

## 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 - Thursday 9 January 2025**

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

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

Apologies were received from Councillors Lancaster and Hutt (one vacancy)

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

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

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

Cllr Welti – Item 13i Correspondence, Sedbergh CIC (Information Centre) – request for Members feedback on Tourism Strategy. There were no other declarations of interest received at the meeting.

### **4. Public Participation**

There were two members of the public present. A resident attended to highlight their disappointment at the recent Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). Members were able to advise that Sedbergh Parish Council were additionally very disappointed in the recent review, and have recently referred to The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman. In addition, the resident attended to highlight her concern for safety on Main Street – and general information was shared regarding Davis Yard and Westmorland and Furness Council in respect of potential ownership/responsibility. Second member of the public, as observer only.

### **5. To adopt the minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council monthly meeting, dated 19 December 2024**

Members resolved to adopt the normal monthly minutes, dated 19 December 2024, and they were signed by the Chairman, Cllr Arnold.

### **6. Matters to note from the Minutes of 19 December 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 Hodgson did not attend. Cllr Mitchell had forwarded information in respect of the recent Government English Devolution White Paper (EDWP) 16 December 2024. The Government has invited selected councils, including Westmorland and Furness and Cumberland - that have previously expressed an interest in devolution, to join their Devolution Priority Programme (DPP).

**i) any update/progress in respect of BSIP+ (Bus Service Improvement Plan) referral to The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.** Members have not yet received any update from the Ombudsman (which is understood can take up to twelve weeks).

### **8. Planning**

Members had not met since 19 December 2024, with one application discussed at the meeting. **S/03/346A/LB 3 New Street, Sedbergh** listed building consent for restoration/reinstatement of previously removed internal wall on first floor – No objections.

### **9. Finance**

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 6 January 2025, which included the requests for payments (attached). Members also noted a late request from Cumbria Community Foundation for a donation toward their Cumbria Winter Warmth Appeal. Members resolved not to contribute, noting that Sedbergh United Charities has an existing Hardship Fund for members of the community.

**i) Draft Budget for 2025/2026 and formal consideration/approval of Precept 2025/2026 –**

Following recommendation of a draft budget in December 2024, resulting in a proposed Precept of £57,162.49 - Members resolved to approve the Precept request and requested the Clerk to inform Westmorland and Furness Council. The current figures are based on a 7% increase, to an equivalent Band D property, see Finance Committee minutes for full breakdown.

**10. Amenities Committee**

Members of the Committee have not met. i) tree works tender ongoing – New Bridge. Closing date for tenders is 31 January 2025.

**11. Update on Projects**

Item deferred to February 2025.

**12. Queens Garden**

Members of the Committee have not met, however, had been made aware of a small wall collapse on the western boundary. Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Capstick would approach a contractor for a price to repair the gap, which might include taking the surrounding section of wall down initially, to rebuild and strengthen i) tree works tender ongoing – closing date for tenders is 31 January 2025.

**13. Correspondence**

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

- i) **Sedbergh CIC (Information Centre) – request for Members feedback on Tourism Strategy.** Members noted the request to comment on the Tourism Strategy – that had previously been written by the Sedbergh Economic Partnership (SEP). As Members are not currently attending the SEP, Members were concerned that a formal response would be circumventing the Council's current position. However, Members resolved that the Chairman may informally speak to the Chairman of the Sedbergh CIC advising their initial observation for example, that the strategy should not be a 'wish list' for everything, but should focus on Sedbergh's key strengths. The Strategy that had been shared, was almost identical to previous strategies/wish lists completed by various bodies in previous years – and appeared to lack focus. (Cllr Welti took no part in discussion).
- ii) **Resident – concern for some flooding close to the culvert/catchpit near Spar.** Members noted the correspondence, and the Clerk's acknowledgement to the resident – advising that the culvert/s in the area were the responsibility of Westmorland and Furness Council and that they had, again, followed up for a response regarding future maintenance/improvements.
- iii) **Memorial bench** – Members were advised that there had been a request for a potential memorial bench, and Amenities will discuss if there is an option at a future meeting. Perhaps being able to replace the failed bench on Main Street (close to the Information Centre). It was further agreed that a memorial bench policy, including consideration to future maintenance, should be considered.

**15. Date and Time of next meeting. The normal monthly meeting was scheduled for 7.30pm on Thursday 13 February 2025** and will be held, as normal, in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.