

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 8 February 2024

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

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

Apologies continue to be received from Cllr Lancaster (planned absence). Apologies were also received from Cllrs McPherson and Cowperthwaite.

2. Requests for Dispensations

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

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Public Participation to include presentation by Westmorland and Furness Council (Highways and Assets)

Members welcomed the cabinet member for Highways and Assets, Westmorland and Furness Council (W&F) for a presentation on Highways and Q&A. Members sought additional clarity in respect of the Council’s previous request W&F to consider coach parking at New Bridge layby, also details of the inspection regime for the A684 (Sedbergh to Kendal road) due to the number of reports of current poor condition. It was highlighted that regular inspections were undertaken and Members requested access to the most recent report, but were advised that it is not a public document. Members were, therefore, minded to request access to the report via Freedom of Information to allow Members reassurance for residents on the perceived condition of the road and if the report correlated with experience of those using the road frequently. It was additionally raised that, currently, there are no planned works currently noted (12-month period) on roadworks portal. Finally, an update on the yellow lining request for the junctions at Long Lane/Castlegarth, Station Road/Highfield Road and Busk Lane/Loftus Hill which the Council. The yellow lining request had originally been requested for consideration in 2020 and, finally, any update/progress regarding safety improvements around Junction 37, M6. In respect of the latter, the Clerk was asked to write to National Highways. There were no other members of the public present at the meeting.

5. To adopt the Minutes of the normal monthly meeting, held Thursday 11 January 2024

The Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 11 January 2024 were adopted, and signed by the Chairman, Cllr Arnold, as a true record of the meeting. In addition, the Chairman signed the minutes for the January 2024 Finance meeting (SPC Finance 6 February 2024 Item (Item 3))

6. Matters noted from the Minutes of 11 January 2024

All matters were included on the agenda.

7. Highways Matters – to receive any update/report on Highways matters i) update on culverts/drains Guldrey/Howgill Lane/playing field ii) to note recent works on Station Road completed by Westmorland and Furness Council – Section 106 monies (Highways)

i) In the absence of Cllr Hodgson, no update was available on respect of the culverts/drains (including the catchpit at Guldrey) and ii) it was confirmed that the recent works carried out at Station Road, were the Section 106 monies being spent by Highways.

It was noted that, unfortunately, W&F had omitted to update Sedbergh Parish Council with their plan and that their works ultimately clashed with the planned work at Loftus Hill (car park) in respect of the EV connection works. Noting that the latter had required a three-month notice period, so other works could have been scheduled, by Highways, around the planned closure.

8.. Report/update from Westmorland and Furness Council

Cllr Mitchell had sent apologies; Cllr Hodgson did not attend, so there were no further updates available on pavement licences/A Board policy – Main Street, Sedbergh.

9. Planning

The Planning Committee scheduled a meeting for the w/c 12th February 2024 to discuss recent applications. However, the following application was discussed at the meeting. S/03/529D Scrogg Bank Field, Cautley Road, Sedbergh. Full planning permission for use of the land as a Gypsy and Traveller site for a maximum of 21 days per year (temporary permission for a period of five years). Members reflected on the previous resolution (2019) and resolved that their response should be the same, in that, no objection on the basis that all management practices remain the same.

10. Finance

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 6 February 2024, which included approval of all payments recommended.

- i) **Appointment of Internal Auditor** – following recommendation, by the Finance Committee, Members resolved to approve the new appointment, Lakes Auditing Services, the Clerk will liaise over processes for 2024.

11. Grants

There were no Grant applications in January 2024.

12. Amenities Committee

There had been no Amenities Committee meeting since 3 January 2024. It was noted that the draft grass cutting contract will be finalised and the Clerk will liaise further with the existing contractor ahead of the growing season.

13. 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 and metering are now complete and it is hoped that the final infrastructure will be completed in the coming weeks (weather dependent), with Joss Lane electricity connection due in March.
- ii) Member opinions to be sought on Rawthey site/path. Members resolved to revisit their views on responsibilities for the area when a decision had been made on the coach parking proposal at the lay-by. It was further noted, that the Clerk had received notice of some planned works to the boundary with the adjoining school, as noted in the January meeting.
- iii) UKSPF response Westmorland and Furness council. Members noted the recent further response from the Leader of W&F. A representative of the appropriate department hopes to attend the March meeting.

14. Queen's Garden

Item suspended in the absence of Cllrs Lancaster and McPherson. i) reported wall collapse, confirm repair works required. It was noted that the urgent repair works had been commenced on the west boundary.

15. Correspondence

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

- i) Sedbergh Economic Partnership – the Clerk had circulated the notes from the meeting in January and is awaiting a response in respect of some queries raised. The Clerk was requested to follow up, so that any updates/clarifications could be circulated to Members as soon as practicable.
- ii) Request to plant a tree at Millthrop – potential draft license agreement with W&F Council. Members discussed the recent request to plant a tree in the verge close to the junction of Millthrop. After much discussion, however, whilst Members would like to be supportive, they concluded that they could not set a precedent with this request. The Clerk was asked to advise the residents.
- iii) Remembrance Day procedures/communication with Royal British Legion – Members noted recent correspondence in respect of Remembrance Day Parades and the RBL’s withdrawal of organization of associated traffic orders, for parades, with the local authority. It was understood that the local branch of the RBL would be making a formal request to the Council to consider taking on the application process for a temporary traffic order to facilitate any parade/march by in the future. During early investigations, the Clerk was able to advise that there would be associated costs for any formal road closure and it was hoped that further information would be available for the March meeting.
- iv) Western Dales Bus/Stagecoach – Members noted recent correspondence from a resident in respect of the recent public statement by Western Dales Bus, notably, their concern for the overlap with the new weekday Stagecoach service. Members asked the Clerk to pass on the resident’s concerns about the statement to Westmorland and Furness Council.

16. Date and Time of next meeting – monthly meeting, to be held from 7.30pm on 14 March 2024 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh