

Minutes of the Sedbergh Annual Parish Meeting

Committee Room, Sedbergh People's Hall, Sedbergh, held on Thursday 15 May 2025 at 7.00 pm

In attendance - Cllrs Arnold (Chair), Lancaster, Capstick, Longlands, Welti, Sedgwick, Bromley, Thomson, Brooks and Cowperthwaite. WFC Cllrs Mitchell and Hodgson and one member of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence
There were no apologies for absence.
2. Introduction and Welcome
The Chairman welcomed Members to this open Annual Parish meeting.
3. Minutes of 2024 Annual Meeting of the Parish
The Minutes were adopted as a true record and signed by the Chair, Cllr Arnold.
4. Chairman's Report for 2024/2025
The attached Report, prepared by the Chairman, had been circulated to Members, shared at the meeting, and will be available online.
5. To receive the Draft Accounts for 2024/25
The Clerk presented the attached draft summary of accounts to the meeting, along with recent Internal Audit. Current balances were discussed, along with reserves for future projects and general sinking funds.
6. Forum – an opportunity to discuss or ask questions on any matters of interest or concern within the Parish, including questions on projects
 - a) General concerns were shared for the ongoing issues at J37/M6, and whilst it was acknowledged that significant work had been completed at the junction over the past 12 months, National Highways advise that there remain instances of traffic leaving the M6 and rejoining on the opposite slip and investigations are continuing into potential further improvements. Cllr Longlands suggested that a small island could be considered for the centre of the exit junction giving an additional warning – which might further help to highlight a left and right turn off the motorway. Cllr Lancaster advised that he understood J37 to be identified as statistically one of the worst on the M6 for incidents. WFC Cllrs Mitchell and Hodgson advised that talks continue with National Highways/WFC Highways and the Police into future potential improvements. It was also generally noted that some temporary 'road works ahead' signs currently placed at the junction, were causing difficulty to view/exit the junction and Cllr Mitchel advised he would raise this with WFC Highways.
 - b) Resident – shared their general concern for the lack of footfall in the town, along with the significant number of empty premises/businesses currently. Also, the lack of communication/support from WFC was highlighted generally, for example, another road closure (A684) which would see this arterial route for residents/visitors closed over night during the forthcoming half term school holiday. (Recently, the road had been closed at Lincoln's Inn Bridge for the Easter holidays). But also, the lack of support shown for the recent Bus Service Improvement Plan – which saw Sedbergh receiving zero funding. All those present acknowledged that communications with WFC could be better and agreed that improved liaison/communication was paramount with communities.
7. Close
The meeting closed at 7.35pm