potential crossing points initiative, but had not received an update. This formed part of ii) Section 106 monies (Highways), however, there was no progress to report. The Clerk had reminded Cllr Mitchell that there were time constraints on the potential funding available, from Westmorland and Furness Council, to support. iii) Catchpit and culverts at Guldrey and the playing field (see Item 7), no update available from Westmorland and Furness Council.

### **16. Correspondence**

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

- i) Daily weekday bus service – see Item 7 – tenders have been issued, and it is hoped that there will be an update in January 2024.
- ii) Licensing review – The Courtyard, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh. Following a response, to Westmorland and Furness Licensing (previously completed by email due to time constraints), Members recognized the subsequent concerns of all objectors, none the less resolved to endorse their previous response (attached). Members noted that a Freedom of Information request had been received.
- iii) Cones at Joss Lane car park – Members noted that several cones had been removed from the car park and the Clerk was asked to follow up their potential whereabouts.
- iv) Westmorland and Furness Council Code of Conduct for Councillors – Members to consider update to existing district Code of Conduct – Members acknowledged the amended version, which updated the previous South Lakeland District Council Code.
- v) Millthrop Residents – Members noted a request to plant a tree on the banking close to the turning for Millthrop. Members, however, were unclear who owned this area of land and asked the Clerk to write back to the residents – advising they should seek clarity of land owner/establish responsibility.
- vi) United Utilities – works at playing field, connection completed. Members noted that UU had now completed works at the playing field and UU's offer to return to reseed if required.
- vii) Sedbergh Economic Partnership - Members noted that no response had been received from the SEP following the Council's letter to them in November. The Clerk was asked to confirm that the letter had been circulated to all Members of the Partnership.
- viii) Westmorland and Furness Resilience Planning – the Clerk had attended an online event in respect of collaborative working and Members noted that a refresh/update of the Sedbergh Parish Council Resilience Plan should be considered at a future meeting.

**18. Date and Time of next meeting – monthly meeting, to be held from 7.30pm on 11 January 2024 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh**