

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 November 2024

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

1. Apologies for absence

All members present (one vacancy)

2. Requests for Dispensations

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

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Sedgwick – Item 9 – Planning (S/03/769)

Cllrs Hutt and Welti – Item 10 Finance – Grants (Late Night Opening)

Cllr Lancaster – Item 10 Finance - Grants (Town Twinning)

4. Public Participation

There were no members of the public were present at the meeting.

5. To adopt the minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council monthly meeting, dated 10 October 2024

Members resolved to adopt the normal monthly minutes, dated 10 October 2024, and they were signed by the Chairman, Cllr Arnold.

6. Matters to note from the Minutes of 10 October 2024 not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda

None, all relevant matters were included on the agenda.

7. Notice of Vacancy – Co-Option

The Clerk confirmed that, following the recent statutory notice of a Casual Vacancy, no request had been made for an Election. Westmorland and Furness Council had, therefore, confirmed that Sedbergh Parish Council may now seek to Co-Opt. An advertisement (attached), along with application form and Co-Option Policy (attached) were all discussed with Members resolving to approve all documents. The Co-Option advertisement will be included in the local newsletter, and added to Sedbergh Parish Council’s website – with a closing date of 31 January 2024.

8. Report/Update from Westmorland and Furness Council

Cllr Hodgson and Mitchell were unable to attend. Various updates had been received from both Councillors. Including Highway and National Highway work at J37, M6, Lizzi Collinge MP visit with Sedbergh Economic Partnership, ongoing lining improvements/refresh in and around Sedbergh (including the mini roundabout at Finkle Street) and continued conversations in respect of the Spar Bring site, between the owners and Westmorland and Furness Council (Full Council 10 October 2024 Part II, Item 9). **i) Update on BSIP+ (Bus Service Improvement Plan).** Members had been advised that the current Penrith to Kendal (via Sedbergh) service had now been continued to 31 December 2024, to allow Westmorland and Furness Council an extended period to consider tenders. Members additionally discussed the recent Stage 2 response now received from Westmorland and Furness Council, in respect of their ongoing complaint. And whilst the Stage 2 letter acknowledged Sedbergh Parish Council’s concerns, these were not addressed in the response. Members resolved, therefore, to pursue advice from the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman and it was agreed that Cllr Bromley will liaise with the Clerk over submission to the Ombudsmen, for their formal consideration.

9. Planning

Members had not met recently, and the following applications were discussed at the meeting.

S/03/769 28 Showfield Gardens, Sedbergh – householder planning permission for erection for rear extension to existing single storey house. Members expressed some concern in respect of the amount of glass being proposed in the design (each side), leading to a potential loss of privacy for an adjoining property, and setting a precedent for the development. And, therefore, in this regard they defer to the Planning Officer. (Cllr Sedgwick took no part in discussion) **S/03/732E – Low Beckside, Cautley – Full planning permission for installation of ground mounted solar panels** – no objections. **S/03/461D and S/03/461E/BL 15 Back Lane, Sedbergh – householder planning permission for replacement of windows to rear and side of property, reinstatement of coaching arch and ‘hay loft’ apertures with new windows and doors, formation of new door in existing window opening, minor internal structural and non-structural alterations, partial replacement of 1st floor floor, complete replacement of 2nd floor floor, new staircase in new location, 2nr new box dormers, rooflights, new twin wall stove flue** – no objections. Finally, it was noted that recent application, The Bourne, Millthrop (S/03/767) had been withdrawn.

10. Finance

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 11 November 2024, which included approval of requests for payments (attached), with Members additionally resolving to approve the recommended sum of £50,000 (fifty thousand pounds) for transfer to the Council’s CCLA PSDF account. Also, following information from the Clerk, Members agreed that an Investment Policy should now be drafted for future consideration/approval. Finally, following various recommendations from the Committee, Members also approved the planned communication with adjoining landowners at New Bridge (tree survey), ongoing investigation into virtual resident car parking permits and approved the Volunteer Policy. **i) Grant applications Sedbergh Town Twinning** – Members resolved to approve the sum of £1,000 as contribution toward the planned student exchange (Cllr Lancaster took no part in discussion). **Sedbergh CIC, Late Night Opening** – Members resolved to approve the sum of £250.00 (Cllrs Hutt and Welti took no part in discussion).

11. Amenities Committee

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 6 November 2024. Members noted that Sedbergh & Dent United Football Club had made some enquiries about attending a meeting.

12. Update on Projects

i) Playground proposal – pre-application advice with YDNAP, to include proposed car parking area and disabled access pathway to gym. Members agreed that Cllr Arnold should now progress with the formal pre-application advice, and resolved to pay the fee of £200.00, as required.

ii) New Bridge layby proposal – online meeting now scheduled with WFC Highways 19 November 2024

iii) Community Resilience/Emergency Plan – review, update on progress. Cllrs Longlands and Hutt continue to review, with the Clerk currently updating relevant telephone numbers as required. The Clerk noted that WFC Joint Emergency Management & Resilience Team hoped that Sedbergh Parish Council could send an updated plan soon.

13. Queens Garden

Members of the Committee had not met. **i) are additional Members required.** Members resolved to appoint Cllr Sedgwick to the Committee, with Cllr Lancaster advising he would convene a meeting as soon as practicable, to include update on recent Tree Survey.

14. Correspondence

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

i) Resident concern for safety on Main Street, parked vehicles blocking pavements and vehicles using pavements to navigate parked vehicles. Members discussed a recent incident on Main Street, and ongoing issues over parking on pavements, deliveries etc.

Members were mindful of the difficulties experienced on Main Street at times, and empathised with the resident. The Clerk advised that the incident had been raised with Westmorland and Furness Councillors and Highways, along with information shared with the Sedbergh Police Community Support Officer. In specific relation to the exit from Davis Yard onto Main Street, where a vehicle had mounted the curb close to Marshall House, to pass a large delivery van that had pulled on the opposite pavement, Members understood there was a vehicular right of way, which would prevent the erection of a bollard.

- ii) **Benches at Settlebeck Ghyll, Winder Fell.** Members noted that the old wooden bench, now removed, could be collected to see if it could be restored and relocated onto Main Street. Members also noted that The Foundation for Common Land, hoped to erect a plinth on the new stone bench, reading Come-Bye and sit a while.
- iii) **Flowerbed wall at the Firestation.** Members received information from Sedbergh in Bloom in respect of some minor remedial work being required to the wall of their flowerbed at the fire station. Members agreed that they would investigate and hope to then progress a repair.

15. Date and Time of next meeting. The normal monthly meeting, had been scheduled for 7.30pm 12 December 2024, however, it was resolved to delay this meeting to the 19 December 2024. In consideration of the later meeting, Members additionally resolved to give dispensation to the Finance Committee to complete all necessary and anticipated expenditure at their earlier meeting in December. This would ensure there was no undue delay on payments due in December. The Full Council monthly meeting will be held, as normal, in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.