

## **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 12 September 2024**

**Present:** Councillors Arnold (Chair), Lancaster, Longlands, Capstick, Bromley, Welti and Cowperthwaite

### **Part I**

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Hutt and McPherson did not attend and apologies were received from Cllrs Sedgwick and Brookes.

#### **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 made at the meeting.

#### **4. Public Participation**

Representation was made by Sedbergh Information Centre, and Members noted their feedback on permit sales.

#### **5. To adopt the minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council monthly meeting, dated 8 August 2024**

Members resolved to adopt the normal monthly minutes, dated 8 August 2024, and they were signed by the Chairman, Cllr Arnold.

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

None, all relevant matters were included on the agenda.

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

Cllr Mitchell did not attend and apologies had been received from Cllr Hodgson. Cllr Hodgson had sent a summary, which was circulated to Members. This included reference on some progress being made by Westmorland and Furness Council regarding hoped improvements at J37, M6 Motorway and contact from Tim Farron MP, sharing recent correspondence from Cumbria Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and the BSIP+.

**i) update/progress in respect of BSIP+ review and ongoing procurement (Bus Service Improvement Plan).** Members discussed the ongoing correspondence with WFC, following previous concerns raised, along with a full draft summary completed by Cllr Bromley. Members resolved that given the length of time being taken to reach a satisfactory conclusion/answer to queries previously highlighted, that a formal complaint should now be submitted to WFC to summarise all previous correspondence. And, given the timescales, it was agreed that Cllr Bromley and the Clerk would draft a letter for circulation to all Members for approval. Members resolved that, once all agreed, the complaint should be forwarded to WFC at the earliest opportunity (and prior to the next scheduled Council meeting) to avoid further unnecessary delay. It was also noted, at the meeting, that the Information Centre Manager confirmed the content in the index/summary circulated to Members. Reference was also generally noted regarding the lack of response from WFC, to a member of the public, regarding Freedom of Information requests that had been submitted. Finally, Members discussed that if no satisfactory response was received in respect of the service received from WFC, further informal advice should be sought from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsmen about potential future escalation.

## **8. Planning**

In the absence of the Planning Committee Chairman, Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 28 August 2024. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the Planning Committee Chairman in respect of scheduling a meeting to discuss recent applications.

## **9. Finance**

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 2 September 2024, which included approval of all payments recommended (attached) along with PAYE £1758.67. In addition, following recommendation (Receipts and Payments (5ii) Sedbergh CIC) Members resolved to adopt the recommendation to decline the request for an uplift in donation. Whilst discussing permit sales, Members noted queries in relation to permits on the correspondence (see Item 13ii and 13v).

- i) Recycling Amenity, Spar site, Station Road – any update.** Members noted that the site owner and Westmorland Furness Council had not yet had the opportunity to liaise further. It was resolved, therefore, that the Clerk send holding correspondence to the site owner, whilst awaiting an update from Westmorland and Furness Council. Members further resolved to ask the Clerk to seek some independent legal advice on the ongoing matter.
- ii) External Auditor Report and Certificate/Notice of Conclusion of Annual Audit 2023/2024.** Following recent receipt, Members resolved to adopt the Notice of Conclusion of Audit for 2023 to 2024 (attached) from the External Auditor. The notice will be displayed, and published on the Council website, as required. Conclusion of Annual Audit.

## **10. Amenities Committee**

No Amenities meeting had taken place. In the absence of the Chair of the Committee, the Clerk updated Members with some indicative costings to potentially widen the disabled access toilet doorway (as previously requested). However, any further feasibility would have to be discussed at the next Amenities Committee meeting.

## **11. Update on Projects**

- i) Playground proposal – The Clerk noted that illustrative drawings had now been received for the car parking area proposal at the playing field, which will now allow Cllr Arnold to progress discussions Yorkshire Dales National Park in respect of future planning requirements for the project.
- ii) Remembrance Sunday Parade – Members to reconsider responsibility for event, following update on charges/traffic management from Westmorland and Furness Council. The Clerk was able to advise that the WFC administration charge would now be waived. In addition, there was potential to progress a temporary road closure via the Town and Police Clauses Act 1847. This would allow Members to lead on a road closure, on Sunday 10 November 2024, for a short parade using volunteer marshals. Further, if Members were able to facilitate the closure of Finkle Street only for the parade, there would not be the requirement for formal traffic management as there would be no requirement to direct or hold moving vehicles. It was resolved, therefore, that the Clerk would seek further clarity from WFC, and if all confirmed, a formal application for the road closure should be submitted as soon as practical to allow time for the closure to be registered and for Risk Assessment etc. to be completed. Further liaison with the Royal British Legion and representatives of St Andrew's Church would be required, nearer the time, to ensure smooth operation on the day. Special thanks were noted to Cllr Vicky Hughes (Burton and Holme Ward) at WFC, for all her support in securing a positive outcome.

## **12. Queens Garden**

Members of the Committee had not met recently, and considered making an approach to co-opt further Members.

### **13. Correspondence**

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

- i) Request for Members to give feedback on proposal for installation of removable bollards at the church lychgate, Main Street, to protect the disabled access to St Andrew’s Church. Given the status of the land (unregistered) Members resolved they had no objections to the general proposal by the Parochial Church Council.
- ii) Resident query over increased resident parking permit price. Would Members consider a two-tier structure for residents that are unable to park outside this home (ie Man Street, Finkle Street. Members resolved not to progress this enquiry further, not least, as the current parking permit fee £70, is significantly less than in neighboring areas. For example, WFC parking permit, for general comparison, is currently £588 and £705 business, Lake District National Park £529 and Milnthorpe £273.
- iii) Public Space Protection Order – Members noted the ongoing consultation period. WFC had suggested that a fence may be beneficial at the playing field/play area, at Howgill Lane. as part of project to relocate the play area. This might assist future consideration of a PSPO ‘dog exclusion zone’ by establishing a linear boundary for an order to be implemented in the future. Following a further update from WFC, Members resolved to maintain the current policy and signage for ‘no dogs’ on the playing field and play area.
- iv) Tree inspection report – consider works required (New Bridge) Members resolved that the Amenities Committee should discuss the recommendations.
- v) Resident – will Members consider a refund for parking permit due to planned relocation from Sedbergh. Members resolved that it was not feasible to reimburse the fee – the cost of the permit was equal to just 10 days of parking, which had already passed in September.
- vi) WFC Highways – request for Members to give feedback on suitable days for investigative works on Back Lane.

**14. Date and Time of next meetings. The normal monthly meeting, commencing 7.30pm 10 October 2024 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.**

### **Part II**

It was resolved and agreed that the public should be excluded from the meeting for reason of the sensitive nature of the information to be discussed.

### **15. Matter arising in Finance Committee (Confidential)**

Members discussed the implications of the Local Government Act 1972, noting s.85 (1) of the 1972 Act and the vacation of office by failure to attend meetings. Whereby, if a member of the authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, shall, unless failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority.