

## **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 11 January 2024.**

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

### **1. Apologies (to include temporary appointment of acting Vice Chair)**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Lancaster and McPherson. Members expressed their ongoing good wishes to Cllr McPherson. It was further resolved by all Members that Cllr Brooks be appointed as acting Vice Chair, in support of Cllr Arnold, in the absence of Cllr Lancaster.

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

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

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

Item 9 Finance – Cllr Hutt (Festive Lights)

### **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 14 December 2023.**

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

### **6. Matters noted from the Minutes of 14 December 2023**

All matters were included on the agenda.

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

Cllr Mitchell advised that the Locality Boards were now established at Westmorland and Furness Council and progress would soon be made on considering priorities for each area. This might include, for example, the proposed potential crossing points (Item 15i), and other matters raised by Sedbergh Parish Council – including the Section 106 monies available for Highways improvements at Station Road (15ii), particularly due to the time constraint on the funds. Finally, it was noted that the replacement bus service (Sedbergh to Kendal) was now close to a resolution. A further update is anticipated very soon, with a variety of potential services being discussed. Cllr Hodgson sent apologies.

### **8. Planning**

The Planning Committee had met in December. Currently, there was just one recent further application for note S/03/756 Full planning permission for change of use from Shop (Use Class E) to Hot Takeaway (Use Class Sui Generis) 40 Main Street, Sedbergh – there were no objections, and Members supported the application.

- i) Broadacres Development S/03/637A Section 73 application for a variation to Condition 2. Members considered the offer of £3000 for a betterment project in the town, and it was resolved to accept. The Clerk was requested to confirm with the developer. It was envisaged that the funds would be used toward the playground project in the future.

## **9. Finance**

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, which included approval of all payments recommended.

- i) **Sedbergh Parish Council Precept request 2024/2025.** Following recommendation from the Committee, Members resolved to approve the sum of £49,607.88. An increase of 8% - circa. £43.90 for an average Band D property, previously £40.65. Members also noted a future Agenda item to consider increased parking tariffs. These measures were to allow the Council to consider financial planning over the next three years.

## **10. Grants**

There were no Grant applications in December 2023.

## **11. Amenities Committee**

Members received the minutes from the meeting held on 3 January 2024. It was noted that there were hopes to spread sand on the football pitch, with plans to seed the pitch in the Spring. Members were advised then if/when the pitch is seeded, the Football Club will be required to suspend use, to allow time for the pitch to benefit from the work. Cllr Mitchell confirmed he would advise the Football Club.

## **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.  
The Loftus Hill connection is scheduled w/c 15 January with Joss Lane connection due in March. Metering and infrastructure for the EV terminals will follow in due course.
- ii) Parish lighting – the contractor is continuing with the 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.
- iii) Consider Rawthey site/path ongoing maintenance. Cllr Brooks and the Clerk had met with Yorkshire Dales National Park, on site, to discuss the footpath. Members were asked to consider their views on responsibilities for the path, including potential liaison with Environment Agency in respect of the river. The Clerk was asked to remind the neighbouring school of their responsibility to maintain the hedge on the north boundary.

## **13. Queen's Garden**

Item suspended in the absence of Cllrs Lancaster and McPherson.

## **14. Future parking**

- i) In respect of a hoped feasibility study for coach parking at New Bridge, Members discussed recent updates in respect of potential cost. It was resolved that the Clerk seek funding, for the study, from Westmorland and Furness Council. Cllr Bromley additionally asked Cllr Mitchell for an update on future parking consideration for Sedbergh, including (as previously discussed) the potential to relocate the recycling away from Joss Lane car park. Cllr Mitchell hopes to update in due course.
- ii) In respect of any future UKSPF allocations, and Public Realm monies, the Clerk noted a response from an officer at Westmorland and Furness Council, on behalf of Cllr Jonathan Brook - Leader of Westmorland and Furness Council, which extended an offer by the officer to attend a future meeting to discuss concerns. The Clerk was instructed to invite to the February meeting.

## **15. Highways Matters**

The Clerk had recently attended a Forum meeting with Westmorland and Furness Council. Cllr Peter Thornton, Cabinet Member for Highways, had been present at the meeting and offered to attend Parish Council meetings. Members, therefore, agreed to invite Cllr Thornton to the February meeting.

- i) Crossing points raised by Sedbergh School (see Item 7)
- ii) Section 106 monies (Highways) at Station Road (see Item 7).
- iii) Catchpit and culverts at Guldrey and the playing field – there was no update available from Westmorland and Furness Council.

As an interim measure, it was resolved that a local contractor inspect (and empty as required) the catch pit at Guldrey to help protect those residents that lived in the area. However, it was further resolved that Sedbergh Parish Council would not assume responsibility for the catch pit. The catch pit had originally been installed, with Cumbria County Council, in response to flooding seen during Storm Desmond. It was hoped, therefore, that a satisfactory conclusion would be received from Westmorland and Furness Council in respect of future maintenance/responsibility.

## **16. Correspondence**

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

- i)** Sedbergh Economic Partnership – Members noted that a meeting was scheduled for 12/1/24.
- ii)** Community Trust – there was no update from the Trust in respect of the grant monies reserved for the stone steps at Queen's Garden
- iii)** Sedbergh School Challenge Week – Cllr Arnold invited Members to consider projects.
- iv)** Daily weekday bus service – see Item 7
- v)** Parking – Main Street, concern for blocked pavement/s. Members noted correspondence in respect of 'The Narrows' where parking is problematic, often forcing pedestrians onto the highways. As previously noted, vehicles causing an obstruction should be reported to Cumbria Police.
- vi)** Police parking – Joss Lane car park, Members resolved that a new bay would be marked in the summer as part of Sedbergh School Challenge Week.
- vii)** Members noted that a building society hoped to attend the March meeting to give a short presentation.
- viii)** Westmorland and Furness Council – a request had been received for feedback on support for wild flower seeds to be planted at the cemetery in Sedbergh. However, Members were concerned that the area (planned close to the entrance) may become overgrown and untidy. Members acknowledged, however, that wild flower beds can look attractive, and are beneficial for pollinators, and suggested that W&F consider the verge opposite the cemetery as an alternative location.
- ix)** Pavement licences – Members noted recent correspondence in respect of pavement licences/use of pavement by various shops/cafes on Main Street. Some traders had received letters from W&F Council. Members hoped that W&F, along with Cllr Mitchell, could find ways of working together with the businesses on Main Street. Resolving that now was a time to find ways to support business, not threaten enforcement action. Cllr Mitchell hopes to report back at a future meeting.

**18. Date and Time of next meeting – monthly meeting, to be held from 7.30pm on 8 February 2024 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh**