

## **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 March 2024**

**Present:** Councillors Arnold (Chair), Longlands, Capstick, Welti, Brooks, Hutt, Cowperthwaite, Bromley, and Lancaster. It was resolved that whilst Cllr Lancaster was present, he had only recently returned to the UK and Cllr Arnold should, therefore, Chair at this meeting.

#### **1. Apologies for absence and authorisation of continued leave of absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs McPherson and Sedgwick. Members resolved to approve the current leave of absence for Cllr McPherson. Additionally noting that he was hoping to attend a Queen’s Garden Committee meeting later this month.

#### **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 on high street viability/access to financial institutions and representative from Westmorland and Furness Council – Inclusive and Green Growth/Thriving Places**

Members welcomed the Head of Branch Development for the Newcastle Building Society, who gave a short presentation on their ethos, connecting communities for a better financial future. Members advised they would consider any potential suitable opportunities/partnerships/premises that may offer an appropriate base for them to pursue further. The Chairman additionally referenced a retail outlet currently being marketed in the town. Members were also pleased to welcome the Assistant Director of Inclusive and Green Growth, Westmorland, and Furness Council (W&F), a team which includes economic development and regeneration. The Assistant Director had agreed to attend following the Council’s disappointment not to be considered for any Public Realm monies from the Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) in 2023. Members had the opportunity to discuss their future aspirations for several projects, that were all interwoven and for the benefit of the town. Members asked how they might be able to access support and significant funding, from W&F in the future, noting that W&F were still ultimately responsible for all smaller Town and Parish Councils too. It was agreed that support should be available from W&F via both their economic development team and their community team and further liaison will continue with the Clerk. It was noted, for reference, that the town should aim to come together with their vision/plan for the community, as it can be unhelpful to have divergent views when being considered for funding streams in the future. To progress, a draft vision of the Council’s aims should be written/confirmed so that a tangible plan can then aim to be completed with the appropriate support from officers at W&F. The plan should demonstrate how the projects are linked and how they will all work together to build a more attractive and vibrant town centre and, therefore, give benefit to residents and visitors alike. Members expressed their sincere thanks to both guests for attending.

#### **5. To adopt the Minutes of the normal monthly meeting, held Thursday 8 February 2024**

The Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 8 February 2024 were adopted, and signed by the acting Chairman, Cllr Arnold, as a true record of the meeting.

#### **6. Matters to note from the Minutes of 8 February 2024 not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda**

All matters were included on the agenda.

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

Cllr Mitchell had sent apologies for the meeting. He had recently met with Cllr Longlands in respect of the silt traps along the playing field/Guldrey, with the aim to continue to progress the ongoing query already raised with Cllr Hodgson/W&F. Cllr Hodgson advised that W&F had recently met with the Western Dales Bus and confirmed that another transport consultation would be circulated in June.

### **8. Planning**

The following applications were discussed at the meeting. S/03/37D Borrett Farm, Sedbergh, LA10 5HL. Full planning permission for siting of 5 No. holiday let pods. Members resolved to support. S/03/759 Cross Keys Footbridge and Lay-by, A683, LA10 5NE. Full planning permission for replacement of an existing footbridge and steps, with a road level full accessible bridleway bridge with multi user access capabilities, works to lay-by paying area and provision of a safer walkway from the road to the bridge. Members resolved to support, with a caveat. The improvements were likely to encourage even greater footfall to the area, which can already attract inconsiderate and sometimes dangerous parking and therefore, some further thought and consideration should be given to increase and improve off road parking in the area. S/03/530B 9 Finkle Street, Sedbergh, LA10 5BZ. Full planning permission for change of use of the commercial element of the building from Class E to Class C3 (dwelling house) in association with the remainder of the property. Members resolved to object – believing that the minimum threshold for meaningful advertisement had not been met. With further reference to Item 4, Public Participation, where suitable properties may be sought in the area for the consideration of a financial institution. It was finally noted that application 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) had been approved by YDNPA subject to the management plan. i) Strategic Housing Market Assessment (Yorkshire Dales National Park) Members resolved that Cllr Arnold, in association with Cllr Lancaster, should submit a response on behalf of the Council. ii) Public Footpath diversion notice – Castlerigg Farm, Cautley (attached) no objections. Also, development off Station Road (attached) request noted for the addition of a solid boundary to the north of the proposed footpath within the development. Members noted that the developers had hoped to have a gate into the adjoining field, to allow the potential to join an existing footpath/bridleway – however, noted that the land owner had not given their permission. Members resolved, therefore, their regret that a link cannot be formed and acknowledge that there is little alternative for the developer other than to erect a solid boundary. The matter would likely be referred to Yorkshire Dales National Park who might impose the appropriate action in any case.

### **9. Finance**

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 11 March 2024, which included approval of all payments recommended. In addition, following recommendation, Members resolved to approve the unit fee for the EV chargers and agreed that the variations from the installer, in respect of disabled bay marking and the damaged ducting, should be declined. In respect of matters resolved under Item 9 (Part II), Members resolved to accept all as recommended. i) **Remembrance Service Parade Road closure request.** Members discussed the recent request for Members to consider being the conduit for any necessary road closures required for a parade. However, regrettably, the estimated fee to implement the road closures (circa £1000) prevented Members from being able to justify the cost. Members suggested that W&F should, perhaps, be taking more of a lead on road closures for Remembrance Sunday following the recent changes – not least, consideration of their administration fee to enact a road closure application (£303). Cllr Hodgson advised that she would take this concern back to W&F ii) **Annual Review of Asset Register, Risk Register, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.** Members resolved to adopt all documents as recommended.

**10. Resilience Planning – Members to consider review of existing Plan (previously deferred)**

Members acknowledged that the Plan needed to be revisited and reviewed and resolved, therefore, to add this as an Agenda item at the Annual meeting.

**11. Amenities Committee**

Members received the minutes from the recent Amenities Committee meeting. It was noted that representatives from Sedbergh and Dent United Football Club had attended the meeting to discuss their concern over the condition of the pitch. The Chair was able to update Members with some advice sought locally, it had been suggested that to try and make improvements, 60 tonne of additional sand (per annum) could be considered along with extra verti drains. The cost of additional sand, however, at this level would be circa £3,000. The Clerk had written, therefore, to the Football Club to advise and to ask if they hope to consider additional maintenance, they would have to seek the additional funding.

**12. Update on Projects**

i) update on EV charging points at Loftus Hill car park and Joss Lane car park (see also Item 9). Loftus Hill EV is now in operation, with metering and final install due at Joss Lane car park later this month. ii) Parish lighting – update on progression. The Clerk was pleased to confirm that the install was now complete, with final invoice awaited. In respect of both these projects, the Clerk hoped to complete the various claims for outstanding grants, once final invoices received.

**13. Queens Garden**

Meeting scheduled for w/c 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Members noted the recent urgent wall repair completed to the west boundary, and resolved to authorise payment of the recent invoice received, £262.50 to prevent a delay in payment.

**14. Highways Matters – to receive any update/report on Highways matters** i) any update on culverts/drains Guldrey/Howgill Lane/playing field. See also Item 7, ongoing query being raised with W&F following recent walkabout by Cllr Mitchell. ii) any updates on matters raised with W&F 8 February 2024 Full Council meeting, including New Bridge lay-by proposal, yellow lining, A684 FOI request and M6 Junction 37. Members noted that there were still no significant updates at this time, with the Clerk continuing to liaise with W&F. It was acknowledged, however, that a FOI response had been received in respect of the condition of the A684. However, it referred to another document, for each defect, that could not be accessed by the Council. Members resolved, therefore, that an appeal should be made in respect of the limited information provided. Regarding J37, M6 motorway, a response had been received from National Highways and shared with W&F. Finally, Members noted that, on behalf of the volunteer group that tend to the informal picnic area close to New Bridge lay-by, they had been asked to consider replacing two picnic tables. The volunteer proposed that the Council could apply, perhaps, to the Community Trust for funds. However, Members were reluctant to progress with an application at this time due to there being other Council projects in the pipeline. These would also require application to the Community Trust and were considered a greater priority.

**15. Correspondence**

Receive any items of correspondence (late items to be tabled at the meeting) and additionally consider items for the Agenda in April 2024.

- i) Sedbergh Economic Partnership – the Clerk had recently circulated a copy of the SEP’s Main Street Survey & Questionnaire February 2024. The Council had not been consulted on the content.
- ii) Shared space for Main Street – request from a resident for Members to consider. Members noted the enquiry, however, confirmed this was not currently a priority for the Council.

- iii) Sedbergh Tennis Club/courts – consider new 5-year maintenance contract (See Item 9) maintenance contract confirmed. In addition, the Tennis Club had asked if Members would consider using funds from the sinking fund, for future painting/bonding of the courts to help preserve the surface. Members resolved that this would be considered, in the future, but that the Club should be mindful that this would reduce the sinking fund reserve for any other future projects/improvements.
- iv) Members noted that a Respect Meeting was scheduled for April, ahead of Appleby Fair.
- v) Members noted the Town Twinning AGM scheduled for later this month.
- vi) Artisan Market – request from service/charity stalls holders to use Joss Lane car park at the May artisan market. Members confirmed that appropriate space could be used for the one-off addition of stalls (too large to accommodate on Main St), and that stall holders should purchase an appropriate pay and display ticket for the day.

**16. Date and Time of next meeting – monthly meeting, to be held from 7.30pm on 11 April 2024 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh. The Clerk reminded Members that the annual meetings (May) are scheduled a week later than normal. In addition, the Clerk has recently updated the meetings list (including Finance meeting changes) for 2024 (attached). Provisional dates have been also been booked for 2025.**