

Sedbergh Parish Council, Finance Committee

Minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council Finance Committee meeting, held Parish Council office, 72 Main Street, Sedbergh on Tuesday 6 February 2024 at 6.15pm

Present: Cllrs Arnold (Chair), Welti, Capstick, Brooks and the Clerk, Miss Hassam

1. Apologies

Apologies continued to be received from Cllr Lancaster during his planned absence, and accepted by the meeting. All other Members present.

2. Declaration of Interests

Item 4 – Cllr Arnold - £165 Main Street toilets

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Tuesday 9 January 2024

The minutes were agreed and will be signed, as a true record, by the Chairman Cllr Arnold.

4. Financial Summary and Bank Reconciliation 2023 - 2024

The Financial Summary for January 2024 had been circulated to Members and it was resolved that all payments (attached) were recommended for online payment. In addition, a payment for £165 for cleaning at Main Street toilets in the absence of the Handyman in September. The Bank Reconciliation, for January 2024, was checked and found to be correct and signed by Cllrs Brooks and Capstick, along with bank statements/summary of receipts and payments. Members also briefly discussed electricity charges at both Loftus Hill (former toilet block) and Main Street toilets – noting that a 12-month fixed rate had been secured to reduce expenditure, including standing charges.

5. Receipts and Payments 2023 – 2024

The up-to-date financial report for 2023/2024 was circulated for information to all Members. It was noted that the car park income was notably low in January 2024, with an overall general reduction seen on car park income year to date. In addition, the Clerk noted that the budget required some small amendments (attached) to consider delayed projects and the Clerks salary adjustment/PAYE/pension for 2023/2025 (following back dated pay award).

i) Parking tariffs – short stay and resident permit scheme

Members approved the increased rates (attached), following discussion at the meetings in January. The Clerk was requested to advise Westmorland and Furness as soon as practical to allow time for the increase to be included in their annual Parking Order. In addition, the annual parking permits were agreed at £70 (fixed registration/personal) and £120 (interchangeable/business). The Clerk was asked to liaise with the Western Dales Bus over their current arrangements for parking and, in addition, confirm with Cumbria Police their new space allocation (with effect from the summer/when painted). The new measures aim to allow additional parking for visitors, by potentially freeing up some spaces on the car parks by seeing drivers of Western Dales Bus occupying their vacant bus space and the Police moving to a new location at Joss Lane car park.

ii) Consider Internal Auditor – Annual Governance and Accountability Return

Members resolved to approve the appointment of Lakes Auditing Service following review. The Clerk will liaise over future access to documents/finances as appropriate. Members noted that there had been hopes to appoint a new IA for some time, and were glad that a successor had been found. Members took the opportunity to thank the previous IA for his past support of the Council.

6. Grant Applications

There were no Grant applications received in January.

Sedbergh Parish Council, Finance Committee

Minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council Finance Committee meeting, held Parish Council office, 72 Main Street, Sedbergh on Tuesday 6 February 2024 at 6.15pm

7. Projects – scope funding in respect of improvement proposals at Joss Lane car park and playground – any updates

Cllr Arnold had met with further contractors, with conceptual designs now being received. The hope is that the concepts will help support future progress/discussion with relevant authorities and the community. Cllr Arnold now hopes to convene a community meeting to discuss the project and has asked the Clerk to send invitations as soon as possible. The project will, in turn, include the potential to later increase parking at the People's Hall car parking area. This would then dovetail into future hopes for enhancement works at Joss Lane car park. Not least, as an extended car parking area at Howgill Lane would allow temporary alternative parking during works at Joss Lane car park, including for permit holders.

8. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 6.15pm. Members resolved to meet in the Parish Council Office, 72 Main Street, Sedbergh. Members additionally resolved to amend future meetings to Tuesdays at 6.15pm on a permanent basis, and the Clerk was requested to update all schedules as appropriate.